



FIRST STEPS NURSERY

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE SPRING/SUMMER TERM!

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter, enjoyed time with your family and ate too much chocolate!

Welcome to the Spring/Summer Edition of the First Steps Newsletter.

STAFFING

Unfortunately, Chantelle Warne-Fisher has now left the Toddler Room and we are currently recruiting for a new member of staff.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

We have some exciting events coming up and we would really value your full support and participation!

- **Thursday 30th May – Annual Toddle** – Hopefully you have seen from the posters around the Nursery that the theme for this year's Annual Toddle will be Pirates and Princesses! The toddle is in half term and we would like to invite everyone to join us, including older siblings. The toddle will start at 14:00 outside the main nursery building followed by a picnic on the field! Sponsor forms will be handed out to you shortly and all the money raised will go towards resources for the Nursery.
- **Wednesday 12th June – Father's Day at Pre-school** – We would like to invite Dads/Grandads/male carers for a football session on the school field followed by bacon baps and activities at Pre-school between 14:00-15:00.
- **Friday 14th June – Father's Day at Little Learners & Nursery** – We would like to invite Dads/Grandads/male carers for bacon baps and fun activities with your children between 9:00-10:00.
- **Wednesday 26th June – "Concept Photography"** will be at the Nursery. If your child does not normally attend Nursery on this day but you would like some photographs taken, please contact Heidi to book a slot. (Please note these slots will be before 10am.)
- **Thursday 4th July – Parents Evening for Little Learners** – between 18:30 and 21:00 and will be held in the main nursery building.
- **Thursday 4th July & Tuesday 9th July - Parents Evening for Pre-School** - between 18:30 and 21:00 and will be held in the main nursery building.
- **Wednesday 24th July at 14:00 – Pre-School Graduation** – invitations and more information to follow.

PRE-SCHOOL LEAVERS

For those children in Pre-School who will be starting school in September this year, please can you let the staff know which school your child will be attending. All children are automatically booked in to Pre-School until 31st August 2019, if you want your child to have a different end date, please let Heidi know.

LEARNING BOOK

As you know we launched the Learning Book for all children at the Nursery and Preschool in June 2017. Please can I remind parents/carers to complete the "All About Me" section for their children. If you have any questions or issues about this, please speak to one of the room leaders. We will be printing off the summative assessments on a termly basis (three times a year) for parents/carers to read and sign and a hard copy will be kept in a folder in their children's respective rooms.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

We are in the process of updating our policies and procedures in readiness for the next review by the governors. Once they have been agreed, a copy will be issued to all parents to read & return a "signed declaration" as this is now a requirement to hold a signed copy on file.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

This term pre-school children are focusing on independence, getting ready for going to school and we are asking parents to support the children with this by encouraging them to put on their own shoes and coats and getting dressed in the morning etc. The children are also focusing on plants and growing and mini beasts. Pre-school will focus on two letters of the alphabet each week. This week the letters are G & H, next week will be I & J and so on.

LITTLE LEARNERS ACTIVITIES

Little Learners have started a letter of the week as part of their daily routine and we are asking for your support with this. The current letter is "Bb". Staff are asking the children to bring in an item connected to the current letter and talk about it during circle time. Little Learners have started to plant seeds, their broad beans and pumpkins are doing great! For the following weeks, they are learning about plants and food that we can grow as well as bugs and mini beasts.

TODDLER ROOM ACTIVITIES

This term the Toddler Room will be focusing on the farm and farm animals. They will be making a farm display with all the animals. All of the children will be joining in with some exciting sensory activities, involving spring colours and objects.

BABY ROOM ACTIVITIES

The Baby Room are focusing on 'Spring' and things that grow. They will be partaking in mud play with carrots and using a sensory garden tray and cress growing. They will also be playing with water and rose petals and focusing on the spring colours of yellow, green and orange.

GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

We are looking to improve our garden areas for the children in Little Learners and the main nursery for the toddlers and babies. We would like to ask if anyone knows of any gardeners or landscape gardening business owners that may have some spare items they would be happy to donate. We would appreciate anything, from cuttings of artificial lawn to top soil, seeds to grow, garden decorations. We would love to improve the look and feel for the children to enjoy more, now that we are heading towards the summer months.

SUPER START SPORTS

We informed you in our last newsletter about welcoming Super Star Sports to First Steps Nursery in April. Unfortunately, due to staff and recruitment issues at Super Star Sports, they are not able to start the sessions with us at this time. To apologise for the inconvenience of advising us at such short notice, we will be getting some extra free sessions, once they have resolved their staffing issues. We will inform you all as soon as we know more, when the sessions are booked to start. First Steps also apologises for the disappointment this may cause.

HOME FROM HOME CLUB

“Home from Home” is the out of school care provider at Yateley School providing affordable and flexible care for children aged between 4 and 12 years in full time education at Westfields Infant and Junior School and Cranford Park Primary School. The Breakfast Club is open from 7:30 – 9:00am and the After School Club is open from 3:15 – 6:00pm. If you would like to book your child a place, please contact Jan Walsh on 01252 746973 or 07761 133838 or email: homefromhome@yateleys.com.

A FEW REMINDERS

- Can we remind you to let the Nursery know if your child will NOT be in for any of their booked sessions including over the holiday period. This is an OFSTED requirement.
- As the weather has improved recently, please can I ask that your children bring in a named sun-hat? Please can you also ensure that you apply sun cream to your children before coming in for their session? Applying sun cream at home will help staff to get the children out in the garden quicker to ensure outdoor play before the sun gets too hot. Sun cream will then be reapplied during the day as required. If your children have sensitive skin, please provide the Nursery/Preschool with a named sun cream that can be kept here.
- Please can you ensure that your children’s clothes and lunch boxes are labelled clearly with their names?
- For those children who have a school dinner, please can you try wherever possible, to bring in the correct money. We do not keep large amounts of change onsite;
- First Steps Nursery have a Facebook page, this is a great place to receive updates and find useful information so please like our page!
- The new fees for September will be sent out to all parents/carers shortly;

Best Wishes

Heidi