



Summer 2022



Well, we are well and truly into the Summer term now, although you wouldn't believe it, the weather has certainly been rather wet throughout May and into June, lets hope it brightens up for us all.

What a wonderful start to June it has been, we hope you all had a fantastic long bank holiday and were able to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, thank you to many of you for posting some amazing videos and photographs onto tapestry for us to see and share together. An experience certainly none of us will ever get to experience again in our lifetimes.



The children showed a keen interest in the Jubilee, exploring a variety of resources and activities we had on offer including, role play, acting out tea parties with our friends, dressing up as princess, Queens and Kings and getting creative, making beautiful crowns to wear. Many particularly enjoying making cakes and scones to enjoy for our afternoon tea party, where many of our parents were able to join us on the Wednesday afternoon. It was a fantastic event and I want to thank the ones that were able to make it, I hope you found it as pleasurable as we did. We were fortunate to have our very own Queen join us for the celebrations. *Thank you very much Mrs Garland!!*

Summer term

To keep you all informed throughout this next term, with this time of year being our busiest term, welcoming in many of the local teachers to meet the children of their allocated school for September, transition reports to write and of course, very importantly preparation for the leavers graduation ceremony.



We of course continue to provide individual learning and support for each and every child, and endeavour to share this with you, however this might mean you will not see as many individual observations on Tapestry, but we will continue to upload group observations as and when we can. All parents of children leaving to start their new chapter at 'big school' will be able to contribute to their child's transition document at parents evening. All children not leaving will receive a summer report via Tapestry, if you wish to discuss this in more detail you can of course arrange a telephone appointment with your child's key person.

As a setting we have trialed free flow across the rooms, however we have all come to an agreement that this structure is not for us. At the beginning of this year we have spent a considerable amount of time separate and believe this has improved outcomes for many of our children. In turn this has given us the opportunity to provide further structured activities and discussions for our preschool children and just as importantly provides our younger children with a quieter environment to be able to adjust to new surroundings to develop early social and communication skills.



Pre-School News

Wow, how are we almost saying goodbye to the preschool children off to 'big school' in September? We are going to miss their beautiful, confident, smiley faces and of that their families too. Nevertheless, the children are so ready for the next chapter of their lives to open, and sadly for their First Steps chapter to close. We wish them all the absolute best for their futures ahead.

If your child is off to Reception this September, the appointment sheet is now displayed for our leavers pre-schoolers parents' evenings on the inside of the black gate, we kindly ask all parents book an appointment. The open nights are spread over 3 evenings from 5pm dependant on your child's key person. Parents can book this either phoning the setting or by securing your appointment with your child's key person. The purpose of this parents evening is to discuss your child's current development, and to give you an opportunity to discuss this transition, there will be an opportunity for you to provide a comment on the school transition document, along with a parent's signature as required. It is essential that you attend this parents evening, however, if you are unable to attend the specified date, please let us know, so we can arrange a mutually convenient alternative date. Can we also please remind you that children will not be able to attend the parents evening. Thank you.

Preschool Leavers only dates for the diary

Parent's evening date/times

Hayley and Casey's key groups - Tuesday 28th June from 5pm

Lisa and Laine's key groups - Wednesday 29th June from 5pm

Sami, Jenny and Maryanne's key groups - Thursday 30th June from 5pm

Pre-School Leavers group Photograph

All preschool leavers to attend an end of year photograph on Wednesday 15th June at 9:45am for approx. 30-40 minutes. If your child has a First Steps uniform, can we kindly ask that they wear it.

Pre-School Leavers Party -Summer beach party



Friday 15th July 2pm - 3:45pm

Parents are invited back at 3:45pm to watch their child graduate from First Steps.

If your child attends a Friday afternoon session, they can of course stay on until 5:30pm unless you choose to take them with you after the graduation ceremony.

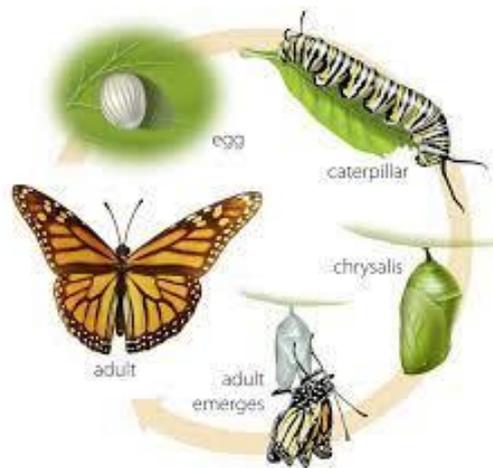
Open Evening for children joining Preschool this September

6-7pm on Tuesday 9th August

We invite parents to attend an open night to learn and understand more about what is covered during the last year in preschool. This also will give you the opportunity to meet the staff/key people that will be working closely with your child for their final year, the opportunity to ask any questions regarding in the moment planning, tapestry, Early Talk Boast and 'school readiness'. Samantha Ware will also be available to explain how the EYF is allocated and to discuss additional availability or change of days/sessions. If you are unable to make this open night, please let a member of the team know and we can provide you with the information from the evening. We kindly ask that you arrange alternative childcare for this open evening.

Awaiting some exciting new arrivals

We are patiently awaiting the arrivals of some little visitors to our setting, over the years the children have absolutely loved watching the life cycle of a caterpillar, observing how they grow and change daily. We use this exercise to support the children's learning and understanding of life cycles. The children are given the opportunity to create some amazing artistic artwork as well as listen to and joining in with one of our favourite stories 'The very Hungry caterpillar'. We also use this opportunity to talk with the children about healthy eating, understanding which foods are healthy and unhealthy and to begin the early stages of reading by retelling the story to us.



Staff News/ Announcements



Massive congratulations to Rosie on the birth of her son Reggie. We wish her all the very best and happiness.



A very warm welcome back to Catherine, who has been on maternity leave for the past 9 months following the birth of her second child Harley, we very much look forward to welcoming her back to our First Steps family again.

Catherine will be joining the nursery team upstairs from the beginning of August, in a senior supervisor position working Wednesday- Friday. Maryanne, Laine, and Jenny will also be supporting Catherine with the younger children.



Polite reminders

During the summer months, we are vigilant about making sure our children are safe and protected from the warm, sunny weather. We are particularly focusing on keeping ourselves healthy and safe wearing sun cream, hats and drinking plenty of water. First steps provide a 5* UV rating factor 50 sun cream that is applied regularly throughout the day. Can we kindly ask parents to apply sun cream at home before bringing your child into the setting. As you can imagine it can be very time consuming to sun cream 40+ children, therefore taking away valuable interactions and playtime for the practitioners and your children. So we kindly ask for your support with this. If you have not had time to apply it, please let one of the team know when you drop your child off.

Please can we also remind parents to name **ALL** items of clothing. We have a great deal of lost property that will be placed outside of both nursery and preschool front doors, please could you take look and see if any of it belongs to your child. We will be taking any uncollected clothing to the charity shop.

Please could we remind our parents that the collection time for the end of the day is 5:30pm. If you require a detailed handover at the end of the day, please email or send a message on tapestry and we can of course arrange for a telephone appointment with your child's key person.



Dates for the Diary

We are excited to announce that we are holding another Open Day, we held one last year and it was a fantastic success, we very much hope you and your families can join us on Saturday the 6th of August from 10am until midday for some fun, games, and refreshments. We will have offers available on the day for any new children starting, please help us spread the word.

Reminder dates- Bank holidays

- First Steps will be closed on Monday the 29th of August.

The first half of this year has flown by already, and we know that Christmas will soon creep upon us.

Therefore, below are some dates for the diary:

- First Steps will close on Friday the 23rd of December at 12:30pm.
- First Steps will re-open to the children on Thursday the 5th of January 2023.