

Queens Road playgroup have been based at Tannery Drift School since 2006 and during that time the playgroup have worked hard to secure a written agreement for the use of the space at Tannery Drift School.

In the last year the school and the playgroup have worked hard to produce a written agreement/lease for the space used. The school required the playgroup to increase its payments dramatically. To enable the playgroup to continue to offer free places they are unable to increase their fees above the county set level thus meaning we are unable to make money to enable us to afford the suggested increase. If we increase our fees to enable us to meet these increases county would no longer allow us to be part of the free place scheme.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 Queens Road Playgroup was given written notice to vacate its current location at Tannery Drift School, by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011;

*'After a number of meetings and attempts to finalise an agreement for the use of the classroom we are still no closer and I therefore have no other choice but to serve one full terms notice on you to terminate your use of the classroom. Based on this notice, you will need to vacate the room by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.'*

Queens Road playgroup have been unable to agree the terms on the lease agreement due to an increase in rent/service charge. The playgroup has paid **£5950.80** for the financial year 2010/2011.

The lease that was put to Queens Road Playgroup stated a rent of **£7,000** and a service charge of **£3,142.65**, thus being a rent/service charge of **£10,142.65**. The playgroup have taken advice from its accountant and they have confirmed that this is not financially viable for the playgroup to pay this amount.

Due to the above we at Queens Road Playgroup have now found ourselves in the position of having to find new premises to continue running.

Queens Road Playgroup are currently in discussions with Icknield Walk School with regard to the possibility of moving the playgroup into a portakabin on the school site.

We are being supported by Dean Candler of North Herts Surfacing who is currently trying to source a building for us this is proving to be a very costly exercise. Queens Road playgroup does have some funds but nowhere near the amount needed for this type of move.

If you can help via a donation of the purchase and siting of a second hand portakabin at Icknield walk school we would be very very grateful for your help. You may be able to help with refurbishing a portakabin, erect fencing for the play area or even help us move, any help however big or small would be really appreciated.

The playgroup have a sponsored fund event coming up for the children attending playgroup, along with photograph sessions and we are in the process of organising an auction of promises at Palazzo. If you would like to attend this evening please let me know. If you have anything you would like to donate for this evening please let me know. The playgroup team are working hard to come up with other fundraising ideas. The playgroup have been in touch with Oliver Heald who has put them in touch with Fiona Hill she is currently looking in to any funding that maybe available to help.

Queens Road playgroup has been running since 1962 and is the longest established playgroup in Royston and is a feeder for schools in Royston and the surrounding villages. The playgroup currently have 60 children on role this term.

If you can help or would like more information regarding this unforeseen situation please contact:

Mrs Judy Porto 07951918767 (playgroup hours) or 01223 207548.