



First Steps  
Day Nursery/School

# Spring 2022

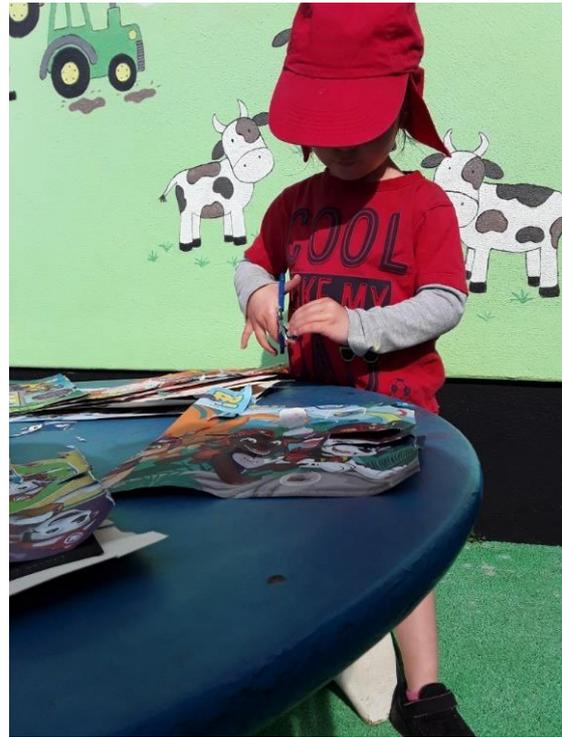


## Setting News

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. At least we are seeing some beautiful sunshine, I think at last it is the start of the Spring weather, lighter mornings and evenings which is amazing about time!!! What a truly wet and windy start to the year it has been.

Thank you to all the parents for your understanding over the last week, and for following our strict Covid guidelines. We all pulled together and battled through a hit of COVID across the setting. The weather was definitely on our side being able to get all the toys and resources miltoned within an inch of their life, and spent all week outside enjoying some engaging activities in the beautiful weather and enjoying some alfresco dining.





At First Steps we have enjoyed taking part in many events/festivals these have included, Valentine's Day, International Women's Day and St Patricks Day.



# HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY



We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at First Steps. We had great fun dressing up as the characters from 'The Gruffalo'. Throughout the day we explored, read, and retold the story of the Gruffalo, which is certainly a very well-loved story for many of the staff and children.

It was great to see lots of children dressed up as their favourite book characters from Disney Olaf, Peter Pan, foxes, mice, and the Gruffalo from 'The Gruffalo's child and ladybirds from 'What the Ladybird Heard. Throughout the day children also engaged in a variety of different book related activities such as storytelling using our wooden spoons, picture colouring and story puppets.







## Is your child starting school this September?

Wow, how are we already at this time of year again!!

Preschool parents will be hearing very soon what school has been allocated for their child this September, you should be informed on or around the 19<sup>th</sup> April, you will either hear via email or through the post, depending on how you applied initially.

If you are unhappy with this choice, you can appeal. This process can be found on the Somerset Country Council website, please see the link- [Advice for parents and guardians on school admission appeals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

We kindly ask that all parents notify their child's key person of their child's allocated school. We work very closely with all schools and invite the teachers in to meet with the children and have a discussion with their key person. This process is so important to ensure we support each child with the best possible transition on to 'big school'. During the last term at pre-school before your child starts 'big school', we very much support with school readiness - I have attached a document to help support this at home, also below are some lovely books which are wonderful to read with your children to support them with this new adventure onto 'big school'.



During the summer months we will be assessing each pre-school child, through play-based learning to complete a school transition document, this will then be share with you, to add any additional information you deem important for this transition.

Throughout July we will arrange a parents evening for you to meet with your child's key person to go through this document and sign ready to transfer it onto the school. Appointments can be made in June.

# COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY

First Steps celebrated Comic Relief on the 18<sup>th</sup> March by dressing up in all things red and comic relief merchandise! We started Red Nose Day with some scrummy strawberry jam on toast for breakfast, juicy tomato and basil pasta bake for lunch, followed by a fruity jelly for pudding! The children engaged in many activities with all things red and particularly enjoyed making their own pizzas for tea, spreading their own red tomato puree across the pizza base and selecting their favourite toppings. Thank you to all of our families, we raised a fantastic £43.87 for Comic Relief



### **Spring reports**

Over the next few weeks all practitioners will be working hard on completing a spring report on their key children. These reports cover some of the prime and specific areas that your child(ren) have progressed in over the Spring term and highlight what 'next steps' they are currently working towards. Please may we ask you confirm receipt of this report, you can either like or comment on the Tapestry post. If you would like any additional information or to discuss this report further, you can arrange a telephone appointment with your child's key person.

### **Polite Reminder**

Please can I remind all parents if you have not done so already to amend your standing orders in line with the April fee increase.

We are experiencing an increase in lost property. Can I kindly ask all parents to please ensure all items of your children's clothing are named, as we will be arranging a visit to the local charity shop to take any unclaimed items.

Please can I remind parents that the nursery closes at 5:30pm, it has been noted on occasions that parents are arriving after 5:30pm to collect children and then interested to discuss how their day has been. Which of course I totally understand is important, however this can be of course arranged over a telephone appointment or alternatively , we do have limited spaces available between 5:30-6pm if you feel this would be beneficial to give you more time at the end of a day and want to book this late session in please email [samanathaware@fsdaynursery.co.uk](mailto:samanathaware@fsdaynursery.co.uk)

## Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Jenny to our First Steps family.



*My name is Jenny and I am very excited to be starting at First Steps from April.*

*I have an NVQ level 3 in early years and have worked in various childcare roles previously before becoming a mummy to my wonderful little boy who will be starting school in September.*

*I particularly like to encourage children with their creative development through stories, songs, games and imaginary play.*

*Outside of work I like to spend time with my family, visit new places, go on walks and paint. Our favourite place is*

*Cornwall, and we love to explore a new part of it every time we visit.*

*I look forward to build good relationships with you as parents and with your children.*

Sadly, we are having to say goodbye to Dani, Dani has been with us for over 6 years and has decided to take a break from childcare for a while and have a change in career. We will miss her very much but wish her all the happiness and success for her future ahead. I am sure she will continue to keep in touch with us all.

If Dani is your child's key person, please be patient with us, whilst we work together to allocate a new key person for your child. Please be reassured that your child's buddies, Laine, Lisa and also the rest of the team will of course continue to ensure your child's needs are met and they are supported during their time at First Steps.

## Staff training

Samantha Ware is currently completing SENCO Training and will take on the lead as setting SENCO.

All emotions are ok training

Supporting communication and language development

Reminder Dates for the diary

Nursery Closure dates 2022/23

Good Friday - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Monday- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April

May Day- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Coronation Day Spring bank holiday - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Platinum Jubilee bank holiday- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Summer bank holiday- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August

Christmas closure date- 26<sup>th</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Return date - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023