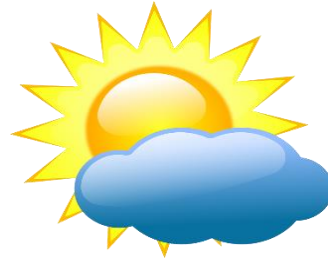




# FIRST STEPS NURSERY

## Summer Term of 2024.

We are now heading into the Summer term of 2024, although you wouldn't think so with all the wet & weird weather we have had so far this year. Let's pray for some changes to our weather soon & hope we get some lovely dry, warmer & sunny days.



Here is some nursery news & dates for your diaries 😊

### **SAFEGUARDING**

It has come to my attention, that some children are being left unattended & alone, either in the car or on the pathway/grass area in the small car park whilst cars are being moved. We understand this may be for a very short period of time, but please do not EVER leave your young children in this situation, at any time. This is a safeguarding issue & our duty to report should this continue.

### **SUNCREAM & SUNHATS**

Can we ask you all to apply sun cream to your child in the mornings (when we do finally get some sunshine 😊) and provide a named sunhat please? Staff will reapply cream throughout the day but having it on in the morning allows us to get the children out quicker, so they have longer to play. If your child has sensitive skin, you are welcome to send in their own sun cream, but please make sure it is labelled. Thank you.

### **HUNGRY MOOSE MENU**

A reminder that we have our lunches supplied by Hungry Moose during the school holidays.

May half term, week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, will be week 2 on their Spring menu, a copy of which is attached for your perusal.

Information will be sent out nearer the Summer holidays, regarding which week the menu will start on.

### **FOOTWEAR**

Can we please ask that children have an alternative footwear, either brought in with them or left at nursery, to change into, if your child wishes to wear their wellies, crocs or open toe sandals. None of these are safe to run or climb in & can cause children to slip or fall over, especially when climbing on the play equipment or using the stairs.

### **SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEM**

Can we please take this opportunity to thank you all for your co-operation with the new school security system. After the initial teething issue, it all seems to be going well.

### **STAFF CHANGES**

We would like to introduce you to two new staff members joining our baby room team:

Lindsay, has a background working in primary schools & early years & will be starting her level 3 qualification with us.

Maya, our long-term student, has been with First Steps for 2 years & will finish her level 3 qualification in June, when she will become a full-time member of staff.

We hope you will join us in giving them both a very warm welcome.

### **HOLIDAY DATES**

Can you please advise us of any upcoming holidays where your child will not be attending nursery, by email, to [childcare@yateleys.com](mailto:childcare@yateleys.com)

### **ANNUAL TODDLE**

We are planning on having our annual picnic & toddle in August this year, during the school Summer holidays, with a possible date of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

### **PRE-SCHOOL LEAVERS**

We have all our Pre-school leavers booked in until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August. If this is not going to be your child's last day with us, can you inform me as soon as possible please? We do have some availability for children to stay on in September, on a first come first served basis but spaces are limited. Please be advised that nursery funding ends on 30<sup>th</sup> August so any sessions booked to attend in September will be charged at full price.

### **GRADUATION**

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> & Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2pm**

We will be holding our annual graduation ceremonies in the school main hall, on the above dates for all those parents of children who are leaving First Steps to start school in September and will be sending out all the relevant details to our pre school parents in due course.



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Concept Photography – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** – this is their first visit this year, taking wonderful professional photographs of the children, with no obligation to purchase. For those children who aren't usually in on this day & would like to have a professional photograph taken, please contact us to book an appointment between 8.30-10am, before slots are all booked up.

**Father's Day Stay & Play – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 9.00-10.00** - we would like to invite all our Daddies, Grandad's & Uncles to join us for a "Father's Day" celebration. All 3 of our building's will have lots of activities to explore. We hope to see you all there!

A reminder that you will need your lanyards to access the premises for both these events.

**Parents Evening – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June & Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - we will be holding parent's evenings for our older children, in Pre School, 6.30-8pm in our nursery building. We will issue an appointment booking system via email a bit nearer to the dates. If you are a parent of Baby, Toddler or Little Learners children & wish to speak to your key person, please do let me know & we can arrange either a meeting or a telephone call.

### **FIRST STEPS WEBSITE**

Recently we launched our new “Feedback” page on our website & have received an amazing review from one of lovely parents. It would be great to see a few more so please feel free to submit a review. Thank you!

### **BABY ROOM AVAILABILITY**

We have some availability on a Friday in our baby room on a temporary & short-term basis, for reasons such as: new parents who sometimes register with us before the birth of their child & book in for days they then no longer need when their baby is due to start or sometimes parents choose to delay their return to work date, to spend more time at home with their new baby. It is hard to know what will happen when you have to plan that far ahead.

If you would like to take advantage of some additional childcare on a Friday, please contact me & I will discuss this further with you. I do require as much notice as possible & at least one-week notice, so I can ensure the ratios are met.

### **SCHOOL PLAYGROUND REMINDER**

Can we please take this opportunity to remind you that, although the playground is not accessible to vehicles during the day, it does allow cars on to the playground after school hours, as the gym can be hired for various clubs etc to use. This means cars are coming in and out at any time. We have noticed that some parents still gather on the playground after collecting their children and allow the children to have a play on the school playground. We are therefore asking you to be mindful of the vehicles coming in and out where nursery children may be running around. People using the school gym & driving on to the site, may not remember there is a nursery and that children may be on the grounds between the hours of 3pm to 6pm.

### **PARKING**

Can I please take this opportunity to remind you once again, to be mindful when parking in the small car park outside Pre School? Please do not leave your cars blocking others in.

This car park is not equipped for lots of cars & we have been made aware of the continual problems that arise. Frequently, parents are blocked in whilst others leave their cars to drop off or collect their children. Mornings are especially an issue for those parents needing to leave promptly to get to work.

The blue gates are the entrance & exit for the school minibuses & difficulties arise if cars are left there.

Please do not park in front of these gates. The school minibuses have a timetable to adhere to, getting the school children to & from school & delays mean children are anxiously waiting for their transport. These gates are also access for the emergency services & it is critical that they are able to get in & out as necessary. If these issues continue, this car park may be closed.

### **VACCINATIONS**

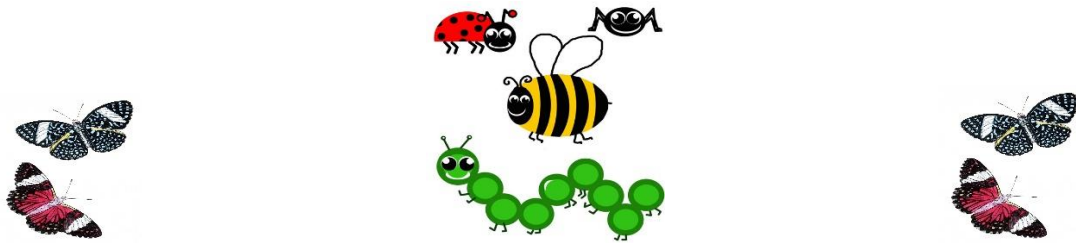
Children’s vaccinations – are your children’s vaccines up to date? Please take a look at the leaflet attached.

#### **TOPICS AT FIRST STEPS**

In the months ahead, our topics include “Minibeasts” for the month of May, where we will explore in our gardens and in the school grounds, to see all the minibeasts living around us & “people who help us”, being kind & Father’s Day, for the month of June.

We look forward to all the fun activities our topics allow us to explore as we head towards the warmer months, as we get to spend so much more time outside.

In July & August, we enjoy lots of activities planned around our summer holidays, the travelling we do & the various transport we all go on. Our older children will also learn about going off to their big schools.



## OTHER

### HOME FROM HOME

“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. 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 Penny or Bertha on 01252 746973 or 07761 133838 or email: [homefromhome@yateleys.com](mailto:homefromhome@yateleys.com). Spaces are limited so don't hesitate to book!

That's all for now.

*Best wishes, Heidi & the team x*

