



COMBERTON PLAYGROUP

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We aim for our Playgroup to provide a stimulating atmosphere in which the children are encouraged to develop their full potential.

Newsletter January 2024 Belated Happy New Year!

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new children and their families, who are starting this year.

A few Reminders

Invoices will be out this week, apologies for the delay.

Session prices have been increased to

Early risers £6.00

Morning Session £16.50

Lunch £5.75

Afternoon Session £16.50

Late Leavers £6.00

Registration forms

Please let us know if anything has changed and you need to update your child's registration form.

This also includes adding other emergency contact numbers.

General Information

Each child should bring in a named bag with spare clothes in, just in case.

We will be outside as much as we can (especially with outdoor explorers!). So please remember wet/warm weather gear, such as waterproofs/spare clothes, wellies, hats and gloves.

These should be named to avoid confusion.

It is advisable for children to wear layers of clothing whilst it is cold.

Please remember to check your child's drawers when you pick up.

Holiday Club

A holiday club booking form is attached to the newsletter for Feb half term. Mon 19th-Fri 23rd Feb



COMBERTON PLAYGROUP

Curriculum Spring Term

For the first two weeks we have been doing targeted observations on our key children so we can develop our curriculum to each child's individual needs.

WB 22nd Jan For two weeks we will be exploring the different sounds that musical instruments make and listening to different genres of music.
If there are any parents that would like to share their musical talents or have instruments that they could bring in for the children to see, please get in touch.

The children will be making their own musical instruments using junk modelling and other available resources.

WB Feb 5th For two weeks we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. We will be watching and learning about the Chinese New Year story and will watch these videos over the 2 weeks at circle time and we will be learning to recite numbers 1-10 in Mandarin. Alongside this we will be retelling the story using stick puppets.

[CBeebies | Chinese New Year \(Lunar New Year\) | Zodiac Story \(youtube.com\)](#)

[CBeebies: Preparing For Chinese New Year - Let's Celebrate \(youtube.com\)](#)

During our PE sessions we will be singing and doing the actions to this song. [Chinese New Year Dragon Dance Lyric Video - The Kiboomers Preschool Songs & Nursery Rhymes - YouTube](#) alongside other activities.

In the tuff tray we will have different coloured noodles with scissors and chopsticks to encourage role play and fine motor skills.

We will also have mark making trays so the children can try out some Chinese writing using a variety of resources such as brushes, cotton buds, sticks and their fingers!

All of our activities will involve all seven areas of learning & development. **(Expressive arts & design, Understanding the World, Maths, Literacy, Physical, Personal, Social & Emotional and Communication & Language)**

At snack time the children will be trying different food such as rice, noodles, prawn crackers etc

Pre-school have been using the book 'Room on the Broom' as a base for activities, which include:

-Listening to the story **(Communication & Language, listening & attention and literacy)**

-Making puppets of the characters in the story. **(Expressive art and design, physical development)**

-Acting out and retelling the story, using their puppets. **(Literacy, Communication & Language, Physical)**

-Working as a group to create a wall picture to illustrate the story. **(Personal, Social & emotional, Expressive art & design)**

-We will include some maths with how big and strong the broom needs to be to fit everyone on, also counting how many characters there are and who was biggest/heaviest/lightest/smallest etc.

Chinese New Year

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year week beginning 5th Feb and will be having a lady from the Mando school come in on Wed 7th Feb to do a workshop with the children.

If your child is not normally in that day, please let us know if you would like them to attend.

If possible, we would like the children to be wearing something red on the day.

Pancake Day Tues 13th Feb! We will be making pancakes with the children and having them for snack with various toppings.

Music and Movement with Chrissie is on Thursday afternoons



COMBERTON PLAYGROUP

Would you like to join us?

We are in need of new volunteers to join the playgroup management committee and help us continue to make playgroup a success. The committee meets in an evening once or twice per term. We discuss buildings and maintenance, finances, fundraising, health and safety, compliments and complaints, Ofsted, policies, website, and any other management issues arising.

There are no specific roles on the committee, and no particular skills needed, just enthusiasm, openness, and a desire to support playgroup in general. You will need to complete a DBS check (which is a criminal records check) and an Ofsted form to become a committee member. People are usually committee members for at least one year, although there is no set length, and you can resign at any time. Committee members do not need to be current or past parents or carers, we welcome any interested volunteers from the community.

If you are interested, please speak to David (Zoe's Dad), Ruby(Eli's Mum)
Or email Comberton.playgroup@btconnect.com

We are having an open evening for anyone interested in joining our committee. So please come along on Monday 29th Jan 7-9pm

New Early Years funding Entitlements.

Applications for the new childcare entitlement for working families with a 2 year old is now live, for children (**born up to 31st March 2022**) to take places from April 2024.

To find out if you are eligible, please go to
<https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

You apply online here.
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

You'll need to make sure you have the following information to hand before starting the application:

- your national insurance number (or unique taxpayer reference if you are self-employed)
- the date you started or are due to start work
- details of any government support or benefits you receive
- the UK birth certificate reference number (if you have one) for your child.

If you need any further help, please get in touch.



COMBERTON PLAYGROUP

Existing Injuries

Please remember to let us know via email if your child has had an accident/injury outside of playgroup hours. We can then fill in an accident on arrival form.

We will need to know how and when the accident happened, and if any medical attention was needed.

Lunchboxes

Please can we remind parents that we have a no nut policy as we have children who have allergies.

Please click on the link below for healthy lunchbox ideas.

[Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Parents Evening

We will be having a parents evening after Feb Half Term.
Date to be confirmed.

Term dates 2024

Spring Term 2024

Term starts	Friday 5 th January
Half Term	Monday 19 th – 23 rd February
Children return	Monday 26 th February
Term ends	Thursday 28 th March

Summer Term 2024

Term starts	Monday 15 th April
May Day	Monday 6 th May
Half Term	Monday 27 th May – 31 st May
Children return	Monday 3 rd June
Term ends	Friday 19 th July