

Topics

Our main topic for this term will be Superheroes, we will not be covering Easter this year due to the way the term dates have fallen.

Cooking Donation

We ask for a contribution towards our cooking costs of £1 per child per $\frac{1}{2}$ term, this money goes towards the cost of the ingredients and utensils. A pink piggy bank is left out for your contributions on the going home table. Thank you to all those that have already donated.

Snacks

To reduce the risk of choking we ask that you remove any stones and pips from the children's snacks. Also, please halve small fruit and vegetables like **grapes** (cut lengthways) and **cherry tomatoes** and cut large fruits, like **melon**, into slices instead of small chunks.

Facebook

If you are a facebook user, please like and share our facebook page. Over the last few weeks I have been adding weekly updates about the children's learning and experiences at playgroup which have received positive feedback. I will also use this page, alongside our website, to communicate any changes to the normal daily routine. You can find our page by searching for Reigate Park Church Playgroup or by typing @RPCPlaygroup.

Parent/Carer Rota

We have reintroduced the parent/carers rota and the rota for the new term can be found on the cupboard doors, please go ahead and add your name to an available that day that your child attends.

The parent/carers rota gives you the opportunity to spend time with your child at playgroup, they will want to show you what they do at playgroup and will want you to join in activities with them. It is very normal for your child to behave differently when you are at playgroup with them.

Absence

If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from playgroup (eg. Siblings inset day) then please complete an absence form in the normal way. Absence can also be notified on email to playgroup.info@reigateparkchurch.org

Illness

Please let us know if your child is ill either by calling the setting or sending an email (preferably before 9am on the day of absence). We have also attached some information regarding Chickenpox and Scarlet fever, please take the time to read this and if you are at all concerned then please speak to Gail.

Dates for diary :

Spring term ends, **Friday 31st March**

Summer term starts, **Tuesday 18th April**

Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over.

For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness that gets better on its own. But some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- If the blisters on their skin become infected
- If your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is also a mild childhood illness but unlike chickenpox, it requires antibiotic treatment. Symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting, followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth. As the rash fades the skin on the fingertips, toes and groin area can peel.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for **at least 48 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection

Complications

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and joint pain or swelling. If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

If you require any additional information regarding the above then please speak to Gail