



FIRST STEPS NURSERY

LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER – RETURNING TO NURSERY

WELCOME BACK!

We are so happy that the country appears to be getting back to some sort of normality and we are able to see our family and friends now, albeit with good hygiene and safety measures still in place.

It is so nice having nearly all of our children back with us at nursery. We have all missed them terribly.

As you are probably aware, we are now able to operate within our rooms without the need for bubbles which is so nice and the children seem happier with. All of the children who have already returned have been complete superstars and have coped with the strangeness of the bubbles and restrictions so well. Myself and the team are so very proud of them.

Just a reminder that all other operational procedures will remain the same until we receive further government guidance. This includes staggered drop off and pick up times, no parents coming into the buildings and social distancing along with all hygiene routines.

We will continue to ask you to complete any necessary forms (existing injuries, medication and long term medication) at home, should these be required, until further notice. If you require these to be emailed to you, please advise a staff member.

The nursery will remain with the current opening hours of 8am to 5pm until further notice. If you are usually a 6pm finish, we will be contacting you directly to advise further information.

SCHOOL LEAVERS

We are currently saying our good-byes to some of our pre-school children which is always a time for mixed emotions. We are so proud of them all, the little people they have become and their journey's with us and at the same time, so sad to be waving them off as they leave us to make the transition to their big schools. Unfortunately, we weren't able to give them our usual graduation ceremony due to Covid-19 however they all seemed to have enjoyed their leaver's picnic on the field. We hope you all loved their photos in their graduation gowns and we didn't make too many of you cry. There are most definitely tears being shed from the staff!

Good luck to all of our little superstars, we wish them all a happy and bright future. Please feel free to pop in and say hello when it is safe to do so in the not too distant future, hopefully.

LEARNING BOOK FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

Just a reminder that your children's journey through learning book is available to order. It comes in either a book-shaped memory stick or hardback book. This is a lovely keepsake to look over with your children for years to come of all of their achievements and memories.

Please take a look at the attached leaflet which includes the contact details for Learning Book.

Your child's learning book account will be available until October 31st, please order before this date as we will then archive all details for the children who have left for school.

LUNCHES

From September, our lunches for the children will be changing. We will be fortunate to have our very own cook in the school kitchen who will be providing healthy hot school dinners all year round for the children, with an exciting new menu. A copy of this is attached for your perusal.

The hot dinners provided by the school will resume from September 7th when the school returns after the summer holiday and up until Christmas, you will be able to choose a packed lunch or hot dinner for your child however we will no longer be able to accept cash.

From September to December, you can decide on packed lunches or hot dinners on a month by month basis and the cost for the school dinners will be added to your monthly invoice. Please note, all children will be registered for a hot school dinner by default so if you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch, you must notify me by 20th August so I can make the changes to your invoice.

If you do choose to provide your child with a packed lunch, can I please remind you to be mindful of the contents of your child's lunch box? Please do not send any items of food containing nuts, coconut, pesto, Nutella or other chocolate spread or products containing traces of nuts. We have a strict **NO NUT** policy as we do have children with nut allergies. If you are sending a product in with no ingredients on the packaging, can we ask that you cut out the ingredients list from the packaging and pop this in their lunch box. Please also do not send in fizzy drinks or juices or products containing chocolate. We do promote healthy eating and encourage the children to enjoy healthy food at all times.

From January 2021, the hot school dinners will be provided for every child all year round and there will no longer be a need for you to provide packed lunches for your child moving forward.

The cost for the hot school dinners will also remain the same - £1.20 per day for babies and £2.40 for toddlers, little learners and pre-school.

FEE'S FROM SEPTEMBER

We have recently done a wide comparison against other day nurseries and preschools within the local area and found that our prices are extremely low. Therefore, our fees have increased this year in-line with other providers in the local area however we still remain competitive.

A copy of these new fees are attached.

AND FINALLY...

I would like to take this opportunity again, to thank you all for your help and co-operation over the last few months and to all of those who have been able to be flexible with your session times and days. I understand this has not been possible for all of you due to work commitments but a big thank you to you all. We couldn't have re-opened to all our children without your help!

Please stay safe!

Best Wishes

Heidi & the team.

