

MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2016

Our Aims and Values

At Cromwell Academy we all strive:

- To create memorable experiences for the whole community
- To build strong relationships and work in partnership to develop children who feel comfortable, safe, confident and valued
- To ensure every child has an equal opportunity to succeed and achieve
- To develop independent lifelong learners and responsible citizens through a stimulating and dynamic curriculum

Our statement of purpose is: **Committed to Achieving**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We have had a fantastic half term filled with lots of fun and exciting activities and new experiences. All of the children and staff have put in a lot of hard work making our Kids Club environment a wonderful place to play. We hope you and your children have had an enjoyable half term with us. Already, we are looking forward and the new ideas are flowing for the Spring term!

Thank you to all parents/carers for your support throughout the Autumn Term, it is very much appreciated.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Remember to follow us on:

Twitter: @cromwellacademy

Website: www.comwellacademy.com

SANTA'S GROTTTO

The children have enjoyed being Santa's little helpers in our very own Grotto. Wrapping presents, making toys, writing cards and decorating Kids Club is all in a day's work for our busy little elves.



LOOSE PARTS

We have been thinking about the things we can do to develop our resources at Kids Club. We would like to provide some more open ended resources, or 'Loose Parts' play things that can encourage our children to develop their problem solving, conversational and imagination skills.

We have some ideas of our own, but we know that we are very lucky to have lots of parents/carers who work in many different environments and may be able to help us access some things that will help us in our quest to develop this area of our Club.

The sorts of things we would like to collect include:

Tubes

Planks

Dressing up clothes, such as; hats, shoes, scarves, waistcoats, bags etc. (not purpose made costumes)

Battery operated 'candles'

Fabric

Nets

Bricks

Wood

Tarpaulin

Boxes

Crates

If you are able to help us with these things or any other ideas you may have then please speak to a member of staff.



PLACES AVAILABLE

We currently have places available for our morning and afternoon sessions. Our Club follows the Playwork Principles, so children are free to choose activities and resources as they wish. There will always be a selection of activities and resources available, including dressing up, home corner, craft, board games, construction, computer games, physical play, cookery, and reading. In addition, other resources are available for the children to select from our equipment library. Children also have the opportunity to play outside participating in both adult led and child chosen activities.

If you are interested in sending your child/ren to Kids Club then please speak to Helen Goodyear or email kidsclub@cromwellacademy.com.

HEALTHY SNACKS

We provide a variety of healthy snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables every day for children attending Kids Club. However, the food we provide at Kids Club is not intended as a substitute for a main evening meal. Independence is promoted by encouraging the children to prepare their own snacks and to clear away after themselves. We use fresh ingredients and follow statutory Food Hygiene guidelines. Fresh drinking water is available at all times. If your child has individual dietary requirements, we endeavour to meet these wherever possible. We recognise the importance of healthy nutrition for children delivered in a calm, friendly setting. We allow children to decide when they are ready to eat but request that food be consumed whilst sitting at the snack table.

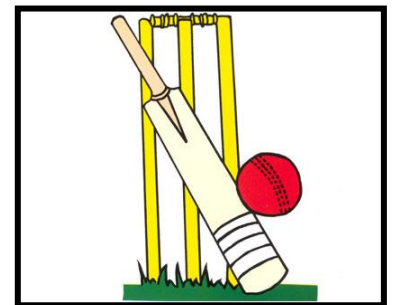


This half term the children have requested a variety of foods to try. Some of these have included: couscous, flavoured rice, fish finger sandwiches and fresh peppers. Being involved in choosing what they would like for snack is a great hit with many of the children. Parents/carers have commented on how much their children are enjoying snack time. Thank you for your feedback, it is appreciated.



OUTSIDE PLAY

We have been fortunate to have good weather lasting us well into the Autumn term. This has meant we have been able to use the field on a weekly basis to enjoy playing different games and activities. Football, cricket, hula hooping, running races and playing on the trim trail are just a few of the things the children love to do the most.



INVOICING AND PAYMENTS

Invoices will be issued at the beginning of every month. Payments are due 14 days after the date of the invoice. All payments must be paid via Parent Pay to Cromwell Academy or through the use of Childcare vouchers issued by some employers. Please email Mrs Debbi Fairbank in the first instance at finance@cromwellacademy.com if this may be applicable to you. If payments are not received by the date stated on the invoice a charge of £10 will be issued on the following month's invoice.

In the instance of parents/carers arriving late to collect their child a charge of £5.00 per 15 minutes will be made and added to the following month's invoice. Sessions end at 5.00pm or 6.00pm; you will have stated which session your child is booked in for.

If parents/carers do not inform the Club that a child will be absent from a booked session either in person, by telephone or by emailing the school office a discretionary charge of £5.00 may be made if no reason is given. Please note, in accordance with our Payment Policy, all absences will be charged for.

If you have any queries with your invoice please do email Mrs Fairbank on finance@cromwellacademy.com.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BAD WEATHER

At Kids Club we will go outdoors in all weathers, this means children may get wet or even muddy at the end of the school day. This is part of the Playwork ethos and an important part of childhood. We request that you provide a change of clothes, waterproof jacket and a pair of wellies for your child to keep at Kids Club should they wish to go out in wet/cold weather. If these items are not provided we cannot guarantee your child will come home clean and dry.

Please ensure all of your child's belongings are labelled clearly with their name so we can return them to the right person. There is a lost property box in our cloakroom which will be emptied on a termly basis so please make sure you check this regularly.



THE PLAYWORK PRINCIPLES

These Principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork and as such must be regarded as a whole. They describe what is unique about play and playwork, and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people. They are based on the recognition that children and young people's capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
3. The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
6. The playworker's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of children.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTION BOX

If you have any comments or suggestions, please do let us know by placing them in the box in the cloakroom. Your views are very much appreciated and support us in making our Kids Club even better at being the best we can be! If you have any comments or suggestions, you can also let us know by emailing kidsclub@cromwellacademy.com.