

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

If you know of anyone who's had a baby recently do let them know about the Under Ones session at St Gabriel's. It is a very relaxed, structured session. Musical activities help a baby's development as well as supporting the bonding process and giving lots of ideas to use at home.

Animals have featured strongly this term- We had great adventures in the jungle: **using instruments** to evoke the jungle scene-how the animals sound and how they move. The children experienced creating the sound track to a story, learning how to handle their instruments, to play at the appropriate time and to respond to the changes- when the heavy rains came and the animals had to run, it was time to play fast. We went looking for wild animals with our hats, nets and binoculars. There've been frogs too! Little tree frog 'El Coquito' singing you to sleep and counting speckled frogs in the pond. Let's not forget Bunny Foo Foo. **Enriching a song** with props stimulates the imagination and enriches the memory. Why not try adding a few bits and pieces to bring a song to life at home. I know some families have had chairs lined up for the wheels on the bus. Great!

'William has started singing to his rice cakes! I am sure it is your influence!'  
Parent of William attending Under Ones

We've explored **contrasts**: the city and the country with their distinctive and different sounds. The Sound Song had lots of surprising sounds and we listened for differences between loud and soft (dynamics), sound and silence and we moved to fast/slow (tempo) music and high/low (pitch) music. Mrs Loudly and Mrs Softly made an appearance, reinforcing the children's understanding of dynamics.

## SUMMER HOLIDAY SESSIONS

If you haven't received information about the summer sessions and would like to come along, please get in touch.

The classes are for Under 5s plus siblings up to the age of 8 and are open to others, so if you know someone who might enjoy them do please pass the information on. Booking closes on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Singing together can develop children's **confidence** and help them to settle in new situations, such as nursery or pre-school. If You're Happy and You Know It, London's Burning and Little Miss Muffet are familiar to many of us, though often forgotten. London's Burning also provided the opportunity to sing as a round, for children to experience harmony in such a simple way. Singing **well-known** songs to your baby makes a fun learning activity and another opportunity to have close physical contact strengthening the bonding process. It's nice to have them on your lap, facing you so they have eye contact and feel the movements and hear your voice.

Throughout the term the children have been learning how to handle and play fabulous percussion instruments, to wait for their turn and to take part. **Performing** can be holding the weather sign or being Miss Muffet and while some children will volunteer easily, for others this is a more gradual process, helped by regular weekly attendance, building confidence and familiarity.

## Comments Please!

How you are finding the sessions this term? There are comment slips and a comments 'bin' at the back of the hall in St Gabriels'. Please add your name and phone number if you want, as it is sometimes useful to have a chat.

If you prefer to communicate by e-mail I'm at [fiona.bongalong@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.bongalong@gmail.com).

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your support this term. Booking forms for the summer term are out soon. I do hope you continue with us and tell your friends about us too.

Any queries please contact Fiona on: **07811 460282** or [fiona.bongalong@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.bongalong@gmail.com)