



Overton

Preschool Playgroup

Newsletter

May 2020

hello@overtonplaygroup.com

www.overtonplaygroup.com

Closure update

We are closely following the Government advice regarding re-opening and are busy planning for what we will need to do, should we be able to open after June 1st.

Preschool setting can only open in-line with Overton Primary School, as we are on their site, so we will be liaising closely with them to understand what will be possible. Amanda and Angela have been keeping the garden in shape, as we will be using our outside space more than ever when we return. Transition visits from Playgroup to Preschool, and Preschool to Year R, will take place only if it is safe and practical to do so. Information will follow regarding these when we have more clarity about what is possible, but of course we want to do all we can to support these changes for our children. Please be rest assured that in any decisions that we make, the safety of your children and our staff will be our number one priority.

Everything we do in both settings is supporting children to become confident learners that are willing to have a go, as this will be the most important skill for starting school, and indeed life. Key workers usually have a meeting with parents to discuss the children's readiness for transition during the summer term and will be in touch as soon as we know how or when this will happen.

Focus on Preschool – this term we usually spend time helping the children get ready for big school by becoming independent, confident learners. A key way you can help with this is by practicing getting dressed by themselves including putting on socks and shoes and putting on their coats by themselves. It is also really useful if they can recognise their name and their belongings, and being able to go to the toilet by themselves. Big school is still a way off, but practising these actions over and over will help them be second nature when the time comes, rather than new and tricky.

Focus on Playgroup – Many of our playgroup children are also preparing for a transition, up to Preschool. While many things stay the same, we ask that parents try to have children toilet trained by the time they start at Preschool, as the children use the school toilets and there is no dedicated nappy changing area. If you would like some support with this, please ask your key worker. It helps if children are gaining confidence in new situations and surroundings. Following boundaries and routines is more important as we are part of the school. Children may also need to form new friendships as they may be with different friends.

Ideas for things to do & Summer Trail

Make a stickman or a
Paint / Draw / Collage a
Download and Print from the

Journey Stick – using sticks you find out and about.
picture of a tree and put it in your window from Sustainable Overton
website: <https://www.overtonplaygroup.com/calendar> a copy our summer trail which
was put together last summer. There is a map of locations around the village and on the other side a gallery of pictures of
signs and landmarks from around the village to try and match to the map.

Parent Survey

Every year we conduct a survey with our parents to find out more about what we do well and what else you would like us to do, which is then used to shape our activities and plans at Overton Preschool Playgroup. The link can be found here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LBCQXN7> – please complete by May 31st. It will only take a couple of minutes to complete but is so useful for us. We will feedback a summary and any specific changes to be made with our next newsletter.

Facebook

If you've not yet joined, our private parent pages on Facebook are a great way for you and your child to see what their friends and the staff have been up to. To join, please email committee@overttonplaygroup.com, stating your child's name, which setting they attend and the email address you use for Facebook.

easyfundraising

If you are not yet registered with easyfundraising, now is the time. It's easy to join and costs you nothing. Due to being closed we've lost part of our regular income and have had to stop our fundraising events, but still we're paying staff and other running costs. This could make a big difference to our financial position. For example one of our parents has raised over £223 in total, £3.04 just in the last month purchasing from only 2 websites. With more of our shopping moving online, if just half of our parents did this, we could raise over £2000 a year with very little effort. All fundraising money is used to buy resources for the children to use – toys, books, games and other equipment. Use the following Refer-a-Friend link and we'll also earn a £5 bonus donation once you raise £5, <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/overttonpp/?invite=FY7D1A&referral-campaign=s2s>

Reviews

Another way you can help us for free is by adding a review on Facebook, Google, Childcare.co.uk (or anywhere else you can think of!) if your child enjoys their time with us. Recommendations from other parents really are the best way to help other parents choose where to send their children.

Joining the Committee

Every year, the committee changes as some children move on to primary school. This year is no exception, and all the key post holders will be leaving in September (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) as well as a couple of other committee members, and so we need you! The committee act as Trustees of the charity which runs Overton Preschool Playgroup, and so are involved in making decisions about the running of OPP, policies and finances, as well as organising the fun events, trips and visits for the children, and keeping the website and Facebook pages up to date. It's a great way to meet other parents in the village (who are very likely to be people you know for years as your children move up through school together!), as well as help to shape where your child spends their days now.

The new committee will be elected at the AGM on 22nd September, but if you would like to find out more about what's involved, or to indicate your interest, please contact Laura at committee@overttonplaygroup.com for an informal chat.

Is there anything else you want or need from us due to the current situation? Please email hello@overttonplaygroup.com or contact your keyworker if there is.

Here's what the current committee had to say:

It's so helpful getting to know the settings and staff better

I've enjoyed being able to influence the working of playgroup and preschool, e.g. about extra activities provided, new initiatives. These could benefit your own children as well as others.

I feel I've been able to do some good through helping a charity and working in the community

It's been a great way to make friends!

It's given me a chance to follow an interest – e.g. perhaps you would like to learn how to manage a facebook page, perhaps you would like experience of writing the newsletter or arranging fundraising events, perhaps you would like to use your creativity. It's also a good way to develop and maintain my skills while not at work (or could be doing something that you don't get to do in your paid work but you've always wanted to?)

It's been a real privilege thank you. Contributions of ideas and time are appreciated and do make a difference!