

# TORPHINS PLAYGROUP



## NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2006

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

The nights are darker and although the weather is still mild, winter is on its way and so we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

### Welcome

We would like to welcome Vijay Fernandez, Struan Duncan, Elizabeth Christie, Christopher McIntyre, Finlay Burgess, Quinlan Cochrane-Dyet, Nathan Elliot and their families to Playgroup this term. We hope they enjoy their time with us.

### Goodbye Mrs Fraser

Most of you will know by now that our Assistant Playleader Anna Fraser has left Playgroup. She will be missed by everyone however I am sure she will visit us often. We wish her all the best in her new job.



### Congratulations

Following the departure of Anna, her post was advertised and we are

delighted that the successful candidate was our one and only Mrs Jackie Ferguson. Congratulations!

### Granite City Brass Concert



A big thank you to all staff, parents and friends who sold tickets, purchased hamper goods, provided wonderful home baking and helped on the night. Also thanks to Mackie Academy for lending us their staging. The band was fantastic and the audience joined in with the Christmas songs. It was a great success raising over £460 for Playgroup funds.

### Photographs

Thank you all for having your children's photographs taken by Catchlites Photography. The photographs have already been distributed to everyone's delight. This raised another £213 for Playgroup funds.

### Tea Towels

The tea towels this year are of a beautiful sunflower with all the children's hand prints on it. There are some still to purchase for only £3.50. Contact Mina Rusk (83429) if you wish to place an order. Thanks to Heather's Daddy for securing our sponsor "Jenkins & Marr".

### Bags To School

The bags collection was another success raising £180 for Playgroup.

### PreSchool Gathering

The pre-school Christmas Gathering will take place at Torphins Primary School on Thursday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 10 a.m. This is becoming an annual event with children from Torphins Nursery, Sunshine Nursery and Lumphanan Playgroup. If possible we would like the children to dress up as a Nativity character. We would like all those attending to

be at Ha'berry at 9:50am so that we can all walk down to the school together. Children who normally attend on a Thursday should come as usual at 9:30am.

## Care Commission Report

On 12<sup>th</sup> October we had a unannounced inspection by the Care Commission. The CC adopted a programme of inspecting against core standards from the National Care Standards. On this occasion we were inspected on the following five standards:

- 3 Health & Wellbeing
- 4 Engaging with Children
- 7 A caring environment
- 10 Involving other services
- 12 Confidence in staff

I am very happy to report that we have fulfilled all the requirements set out in these five standards and subsequently there are no actions to implement. If you would like to read the full report please ask a member of the Playgroup staff and we will make a copy available for you.

Jayne Clarke

## Nativity and Christmas Party

Christmas is here and you will already have received a Christmas song sheet so that you can help the children practice for their show. Please remember

that they are very young and we do not expect them to learn all the words off by heart! Please note that there are time changes to our normal routine so if possible we would like the attendance of all the children on:

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
Dress rehearsal for show  
All children 9:30 – 11am



**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. Show Days**  
All Children 10am for 10:15 start

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Party at Ha'berry**  
11.30 – 12.30 Party Lunch  
12.30 – 1.15 Peter Nicol - Magician  
1.15pm Santa



Parents/Carers are to return at 1.15 to see the children receiving their presents from Santa

You already know that the Nativity is to be videoed by Ian Hendry, a friend of Playgroup. This will take place on the day of the dress rehearsal. Copies of his recording will be made available to purchase. Please note that parents wishing to use their own video recorders are politely asked to stand at the back of the big playroom.

## Reminders

Please note the new procedure in place for dropping off and picking up your child. This is done daily and a signature is required for both. This may seem pedantic but these procedures are in place for the safety of the children.

## Winter Weather

As we start getting into more wintry weather please remember if Torphins Primary School is closed due to bad weather then Playgroup will be closed too. Parents who have children attending the Primary School can ring the following Emergency Information Service number for up to date information, 0870 054 4999 followed by Torphins Primary Schools Pin number 022710.

Those with no school age children will receive a call from a member of the Playgroup committee. However if you are in any doubt please do not hesitate to call Ha'berry (82978) or Jayne Clarke at home (82560).

## And Finally

Many thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or comments about Playgroup please do not hesitate to make contact, either directly to a committee member or via the suggestions box, which is located in the porch.

Thank you all for your continued support and on behalf of all at Playgroup we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2007!

Playgroup resumes on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007