



# November 2023 Newsletter

## Harvest

Thank you very much for your Harvest donations, we went to visit The Salvation Army to donate all the foods. They were very grateful for the food to be able to support the families in need.



## Pumpkin Competition

We have had a great time celebrating Halloween at First Steps; we enjoyed our Halloween tea party on Tuesday afternoon and enjoyed many spooky Halloween activities such as pumpkin carving and many creative activities. We have been creative making ghost using cottonwool, pumpkin paintings and exploring slim in the cauldrons.

A big thank you for all the Pumpkin entries, we have received some amazing entries so a big well done to all



the children who participated and thank you to you all for supporting us with this creative competition.



Competition winners for Preschool were Lexi, Rory and Olive. The Nursery winners were Chester, Louie and Ronnie.



## Children in Need

At First Steps we are always keen to support charities where possible. On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will be supporting Children in Need by wearing our pyjamas for the day, we hope the children will be excited to wear their pyjamas to Nursery/Preschool for the day. Could we please ask that you make a donation to contribute to this charity.



## Tesco's Bookshelf

We have been really lucky to be nominated for the donation money in December from the bookshelf at Shepton Mallet Tesco's. The idea of the bookshelf is to take a book and pop a donation in the money pot provided on the bookshelf. Please spread the word with family and friends in supporting First Steps with this. We are very excited to be able to purchase some new resources with this donation. We are hoping to put the money towards enhancing the children's Literacy skills by



buying new Winter story books and stationary resources for arts and craft activities. We would also put the money towards mathematic resources such as weighing scales and number games.

The children thoroughly enjoy reading story books independently and listening to an adult read stories. It provides the children with many skills and enhancing their communication and language development, their imaginative skills and the ability to predict what might happen in the story. Our Pre-school children love to choose books to share with their families at home. Please support us with this important part of your child's development by reading lots of stories together at home and visit the Tesco bookshelf.



### **Autumn Reports**

Every child will receive a termly report at the end of the year, this report gives you a basic understanding of how your child is achieving and meeting their milestones within each area of the EYFS, it also clearly recognises individual next steps and how these can be supported both at the setting and home. Parents that have previously received a report at First Steps are aware that the opportunity is given to arrange an appointment to discuss any areas of the report or to just understand further how their child is

settling and developing whilst at the setting. First Steps recognises and values that many families have busy work commitments and therefore we do not set a specific parents evening date/time, this is very much offered to all parents to arrange when convenient with both parent and key person. This appointment can be arranged any time either via telephone call or face to face whichever is more suitable for you. Please take this opportunity to liaise with your child key person as parent partnership is fundamental in children's learning and in fact the first five years is a time when the foundations for learning, health and behaviour throughout life are laid down as children's brains develop connections faster in the first five years than at any other time in their lives.

### **Staff Training**

Hayley has completed her six weeks Attention Autism training and is looking forward to bringing this into practice.

Hayley, Lisa, Em and Bryony have completed Paediatric First Aid training.

Em has started her Early Years Educator apprenticeship which she is keen to build her knowledge and qualification in Early Years.

Emilly is completing her Speech sounds and development training where she is looking forward to gaining new ideas to support our letter and sounds activities.



## Shepton Mallet Carnival Road Closure

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Just wanted to remind all our families that haven't experienced the local carnival before that Cannard's Grave Road closes at 6pm. So can we kindly remind all parents to ensure their child is collected on time, we also will not be offering a late collection for this night only. First Steps will be closing at 5:30pm. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### Staff update

We are informing you that Casey no longer works at First Steps Childcare, we wish her all the best for the future. We would like to reassure you that if Casey was your child's key person they will be supported by Hayley and Lisa. Hayley worked as Casey's buddy so knows your children well, their needs and their development, therefore Hayley will continue to support your children alongside Lisa. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please speak to Hayley or Lisa.

Rosie has recently returned to First Steps after the birth of her little boy. Rosie will be supporting the team as 'bank staff' and will be supporting the Preschool team on a Monday and a Wednesday morning throughout November and December. Rosie holds a



CACHE Level 4 in Early Years and is keen to return to a Nursery environment. We are pleased to be welcoming Rosie back to our First Steps family!

## A reminder of our Christmas dates



Christmas performance for PRE-SCHOOL children ONLY

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

All preschool children will be invited to come in on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3:30pm for approx. hour whilst they put on a short performance to share with their parents/families. Parents are INVITED back to watch the performance which will last approximately 20 minutes.

All parents will be invited to arrive at 3:45pm to enjoy some festive refreshments before watching the performance at 4pm. Due to the space we are allocating 2 tickets per child and kindly asking for £2.50 each ticket this will include a mince pie and glass of festive punch.

If you or your child are unable to make the performance, could you please let your child's key person know.

## Festive stay and play

- Monday 11th December 9am-10:30am -Preschool festive parent stay and play session.
- Monday 11th December 2:30pm-3:30pm- Nursery festive parent stay and play session.

We would like to invite parents in for a festive stay and play session with their child. Opportunities to join in with a range of Christmas activities, get stuck in with the glitter, paints and get creative with the art and craft activities. To take part in decorating some yummy festive biscuits and to enjoy sharing and listening to some favourite Christmas stories and songs. This will only involve the children that are in on a Monday due to the ratios, we sadly are not able to offer anyone extra sessions on that day. We will make sure through the year different days are selected with the aim to involve all our families.

We will be sending some invitations out so if you could kindly confirm whether you will be able to join us for the morning. We very much look forward to hearing from you all. Thank you 😊

## Future events

- Tuesday 12th December 12:30pm-1:30pm -Christmas lunch  
Preschool/chicks Only!
- Wednesday 13th December 12:30pm-1:30pm -Christmas lunch  
Nursery Only!
- Monday 18th December 2:30pm-5:30pm -Santa Visit - By  
appointment only.

## Christmas Closure Dates

- Friday 22nd December at 12:30pm -First Steps will close for  
Christmas.
- Thursday 4th January 2024 - First Steps re-opens to the  
children.