

This newsletter gives you an update on PLAY@Churwell and PLAY@Asquith - the Before and After School Clubs and Holiday Playschemes run by Churwell Out of School Group.

[Christmas playscheme](#)

Playscheme is open on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 December at Churwell. Full and half days available.

[Changes at PLAY@Asquith](#)

In our last newsletter in April 2008 we explained about the changes that were taking place at both schools. The space available at Asquith School is less than we had hoped for and this presented challenges with meeting the needs of all the children and achieving Ofsted requirements.

Asquith parents will be aware that we have provided care for the younger children using the space in the nursery and walk the older children to Churwell School where we are able to offer age appropriate facilities in separate rooms.

We have kept these arrangements under review and have now decided that, due to insufficient numbers in the younger age group, it is no longer cost effective to offer before and after school care at Asquith School.

We did not take this decision lightly and have considered options but we could not increase numbers by extending the age range at Asquith as this would not meet Ofsted requirements for the new Early Years Foundation Stage. Similarly we could not reduce staff numbers as we must have a minimum of 2 staff on duty even when numbers fall below 8 children. Raising fees was not seen as realistic in the circumstances.

The governors at Asquith School are looking to extend the children's centre space so if an opportunity arises to move provision for all ages back to Asquith we would be happy to do so.

What does this mean for me now?

Asquith pupils: From 5 January 2009 we will offer a place for your child for before and after school care at our setting at Churwell School.

For pupils attending Asquith nursery, for whom we provide wraparound care in the afternoon, we will provide appropriate transport from Asquith to Churwell.

For all other Asquith pupils we will use our well established walking bus to accompany the children to and from school. We use a route that avoids main roads and our walking bus is equipped with waterproof reflective ponchos to ensure children arrive safe and dry.

A lot of Asquith pupils are already familiar with our Churwell setting as we run our holiday playscheme there. We have three rooms available to meet the needs of the different age groups. If you would like to arrange a visit or for details of the walking route please contact Cath Dunn.

If you use childcare vouchers or receive childcare tax credits you may need to advise your voucher provider / HMRC of the PLAY@Churwell Ofsted registration number – EY314427 - so they can update their records.

We appreciate that this may not be ideal for all parents / carers but it does mean we can offer continuity of care for your child as the Asquith staff team will move to Churwell with the children. If you have any concerns about this change or wish to make alternative arrangements please talk to Cath Dunn, the Children's Clubs Manager on 07986 295247 or 0113 252 6824.