

First Steps Pre-school

Hello and welcome!

It is lovely to see everyone, hope you have all had a good summer.

We are so pleased to see the children are settling in nicely and are doing well in their new environment.

Our Rising 5 returners have settled in brilliantly too – they all seem very happy to be back!

Our planning theme this half term is 'Who am I?'

We will learn about who is in my family, what do I look like and how we all look different! What is special to me? How do I look after myself?

Our small group work with the Rising 5's is following the 'Little Wandle' love of reading phonic scheme. The children are already enjoying their special time in the pod!

Summer spending.....

We have developed a new maths area for the children to freely access and added lots of exciting resources. These include wooden and colourful shapes, numbers and objects. We are sure the children will have great fun counting, stacking and using lots of imagination!

We have also continued to develop the field ready for the children to access. We have purchased a garden shed, planted bulbs and flower seeds to grow in spring, planted willow to create a tunnel and built a 'digging pit'. The children can't wait to get in there!!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us through our many fundraising events to enable us to add to and replace our resources.

Labels/Nappies - Please remember to name your child's belongings, including jumpers, coats, wellies, bags and lunchboxes. If your child is still in nappies, could you please send spare nappies, wipes and bags. Thank you.



Term Dates 2024-25

Autumn Term 2024

Start – Sept 4-Oct 25

Half term – Oct 28-Nov 1

Return – Nov 4-Dec 20

Spring Term 2025

Start – Jan 6-Feb 14

Half Term – Feb 17-Feb 21

Return – Feb 24-April 4

Summer Term 2025

Start April 22-May 23

Bank Holiday – May 5

Half Term – May 26-May 30

Return – June 2-July 11

Snacks and Packed Lunches – Here at First Steps your child’s well-being and safety are of utmost importance to us. With this in mind, we are following advice from the Food Standards Agency.

This advice outlines the importance of how to prevent children from choking by ensuring food given to them has been prepared correctly. When preparing children’s snacks, we will ensure that all fruits such as bananas, apples and pears are cut into batons. This enables children to hold onto one end whilst they bite off small bite sized pieces. Any smaller fruits such as blueberries, grapes and strawberries will be cut into quarters lengthways.

We would like you to support us (and your child) with this when you prepare your child’s packed lunch. We are kindly asking that any food or fruit is prepared in the aforementioned way (batons or quarters lengthways). We thank you for your support with this.

Facebook – We often share information about what we are doing including any important updates. So be sure to ‘like’ our page and check it out for yourself!

Messaging Service - First Steps subscribes to a text messaging service which enables us to alert you with reminders of events or changes to pre-school routines. Please let us know if you have changed your number recently so we can update our records. If anyone would prefer to opt out of this service, again let us know.

Uniform - Uniform is not compulsory at First Steps, but if you would like your child to wear our t-shirts or sweatshirts, then they can be ordered from H&K Embroidery. Additionally, we have lots of items of uniform that have been donated – please ask if you would like to look at them.

Fundraising - First Steps runs with the help of a committee of fundraisers who plan different activities and events to raise money to help pay for extra resources and activities that, as a charity, we would otherwise not be able to offer your children.

A coffee morning has been planned for **Saturday 21st September 9.30am** to discuss future fundraising ideas and to talk about how and why we raise money. If you would like to join us, we’d be very happy to see you. You are welcome to bring your children too.

Sponsored Obstacle Course - We have planned a Sponsored Obstacle Course for the children to take part in during the week beginning 14th October. It will be a fun and challenging course which they are sure to enjoy, and staff will be on hand to support them wherever needed.

We have attached a sponsor form and hope to raise money to enable us to create new sand and malleable materials areas inside. Many thanks for your continued support.

We are looking forward to a busy half term! If you have any worries, queries or concerns, please don’t hesitate to ask.