

## Stay & Play Day at St Werburghs Primary School 2013

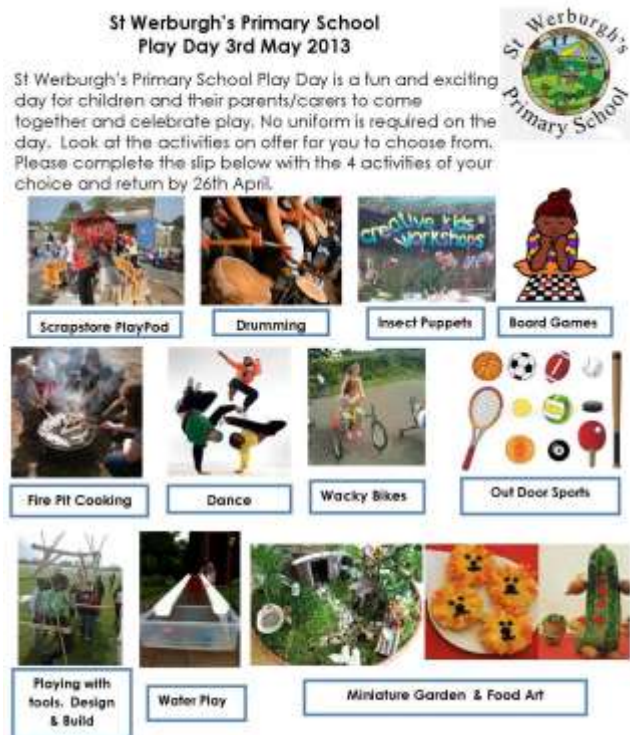
After the success of their first Scrapstore Play Day in 2012, St Werburgh's Primary School is opening their doors once again for families to stay and play for a whole day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013.

The Scrapstore Play Day allows parents, family members, carers and staff to spend a day playing with their children through a number of play stations set-up around the school site including a Scrapstore PlayPod, cooking at a fire pit, playing with tools, wacky bikes, a sports co-ordinator, planting, board games, drumming, hip hop dance, miniature garden and food art sand and water play.

More and more often we read reports and articles

on children's decreasing opportunities to play even though the social and physiological benefits for a child are extensive. Many reports state parents' are finding less time to play with their children and schools are reducing playtime due to pressures of curriculum. At St Werburgh's Primary School the story is different. The school happily signed-up for their second Scrapstore Play Day and their pupils have been playing with a Scrapstore PlayPod since 2012, the benefits of this include happier children at lunchtime, inclusive play across age ranges, children ready to learn once back in the classroom and fewer incidents in the playground.

Last year, adults who joined in with the play activities at the Scrapstore Play Day included parents, grandparents, uncles and carers who were overjoyed to see how imaginative and creative children could be when provided with a range of different play experiences. Many were also inspired with low-cost play ideas that they could easily re-create at home. The Scrapstore Play Day provides an opportunity for parents and staff to get to know each better and for parents to spend a day in their children's school environment. The event will be linked to St Werburgh's 'Healthy Schools' agenda designed to help support health and wellbeing improvements for children and young people.



The first Playwork Principle states that 'all children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.' Also, in a report by the National Children's Bureau (Highlight No. 265 © NCB 2011) it states that the benefits of play are both immediate and long-term. Play contributes too many aspects of children's well-being, including their physical, mental and social well-being and identity formation. It provides a place to 'experiment with the acquisition of new skills, the complexity of relationships, taking risks, and thinking about complicated ideas'.

Headteacher Claire Smith said 'the adults attending are able to see how beneficial play is to their child. They witness their children socialising, problem-solving, assessing their own risk and getting exercise whilst using their imagination and tapping into their creativity. They can understand why we support a good play environment at school creating energised children who are ready to learn. It's so lovely to see parents playing and getting involved with the activities available. It's a fun and inspiring event.'

The Scrapstore Play Day has been developed by Children's Scrapstore as a vehicle to show families how play can support academic success. If you think your school would benefit from a Scrapstore Play Day please contact Children's Scrapstore at: [sps@childrensscrapstore.co.uk](mailto:sps@childrensscrapstore.co.uk) or call 0117 914 3002.