



New Winter Menu

The children have been enjoying trying all the new foods on our Winter Menu. Here are some photos of the types of dishes they have been enjoying. We have also been inviting the children to help us with preparing some dishes such as making their own dough and then pizzas, as well as cooking bread and soup. They have really enjoyed this opportunity to develop their knowledge and experience of cooking, and this has opened lots of discussions about quantity, size, weight and measure.



Halloween at First Steps

The children enjoyed lots of activities for Halloween, such as pumpkin carving, dressing up, cooking Halloween biscuits and potion making throughout the last week of October. We enjoyed seeing them all dressed up in their costumes on Halloween and we also shared a special Halloween lunch.



Pumpkin Competition results

Thank you for all your entries into the Pre-School room and Nursery Pumpkin competition. We loved seeing all your different ideas. The pumpkins have been judged, and we are pleased to announce that Eli has won in the nursery room for his lion pumpkin and Laura has won in the Pre School room for her sweetie pumpkin. We hope you enjoy your certificates and prizes



Staff News

We are pleased to be welcoming Jessica and Jodie to the team in the coming months. Jessica will be working closely with the nursery team in preparation for Em beginning her maternity leave in the New Year. Jodie will be working across the Pre School and Nursery rooms in an apprenticeship role.

We are continually updating our training and recently Bryony and Ruth attended the Somerset Providers Evening. We also held a staff training evening during the last week of October where we discussed the new Ofsted Framework as well as sharing best practice with each other.

Session times

Our sessions start at 8.30, 12.30 and 1.30. We also have children finishing their sessions at 12.30 and 1.30. Please try and arrive no more than 5 minutes before your session to support your child with their transition into Nursery/Pre school. If you do arrive early for your session please wait within the first gate until your session time begins so that those collecting the children at the end of their sessions can collect with ease by the second gate. Thanks for your support with this

New opening hours from January

As previously communicated our opening hours will be changing from January 2026. From January we will now be closing at 4pm on Fridays and we will also be closed for an extended Easter break to include Tuesday 7th of April and Wednesday 8th April. We will also be closing for the full month of August. Funding previously was spread over the year but will now be worked out termly so you may see a slight change to reflect the difference in hours on your invoice. If you have any questions, then please contact the Office.

Session availability

Are you using your child's full funding allowance? Are you looking for more sessions? If you are looking to increase your child's sessions in the coming months, we now have limited availability for the rest of the academic year. Please contact the office to see what sessions are available for your child.

Upcoming Christmas Events



Santa Visit

We are excited to have Santa visiting First Steps on Friday 12th December from 3.30 until 5.15pm. If your child already attends on a Friday afternoon, then they will visit Santa as part of their session. First Steps will cover the cost of a small gift for each child who attends and there will be a donation bucket available should you wish to make an optional donation to charity. There will be a sign-up sheet available from Friday 28th November should you wish your child to attend. Please note places are limited.

Nursery Christmas Lunch - 12.30-1.30 Tuesday 16th December

If your child normally stays for lunch on a Tuesday, we are inviting parents/carers/grandparents to join us for a Christmas lunch. If you would like to join your child during their session for this festive activity, then a sign-up sheet will be available from Friday 28th November. If you have any allergies which need to be catered for then please let us know in advance. This cost will be covered by First Steps, and a donation bucket will be available for our chosen charity.

Pre School Christmas Lunch - 12.30-1.30 Friday 19th December

If your child normally stays for lunch on a Friday, we are inviting parents/carers/grandparents to join us for a Christmas lunch. If you would like to join your child during their session for this festive activity, then a sign-up sheet will be available from Friday 28th November. If you have any allergies which need to be catered for then please let us know in advance. This cost will be covered by First Steps, and a donation bucket will be available for our chosen charity.

Pre School Christmas Stay and Play Wednesday 17th December 9.30-10.30

If your child normally attends on a Wednesday morning, then we invite you to join us for a festive stay and play from 9.30-10.30 am. A sign-up sheet will be available from Friday 28th November.

Nursery Christmas Stay and Play Wednesday 17th December 2.30-3.30

If your child normally attends on a Wednesday afternoon, then we invite you to join us for a festive stay and play from 2.30-3.30pm. A sign-up sheet will be available from Friday 28th November.

Pre School Christmas Concert Wednesday 10th December



Our Pre Schoolers will be performing their Wiggly Nativity Christmas Concert on Wednesday 10th of December. Please note this is only for children in their Pre School year not our Chicks.

Tickets will be on sale on Wednesday 26th November.

£2.50 per ticket - This includes a Mince Pie and a Christmas Punch for each guest. All costumes will be provided by First Steps. Due to space restrictions and to support the Well-being of our children, tickets are limited to 2 per child. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate younger siblings at this event so please arrange alternative childcare.

Pre School Learning Journey

During October we continued with our Marvelous Me topic. We spent time learning about Harvest and particularly enjoyed finding out about how combine harvesters work and what they do during Harvest. We also collected donations for Harvest which we took to the Salvation Army. On this walk we were also lucky enough to see the chapel in the Salvation Army as well as Shepton Market. The children were interested in what each of the stalls were selling. Our favourite part was finding

a turnip on the vegetable stall which tied in with our focus book, The Enormous Turnip. We also made soup using seasonal vegetables which we helped to peel and cut.

We also learnt about our local area. We looked at photos of landmarks in Shepton Mallet such

as Collett Park, The Cenotaph, Tesco retail park and the Market Cross. We also looked at a simple map of the town and discovered where nursery was on the map, as well some of the other landmarks. It was great to see the children recognise some of these things as well as seeing some of them on our walks.

We finished the term by focusing on Halloween. Room on the Broom was our focus book and the children became familiar with the story, using the story spoons to show their knowledge and understanding. On the mark making table we created our own witches hats using gems and

collage and the children also made broomsticks using natural materials. The Halloween dressing up was popular, as well as potion mixing using a variety of different mediums such as water, shaving foam and gloop.



Nursery Learning Journey

Throughout October we continued to follow our curriculum plan of marvellous me which included covering the topics of Autumn, Harvest and Halloween.

During our Autumn topic, we were able to take a walk to the nearby field where we collected a selection of conkers, leaves and sticks to incorporate into our activities. The children were able to use the leaves we collected on our walk to create their own Autumnal trees which we displayed in the room on our art board.

Our Harvest topic became a firm favourite amongst the children within the Nursery room as they had the opportunity to take a trip to the Salvation Army to drop off our donations as well as popping to the Friday Market in town. The children explored plenty of activities around farming, where we used a range of sensory experiences to enhance their place. For example using rice as grass, Weetabix for hay and Cocoa powder mixed with water for mud. Throughout this topic, the song 'Big Red Combine Harvester' was enjoyed by all and was often picked as our circle time song. We ended up offering the children the opportunity to choose the colour of their combine harvester every morning.

We completed the term by discovering and investigating all things Halloween. The children were provided with the opportunity to use natural resources such as sticks as paint brushes to decorate their own pumpkin pictures. We made and decorated Halloween themed biscuits using icing and sprinkles shaped as ghosts, bats and pumpkins. It was lovely to see so many children dressed up on Halloween! We explored tuff trays full of coloured rice, cut open pumpkins to see what was inside and even decorated a Spooky House using pencil crayons.





Wednesday 10th December.

Preschool children ONLY Christmas Concert morning 9:45am-10:30am -
tickets available from 26th November

Friday 12th December

Santa Visit - sessions to be booked from 28th November

Tuesday 16th December at 12.30-1.30pm

Christmas lunch Nursery parents Only. Sign up sheet from 28th November

Wednesday 17th December at 9:30 - 10:30am.

Preschool festive parent stay and play session.

Sign-up sheet from 28th November

Wednesday 17th December at 2.30-3.30pm.

Nursery festive parent stay and play session.

Sign-up sheet from 28th November

Friday 19th December at 12:30pm-1:15pm

Christmas lunch Preschool/chicks parents
further information and appointment sheet to follow

Sign-up sheet from 28th November

Wednesday 24th December

First Steps will close for Christmas at 12:30pm

Monday 5th January 2025

First Steps re-opens to the children.