



FIRST STEPS NURSERY

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter newsletter of 2023.

We hope you all enjoyed your summer holidays! The weather hasn't exactly been the sunniest we had all hoped for but at least we had dry days to get out & about. Now the weather is turning colder, the rain is bound to be more frequent & the evenings will be getting darker, earlier. It's that time of year to start to wrap up warm & enjoy some autumnal & wintery events.



Here is some nursery news & dates for your diaries 😊

REMINDERS

Please can we remind you all to give other parents some space when they are collecting their child? Some discussions & information shared are of a delicate or private nature & we ask that privacy is respected at this time. Please make sure this is also shared with family members that may be collecting on your behalf.

SPARE CLOTHES

Can we ask you all to ensure your children's bags have spare clothes, weather & stage appropriate; coats & footwear & feel free to bring gloves, hats & wellies in as needed, as the weather turns, to allow for outside play. Children may need to have their clothes changed to dry clothes, when coming back inside. Slippers are welcomed into all rooms if you or your child wishes & please label all your children's belongings, including dummies, bottles & formula containers.

NEW NURSERY MENU

Please find attached our new nursery menu.

MENU FOR OCTOBER HALF TERM

A reminder that we will have our lunches supplied by Hungry Moose.

October half term, week commencing Monday 23rd October, will be week 4 on their menu, which we will email out to you separately, once we have received it.

CHARGE FOR LATE COLLECTIONS

Just a reminder please to arrive in plenty of time to collect your child/children, especially if you are picking up children from more than the one room? Late collections can result in a late fee of £30 being applied each time this happens.

ANNUAL TODDLE

A huge thank you to all of you who supported our annual toddle back in July. With your help & generosity, we raised a whopping £1,494.73 to purchase new resources for all the children to enjoy.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

All children's summative assessments will be completed this term. Once these are completed you can access them on Learning Book.

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, especially as the evenings get darker earlier, through the coming winter months.

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.

STAFF CHANGES

General room moves: Caroline & Lois have both moved out of the baby room due to continued back problems. Lois will now be based in the toddler room & Caroline will be helping in other rooms to help with their healing.

We would like to say a huge welcome to some new team members:

Libby Parsons has joined us full time in Pre School. Libby has joined us from another childcare setting & is training to level 3.

Alfie Atkinson has joined us full time & is currently helping in all rooms as & when needed. Alfie will be training to level 3.

Lucy German has joined us full time in Babies. Lucy has experience working with children & will be training to level 3.

We continue to have casual staff members of staff who help as & when needed. You may have already seen them around. Ffion Powell, Reece Prescott & Joe Philbin-Carr have been with us a little while now & we are thrilled to have them working with us.

Unfortunately, we have said goodbye to Abi Trail & Issy Callaway. Abi has left for a new job & Issy has left to go to university. We wish them all the very best for the future.

STAFF NEWS

For those who aren't aware, Paula Turvey, Deputy Manager & Pre School Leader got married back in May. She looked truly stunning & had a wonderful wedding day. Paula is now Mrs Paula Stewart 😊

Emma Arnold (Pre School) & Lois Neville (Toddlers) are both now at the end of their level 3 training & will soon be fully qualified members of the team. Please join us in sending a huge congratulations to them both, on completing their courses. Amy Harris (Babies) is well into her level 3 training now & Debbie Vine (Little Learners) is just starting hers. We wish them well.

As you may all know, we welcome students regularly into First Steps to help with their Child Development courses. We have some new Year 12 students in the rooms, on their placements. Just so you are aware if your children are talking about names you don't recognise.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Halloween/Bonfire & Fireworks Stay & Play morning - Tuesday 31st October

Parents, grandparents & siblings welcome for lots of exciting "Halloween" & "Bonfire/Fireworks" activities. All 3 buildings will be hosting this "stay & play" morning so please do join your child from 9.30-10.30am for some play, craft & messy fun! Staff will be dressed up for this event & we would love for the children to dress up for the day too.

Concept Photography – Wednesday 15th November

This is your next opportunity to have professional photographs taken of your children.

All photographs purchased will be back in time for Christmas (they make great Christmas presents!)

Concept Photography will be in on the above date, in the "messy room" of the main nursery building.

If your child attends this day, they will automatically be encouraged to have their photograph taken for you. If your child is not usually in on a Wednesday but you would like their photographs taken, please contact myself or Tara to book you a slot between 8.30 and 10am.

World Nursery Rhyme Week – 13th to 17th November

We are taking part in the world nursery rhyme week, to help promote the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development & education, to encourage our children to take part in a "rhyme a day" challenge by singing the nursery rhymes & participate in supporting activities. There are 5 official nursery rhymes & this year they are; Jack & Jill / Hickory dickory dock / Head, shoulders, knees & toes / Row row row your boat / Wheels on the bus. Nursery rhymes are excellent teaching tools & can help to develop language & literacy skills, numeracy skills & social, physical & emotional skills.

Children in Need – Friday 17th November

"Be SPOTacular" this year! At nursery, we would like to encourage a fun filled colourful & spotty day, by dressing up in "all things Pudsey/Spotty/PJ's" & donating £1 to help raise money for this great charity event.

Festive Evening – Wednesday 29th November 18:30– 20:30 – Festive Evening. This is an informal evening, a great opportunity to come and speak to your children's key person and help us decorate the nursery, little learners, and pre-school rooms. When the children arrive the next morning, it is so lovely to see their little faces thinking that the elves have been & decorated their rooms 😊

Every year we sell raffle tickets for Christmas hampers. This year, we will have one in each of our three buildings and a product list will be displayed in each building from November. Could we ask you all to support us by donating something on the list? We will soon be asking for your help to buy & sell tickets at a cost of £1 each. The raffle will then be drawn on the last week before we break for Christmas. These hampers are a wonderful prize to win, and all proceeds go towards buying new resources for the nursery which will benefit children in every room. More details will follow.

Christmas Parties: (further details will be emailed out nearer the time)

Tuesday 12th Dec 2.30-4pm - Toddlers

Wednesday 13th Dec 2.30-4pm - Little Learners

Thursday 14th Dec 2-3.30pm - Babies

Friday 15th Dec 2-4pm - Pre School (this party will take place in the school drama studio next to the library)

First Steps will close for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd December & will reopen at 8am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024!



TOPICS AT FIRST STEPS

For the months leading up to Christmas, we will be exploring & learning all about Halloween, hibernation & Diwali – Hindu Festival of Lights, as well as all things Autumn. This will take us through October, whilst continuing to spend time out in our nursery gardens. During November, we will be looking at Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day & St Andrew's Day & the topic of space & rockets. Lots to keep us all busy & having fun, including songs, books, messy play & mark making craft activities.

OTHER

Martha, Events Manager for Kid's Marketplace is hosting a pre-loved sale at the Key Centre, Fleet, on the 1st of October. They would like to reach as many parents who would like to sell on their children's outgrown goods, and those who would like to attend, seeking a bargain. Please see their flyer attached for further information.

Westfields Infant School would like to share details of their prospective parent sessions for children who will be starting school in Sept 2024. If you have children that will move on to school next September, please take a look.

Newlands Primary School has their Open Events coming up for the September 2024 Year R intake. If you are interested in more information, please look at their attachment. We can ask them for hard copies if preferred.

"Boogie Pumps", are excited to return with their Baby Street & Baby Ballet dance classes in Yateley, for children ages 2 - 4 yrs. They offer a free trial session for all classes and have attached a flyer that you might like to view. They are located at Burrell Lodge - Frogmore Scout Hut, Yateley. Free trials can be booked via their website:

<https://fleet.boogiepumps.co.uk/shop/free-trial/>

That's all for now. We will send out further information as & when.



*Please be safe & well!
Best wishes,
Heidi & the team x*