



Grindleford and Eyam Playgroup

Hello, we hope this finds you well.

It's been a crazy couple of months, although we have been blessed with some lovely weather which has helped make it slightly more bearable.

At the time of writing, playgroup remains closed as we do not feel it is safe to open just yet. Over the past ten weeks we have all been keeping in touch with each other through the power of technology. Parents have been sending us updates on what the children have been learning and enjoying from home and staff have been writing weekly blog posts to share their lockdown adventures with us. All of this is included in our entry for you to enjoy.



We've been keeping in touch with our families as much as we can, it's been such a long time and everyone has grown so much. Staff have shared activities and ideas with our families while parents and carers have been sending in pictures of their children to keep us up to date. We've seen them learn to ride bikes, bake for VE day, facetime their friends, enjoy local walks, hunt for minibeasts and much more.



We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our first crowdfunding event. Faced with many of our usual fundraisers being cancelled because of the current lockdown we thought that this could help us recover some of those funds. We were a bit anxious that our target of £1,500 was too ambitious but the support has been fantastic, and we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of all of our supporters. If you would like to give, every penny will be gratefully received and go towards playgroup's future.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/support-grindleford-and-eyam-playgroup>

Our team have been busy during lockdown; reviewing planning, updating policies and preparing for our re-opening. A few also took the time to write about their time in lockdown and their experiences. It has been fantastic reading about their outdoor adventures. I was particularly interested to read about foraging and the delicious dandelion honey and home-made garlic bread.

If you enjoy the extract below visit the Blogs page to read more from the team.



A Month of Sundays – Our experience of staying indoors

“What day is it mum?” A constant question in our house!! Felix thinks that every day feels like Sunday, and I suppose it does for my children. We are spending most of our day together, eating our meals together, spending quality time together and reflecting on our weeks.

As a family, we are recognizing that this time is a moment in history and something to remember and I want them to remember it for its positives and not the negatives. I want them to appreciate their health, their family, the sunshine and the small wins that can be achieved at home for free; enjoy this time and see it as a gift for our family to reconnect and understand each other a little better.

I think my lesson from this time is to try and really enjoy this break from the norm, take advantage of this quality time with my family and cherish every moment. And when things do become challenging and overwhelming; talk to my friends, my family and neighbours; and let a celebrity take the children for half an hour on YouTube whilst you have a cup of tea!!! – Karen Entwisle.

Finally, a reminder that we are taking part in both the Recycle4School and Terracycle initiatives which are helping the environment as well as raising vital funds for playgroup.

Recycle4Schools is an eco-friendly scheme which takes good quality unwanted items and delivers them across the world providing clothing for people who need it. If you've been inspired by the fine weather to Spring clean your cupboards then please bag up any unwanted clothes and shoes and save them for playgroup. If you would like more information about the scheme and the items they accept, visit their website <https://www.recycle4school.org.uk/>

Terracycle is a relatively new company that collects typically hard-to-recycle waste. We are collecting foil lined crisp packets, we take any brand, any flavour and any size packet.

Collections can be dropped off at playgroup once we're open again or you can email gepsupervisor@hotmail.com to arrange collection.