

Dear all! Welcome to the autumn term of **Bongalong**. We hope you and your babies/children are enjoying the sessions so far this term. A newsletter comes out each term, giving practical information as well as the ways the session content is supporting your child/ren's development.

Comments Please!

Do please let us know how you are finding the sessions this term by filling in a comments slip at your session. Please add your name and phone number if you want, as it is sometimes useful to have a chat.

Needed!

Do you have a baby bouncer you no longer need? We could really use another bouncer in some sessions, especially the under 1s.

Please remember to wash out any cups you use at the end of the session! In the interests of hygiene, we have now provided washing up liquid and a sponge at St Gabriels.

Don't forget you can order **CDs** and **instruments** from us, as well as children's Bongalong **T-shirts** and weather signs! Please ask for more information.

Song Words

You can get song words termly by email if there's a song you're just itching to sing! Please email Asha: asha.bongalong@googlemail.com

We have focussed on our bodies during this term, playing a game to find different parts of our bodies, and moving our bodies in different ways in **Busy Body** and **Me and You**. We have also been developing an awareness of tempo through **Do Your Ears Hang Low** and the **Silly Fast Slow Song**. These songs and games help **develop co-ordination, language and listening skills and increase a child's confidence in themselves**. Familiar songs have played their part too, whether through guessing a nursery rhyme by looking at picture clues, or by dancing and making animal movements in **Down in the Jungle**. Songs such as **There's a Hole in my Bucket** really stimulate a child's imagination visually and encourage play and learning at home - the problem solving involved is part of **early maths development**, as the children have thought about shape and size to work out whether an object will mend the bucket or not.

With the instruments this term **we have explored the sea**, and all children and babies enjoyed making waves with the blue cloth! This has given us a chance to develop an understanding of the world around us, and explore some of the more unfamiliar instruments. **We have also explored the structure and routine of daytime and night-time with our Rhyme Time Rag and the story about 'Asha's busy day'**. We explored both **tempo** and **dynamic** as we played along to different songs marking the structure of the day.

We have listened to a number of lullabies over the term - Golden Slumbers, Tell me a story, Halfway down the stairs - which hopefully you have been able to sing at home. They have provided some quiet time for everyone in the session and a chance for children to develop their listening skills too.

Singing and dancing are fun for everyone! Hopefully our sessions will inspire you to play musical games at home, make instruments and make up songs.

Special Offer

Refer a friend who's new to Bongalong for a trial session (to be taken before the end of January), and receive a free Bongalong CD when they book for the term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your support this term. Booking forms for the spring term are out this week. We do hope you continue with us and tell your friends about us too. Any queries please contact Asha on: **07811 460282** or asha.bongalong@googlemail.com