

St John's Parent and Toddler Report 2025 – 2026

We continue to meet every Wednesday morning in term time from 9:15 to 11:30. Since September, new families have joined and some children have moved onto nursery or pre-school. On a week by week the numbers have gone down in the last year (an average of 11 children plus adults) and as not everyone comes every week, the sessions are never overcrowded. We may need to address the issue of declining numbers as it is clear that we are competing with other local groups that are now meeting on a Wednesday. No one has mentioned the weekly charge of £3.00 per family being a factor but when other groups are free it may contribute to the fall in attendance? We have discussed being more proactive with the publicity by maybe having a large poster on the outside church noticeboard? Most families have heard about us by word of mouth and personal invites from existing members.

We continue to have many positive comments about the friendliness and inclusiveness of the group, with families expressing sadness at leaving us as their little ones move on to pre-school.

The group continues to be organized and led by Bev Aldridge, Viv Sheffield, Sarah Gray, George Cook and Celia Terrill, with Chris and Cathy Franklin preparing and delivering a story and craft activity each week, in addition to helping clear up at the end. Thanks to them again for the preparation time and creativity they have both brought to the group.

We believe we provide an invaluable and friendly service to the community in the middle of the week, and we hope we make everyone feel welcomed and valued. We sit together at 10:00am for coffee, tea, juice, biscuits and occasionally, cakes brought by members. We then enjoy an informal singing time where the children can enjoy action songs with their own unique musical accompaniment! The story and craft then follows for those who wish to take part.

Bev Aldridge