

# Torphins Playgroup

## Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends.

September 2010

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new children who have joined this term and to their families. We have an exciting year planned and we hope you enjoy your time with us. We are also delighted to be able to welcome Angela Elliott who has joined us in the post of Play Helper. We hope she will be very happy here.



Playgroup would like to say a huge thanks to last year's parents / carers for the wonderful outside picnic tables. As you can see the children are enjoying making full use of them.



The children have also been busy planting the plum tree which was purchased with the gift vouchers given to the staff by last year's parent / carers. We are looking forward to harvesting the fruit and enjoying it at snack time!



A newsletter will be produced each term to keep you up to date with all the events going on at Playgroup. We hope this will be of interest to you and welcome any suggestions for future newsletters.

### UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

#### Torphins Gala : Saturday 21st August 2010

We are delighted to announce that the playgroup stall raised a huge £553 this year. As ever the stall looked fantastic and was very popular. A big thank you to everyone who donated prizes and helped out on the day.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

### Family Halloween Disco: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The committee are planning to hold a family Halloween disco for under 12's at the Learney Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October from 6-8pm. Tickets priced at £3.50 per child are available from most committee members. A rota for helpers has been put up at playgroup. Please add your name if you can spare some time to help out. We would also like to decorate the hall. If anyone has any decorations / lights they could lend or donate we would be very grateful.

### Catchlites Photos: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010

A timetable is being put together and parents have the opportunity to book their child/children in for a photo session on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October. To book a slot please contact Jacqui on 013398 89121. Please remember to ask friends and family if they would be interested in booking.

### Virgin Vie Party: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Pauline is holding a Virgin Vie Party on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Playgroup will receive the commission on sales. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in attending please let Pauline know (Zara's tray).

### Bags2School: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

The bags will be dropped off at playgroup on 25<sup>th</sup> October and will be distributed shortly afterwards. Bags2School will be collecting quality second hand clothing, as well as bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags. No bric-a-brac, material off cuts, rugs or carpets please. The full bags, which are collected from us, are weighed at a depot and we get paid per kilo collected. Collection will take place outside playgroup at 9am on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### Ecobags / Tea Towels

We will be producing tea towels and ecobags this year which will be personalised with all the children's handprints. Details of when these will be available and prices will be circulated at a later date.

### Christmas Night Out: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010

This year's Christmas night out will be held at the Echt Tandoori on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome. Please let Kelly (Zander's tray) know if you will be able to attend. A menu will be issued nearer the time.

## **ONGOING FUNDRAISING**

### Easy fundraising two ways

**Easyfundraising** and **Easysearch** are both completely **FREE** to use. When you register, select **Torphins Playgroup - Torphins** as the cause you wish to support and you'll help our playgroup to raise much needed funds.

At [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) you can shop online from over 2000 of the UK's best known retailers including Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis and HMV. Just use the links provided on the easy fundraising site whenever you make a purchase and up to 15% of the price you pay will be donated to Torphins Playgroup, at **no additional cost** to you.

Search the Web with [www.easysearch.org.uk](http://www.easysearch.org.uk) instead of Google or any other search engine and you'll raise funds for your chosen cause with every search you make. Make just 10 searches a day and you could raise around £20 a year - just by searching the Web!

Please let your friends and relatives know too!

### Print Cartridges

A box has been placed in the porch at Ha'Berry for the collection of used print cartridges. We will receive up to £2 for each cartridge. Unfortunately Epsom, Brother and toner cartridges cannot currently be accepted and we will be fined if we include them.

### Fundraising Catalogues

It was clear from the results of the fundraising questionnaire that lots of people were interested in purchasing goods but very few were able to host or attend parties. With this in mind, we are arranging to put catalogues eg Tupperware, Yellow Moon, Virgin Vie etc in the children's trays. Playgroup will receive a commission on sales from these catalogues and we can all get started on our Christmas shopping!

### **CARE COMMISSION INSPECTION**

Playgroup staff would like to remind you that we are due to receive an unannounced Care Commission Inspection. The inspector may approach you or your child on the day with a view to asking questions relevant to the inspection.

### Quality of the Environment

Quality of the Environment is one of the Quality Themes that is regularly inspected by the Care Commission, which focuses on how we, the staff, parents and carers at Playgroup meets their standards with regards to health, safety and general appearance of the setting. In order to achieve a "very good" grading of 5, Playgroup has strived over the years to keep up with current health and safety legislation, and as part of this, we have had to put in place an additional mop and bucket for the bathroom area only in order to comply with current advise. We, the staff, are fully aware that the level of cleaning required of duty parents and carers can sometimes be viewed as excessive, however, with the possibility of having up to 18 children and 4 adults in the setting at any one time, we are sure you can understand the potential for cross-contamination is high, and our priority is the health and well being of all the children in our care. Playgroup has only achieved and can only sustain a grading of 5 with the help, support and hard work of you, the duty parents and carers, and with that in mind, may we thank you and ask for your continued assistance and tolerance in this area of running Playgroup.

The Staff.

### **ILLNESS POLICY**

The playgroup staff have asked us to draw your attention to the Illness Policy.

The following timescales are only intended as a guide, as some children do take longer to recover:

Sickness / Diarrhoea	2 days after the symptoms have cleared
Chickenpox	7 days from the appearance of the rash
Measles	7 days from the appearance of the rash
German Measles	4 days from the appearance of the rash
Mumps	Until the swelling has subsided but at least a week from the onset of the illness.
Head Lice	Until appropriate treatment has been given.

## **PARENT ROTA DUTY**

Parents or carers must be prepared to help on the duty rota in order for their child to attend Torphins Playgroup. The rota system that has been adopted is an essential part of the running of playgroup. Please ensure that you pass any special requests concerning availability to the rota secretary by the stated deadline. Requests will be accommodated where possible but please remember that once the rota is produced it is your responsibility to arrange swaps for unsuitable duties.

## **THIS YEAR'S PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE**

<b>Chairperson (Joint)</b>	Donna Ronald	<b>Fundraising</b>	Pauline Parkhill
<b>Chairperson (Joint)</b>	Kelly Donaldson		Lisa Millar
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sandra Keith		Suzie Edge
<b>Secretary</b>	Julie Revie	<b>Ordinary members</b>	Joey Sim
<b>Wages Clerk</b>	Lois Moyes		Jacqui Murray
<b>Rota Secretary</b>	Saskia Dowell		Laura Wade
			Angela Foy

Torphins playgroup is a voluntary organisation and without the support of parents and carers playgroup would not be able to operate. If anyone would like to become a member of the committee please contact anyone listed above. We need to raise substantial amounts each year to keep playgroup running. If you do not have the time to be on the committee please do all you can to help with our fundraising activities, either by giving your time or donations. Your help is greatly appreciated.

### **And finally.....**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. As always, if you have any suggestions or comments about playgroup, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member, member of staff or to place a suggestion in the suggestion box, located in the porch.