Newsletter September 2026

First Steps Pre-school

Hello and welcome!
It is lovely to see everyone, we hope you have all had a good summer.

We are so pleased to see the children are settling in nicely and are enjoying all areas of our continuous provision.

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

The planning theme this half term is 'Who am I?'
We will learn about what we look like and who everyone is! What can we eat to stay healthy? How to look after our teeth and how to keep fit!

Our small group work with Rising 5's is following the 'Little Wandle' love of reading phonics scheme and after half term we will begin to be introduced to the sound that each letter makes. The children are already looking forward to their special time in the 'pod'.

Term Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026

Start – Sept 8-Oct 23

Half term – Oct 26-Oct 30

Return – Nov 2-Dec 18

Spring Term 2027

Start – Jan 5-Feb 5

Half Term – Feb 8-Feb 12

Return – Feb 15-Mar 19

Summer Term 2027

Start April 6-May 28

Bank Holiday – May 3

Half Term – May 31-June 4

Return – June 7-July 16

New Staff Member! – Helen Clark has joined us at the start of September. She has many years of experience working with early years children in a range of settings and she is also a qualified teacher! She has settled into First Steps well and the children are already loving spending time with her. I'm sure you will join us in wishing Helen lots of fun and exciting times ahead here at the setting.

Labels/Nappies - Please remember to name your child's belongings, including jumpers, cardigans, coats, shoes, bags, lunchboxes and drinks bottles.

If your child is still in nappies, could you please send spare nappies, wipes and nappy bags. For children who are potty training and fully toilet trained, please remember to pop some spare clothes in their backpacks. Thank you.

Snacks & 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 minimizing the risk of children 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 kindly ask that parents do not send in chocolate bars and sweets in lunchboxes and no nuts or products containing nuts. We thank you for your support with this.

Facebook – We 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.

Policies – All our policies have been renewed this term. They are available to view in the office.

Uniform - Uniform is not compulsory at Frist 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 second-hand uniform that have been donated – please help yourself!

Absence – Please inform us of any absence.

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 10th October @ 9.00am at the setting to discuss future fundraising ideas which may help raise money for First Steps. It's a very informal meeting so please come along if you would like to join us, we'll be very happy to see you. You are welcome to bring your children too.

Our first fundraising event of the year is our annual **Sponsored Obstacle Course -** We have planned a fun obstacle course for the children to take part in during their sessions in the week beginning 5th October. We hope you and your family will show your support by sponsoring your child to complete the course as they move, balance, jump and climb their way around!! The staff will be on hand to support them wherever needed.

Many thanks!

We are looking forward to a busy half term ahead!

If you have any worries, queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask.