



First Steps
Day Nursery/School

March 2025

Polite Reminders

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Also, please ensure your child is packed with several changes of spare clothes, the children experience water play and messy play daily and will often need a change of clothing during their day at nursery. The sun may be shining but please ensure your child still comes into Nursery and Preschool with warm clothes as we are outside throughout the day.

All the Preschoolers have a book bag to help in the preparation for school. Please could these come in with your child regularly, so the children can choose a new book. Did you know that just 20 minutes of reading time a day will expose a child to 1.8 million words a year, this means that as well as other key developmental benefits children are better able to express themselves with an extended vocabulary.

Can we remind parents that passing over information on the door is crucial, letting us know if your child has not eaten much or been up in the evening really helps us understand your child and their actions in Nursery or Preschool. If you have information that is difficult to share on the door, please give us a call or email before your child comes in.

You all would have received our fee increase information via email in February 2025. Please ensure you amend your Tax-Free Childcare payments when you receive your April 2025 invoice next week.

If your child is aged between 9 months and 2 years and is entitled to the Early Years funding, please make sure you have informed Samantha Ware. Email Samantha Ware at samantha@fsdaynursery.co.uk with your eligibility code, National Insurance and a clear copy of your child's Passport or Birth Certificate by 27th March 2025 to be eligible for the Summer term.

If your child is entitled to the extended funding (30 hours) and you have not emailed Samantha Ware, please ensure you do by 27th March 2025 so that this can be set up on your account ready for April's invoices.

We will be sending out the Spring reports by Easter, please keep an eye out for these reports.



Preschool news



Book of the Month

Jack and the Beanstalk is our book of the month, the children have been amazed that our magic bean grew over one night and thankfully only the giant's wellies are poking through the cloud.

The children all planted a bean plant, we would really like to see how they are growing so please upload photos to tapestry so we can talk to the children about them. The children also planted cress to grow something they could eat.

In February the children learnt about people who help us - thank you to all the parents who came in to share about their professions.

We also thought about what works and why, the children experimented with a range of investigations for example making bread, what happens to ice if it gets hot and what materials are magnetic?

More recently the children have been colour mixing and exploring what colours can be made when mixed with other colours. They have mixed a whole range of colours including green, pink, orange and brown.



As well as the snow drop festival the children have learnt about Daffodils for St Davids Day, the children painted daffodils and some children went on a Flower Hunt looking for Daffodils, Snow drops and other spring bulbs in flower in the community around us.

We also talked about Women's Independence Day, and the children drew pictures that we have displayed.

World Book Day

It was lovely to see everyone dressed up as characters from World book day, the nursery room staff focused on being Owls from the children's favourite story 'Owl Babies' and in the Preschool room staff dressed up as Julia Donaldson characters.

Potty Training

Did you know there are 40 different skills your child needs to learn and put together to become potty trained? You don't need to wait for them to be able to do all these skills on their own before you start helping prepare them. We have started sitting children on the potties when they have their nappies changed to support with this process and have attached some great guidance from ERIC around potty training. [Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](#)

Starting Reception in September 2025?

Outcome emails will be sent to those who applied online by Somerset Council. Outcome letters will be sent out by second class post to those who applied using a paper form again by the council. The date for this is the 16 April 2025 ([Primary School Admissions Guide](#))

Here is a good document [Starting-Reception.pdf](#) about school readiness, it contains helpful information about children being ready, check lists around independence, building relationships, physical development and healthy routines. If you have any questions, please do speak to your child's key person.

Nursery News



Last month we thought about people who are important to us and who we love. We linked this to emotions and spoke about how it made us feel.

We invited parents to send in pictures of themselves and siblings when they were babies. We explored these at circle time with our friends and spoke about similarities we could see between the children and the baby pictures, for example eyes, noses and hair. The Colour Monster was a good book linking to emotions, as we explored colours to feelings for example yellow = happy, this also supported colour recognition matching objects to the correct colour.

We have been on a few walks this term to Collette Park, on one walk, we went to play in the park where we enjoyed the slides, swings and trampoline.

On another walk, we went to look for flowers and plants which linked to Understanding of the World. We learnt lots about planting and have planted our own sunflower seeds to take home. We kept some in nursery too to watch grow. This links to our book of the month 'Sam Plants a Sunflower'.



The children have also had the opportunity to have the large soft play in the room. We provided the children with the slide, ball pit and ten pin bowling.

We have also been encouraging children to sit on the potty during nappy changes, some children may just sit on the potty fully clothed while others are fully embracing the potty and going to the toilet while they are sat there.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Steph, who takes on the role of Nursery Senior Supervisor and Lorna, as a Lunch Time Supervisor, to the team.

Hi, my name is Steph.

I have worked in childcare since I left college. I have held senior positions for almost 10 years. I hold a Level 5 Diploma in leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services as well as my level 3 Childcare and a Level 3 SENCo qualification. I am passionate about the under 3's as well as SEND. I love to help children reach their full potential during their early years. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with friends and family as well as dance, cooking, reading, and going to theatre shows, especially musicals. I am very much looking forward to coming to work at the nursery I attended as a child. I cannot wait to meet you all.



Hi, my name is Lorna.

I am excited to have started my childcare journey at First Steps as a lunch time supervisor. My previous role working with children was as a lunch time supervisor at a primary school.

Outside of work I keep busy with two of my own children and 2 stepchildren.

From my experience working with children and having my own I believe child-led activities and play are very important for children's development and social skills.

We would like to wish Maryanne all the best as she moves to a role closer to her home at the end of this month.

Nursery Closure dates 2025

Good Friday - 18th April

Easter Monday- 21st April

May Day- Monday 5th May

Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 26th May

Summer bank holiday- Monday 25th August

Nursery closed - Friday 29th August

We have also made the decision to close for one day at the end of August to give the team the opportunity to update training and prepare for the next academic year ahead, this also give us the opportunity to carry out any maintenance and decorations the setting requires. Samantha will adjust August's invoice for this day we are closed.

Christmas closure date- Wednesday 24th December at 12:30

New Year return date - Monday 5th January 2026