



Newsletter – January 2015

Happy New Year!

Better late than never!

Happy New Year everyone. I hope that 2015 is fabulous and filled with fun!

New children

We have lots of new Playbarners to welcome from over the last few months – Niamh and Kyle from Braidwood Primary, Gregor, David, and Alexander from Braehead Primary, Mark from Carstairs Primary, Katie from Lanark Primary, and Kirsty and Erland from Carnwath Primary. Everyone has settled in really well and are enjoying themselves.

Favourite activities

Tastes are changing – I don't want to jinx it but I do believe that the loom band craze may be calming down - Hama Beads however are still going strong! Other current favourite activities include clay modelling, creating crafty masterpieces, cardboard box creations, table football tournaments, imaginative army games, dressing up, making components for games out of construction materials, playing Roblox on the computers, and whole PB hide-and-seek. Needless to say there are a 101 more activities and games going on – I would need a small rainforest to tell you every detail – if you would like to see how we plan our activities then please feel free to look at our plans, observations and evaluations.

Parent Consultative Committee Invitation

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be on our Parent Consultative Committee, and excellent way for you to have your say about Playbarn issues and ideas. We meet every 3 or months, and discuss matters such as staffing, fundraising and organisation. This is invaluable to both myself and our Playbarn team. If you would like to be involved, please let me know.

August 2015 Waiting list

Over the past few weeks we have had several requests for children who are starting P1 in August 2015. I have had to start a waiting list for the first time in Playbarn history (all 2 years of it!). Priority for places will be given to the younger siblings of our current Playbarners so, if you would like a place saving, please could you let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Security Passwords

Thank you very much for those of you who have given us your security password. This gives us a different level of security, helping us to confirm last minute changes which allows us to remain flexible even though we have lots of Playbarners. Whenever you need to change

plans and arrangements by text, Facebook or phone then please also quote your password. The password should also be used if you require your child to be collected by someone with whom we aren't familiar.

If you have not yet passed on a password, please can you do so as soon as possible – this can either be in writing, by text or by Facebook Private Message.

Slippers/gym shoes

Please could you make sure that your child has slippers, gym shoes or other indoor shoes (that fit!) that they can leave at the Playbarn for everyday use. This is particularly important in the winter as school shoes are muddy and wet, our wooden floor is too slippy for socks alone, and fire drills could be a very cold soggy thing indeed! Thank you.

PB PJ Party

We deliberately didn't have a Christmas Party this year as we thought it might be a nice idea to beat off the post-holiday blues with a party in the New Year. So, on Friday 23rd January, we are going to have a PB PJ Party – if the children could bring their favourite pyjamas or onesies and we will have lots of fun, games and treats! And maybe the staff will do the school pick-up in their jammies???

February Holidays

The Playbarn will be open as usual, from 7:00am-7:00pm over the February Weekend (Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th Feb) at our reduced holiday rate. Please let us know if you need us (or want some child-free time/or the kids just want to play!!) – we will organise activities and trips depending on numbers in attendance.

Old Clothes/Old Shirts

We have lots of creative and physical activities going on each day at The Playbarn. This does tend to generate a certain amount of mess, I'm sure you'll agree! While we have disposable plastic aprons for the children to wear while they paint etc, you might like to send along a spare set of old clothes for your children to get changed into. Also we are on the lookout for old adult shirts which can be worn back to front to better protect their clothes. If you have any lurking in the backs of your wardrobes then please would you consider donating them to us.

Thank you very much once again for all your support, it is very much appreciated.

If you have any suggestions or feedback at any time, then please don't hesitate to let us know – either by e-mail, on Facebook, or in the comments book at the front door.

Zoë