



First Steps  
Day Nursery/School



We have had such a wonderful month celebrating the magic of Christmas with the children here at First Steps.

Throughout December we have welcomed back two special visitors, our Elves, who have been very cheeky and mischievous every day and reporting back to Santa each night.

The children have been really excited to see what Sparkles and Holly have been up too. This has included hanging from our Christmas tree and wrapping it in toilet roll, hanging from our star in our nativity scene, making snow angels and the cheekiness goes on....

### **Children in need**

The children were invited to wear pyjamas or Pudsey merchandise. We also made some Children in Need cakes. Thank you to you all for your generous donations. We raised £23.20.



## **Staff News**

Em will be returning after Christmas part time before leaving to go on Maternity leave mid-January. Jess will be taking on her Key children. If you wish to have a telephone call or meeting with Jess, please do email or post onto tapestry.

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day was a great success in raising money for the charity Save the Children. We are pleased to say we raised a grand total of £70.35 Thank you very much for your generosity.



## **Santa Visit**

Last Friday afternoon we had a very special visitor. Father Christmas came to visit the children at First Steps. We hope the children that attended the afternoon session and the ones who made an appointment to see Father Christmas had a magical time.

Father Christmas loved to hear that all the children have been really good this year and he is looking forward to delivering lots of presents really soon!



## Pre School Learning Journey

The Preschool children have enjoyed many Christmas activities from Christmas crafts to singing Christmas songs! We have had a fun filled month with a variety of activities; the children have thoroughly enjoyed all the fun glitter brings. We do hope you love your child's art and craft work they have been busy creating to bring home for you

I am sure you will join us in saying how proud we are of all the Preschool children for singing so well in our Christmas concert 'Wiggly Nativity' They were all fantastic, looked great in their costumes and sang beautifully. Well done to every one of the children and to the entire Preschool team for all their hard work in making it possible.

Thank you to many parents for sharing comments into our book, we have loved reading such warm, kind, beautiful words.

We have enjoyed using our mathematical skills when opening our advent calendar, finding the correct number on the door to open each day and have loved taking it in turns to receive a book. Both rooms have each enjoyed a Gruffalo book calendar and a chocolate advent calendar, which we have shared both in the morning and the afternoon session.

Inside we have created our own preschool grotto with lights, children's artwork and a display about the nativity story. We have our own Christmas tree for the children to decorate and we had added some Christmas enhancements to our role play area. The children have loved all the Christmas outfits and tuff trays such as ice play, Christmas rice and Christmas small world.





## Pre School Christmas Stay and Play

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for our Preschool stay and play session. We had lots of Christmas fun making biscuits, decorations and enjoying Christmas sensory play.



## Pre School Christmas Lunch



# Nursery Learning Journal

Over the past couple of weeks in the Nursery room we have covered numerous topics such as Carnival/Bonfire night, Road Safety and Vehicles, and Winter. We also discussed Remembrance Day, decorating biscuits and taking part in a minute silence.

This means we have explored colours in a variety of different activities such as chalk drawing, rice play and painting. Our topic of vehicles was a massive hit with the Nursery children where they were able to use their imagination to create games with one another. The children also used the vehicles to crush cereal, pick up rice and roll through the paint.

Throughout our Winter topic, we had lots of flour play to represent snow which the children loved! They used their hands to manipulate the flour between their fingers, as well as scooping and pouring with a range of different sized pots.

Moving into December, we began to celebrate the topic of Christmas. It is a very exciting time of year for the children where they have been busy creating decorations and numerous art pieces. We have been very lucky to have some of our parents eat Christmas Lunch with us which was enjoyed by all. We also planned and held a stay and play session which our parents also attended. It was lovely to see the parents, children and staff interacting with one another in festive activities such as decorating biscuits, making snow castles and making our own Christmas trees. We would like to thank the parents that were able to attend!





## Nursery christmas lunch



## Nursery stay and play



### *Reminder of 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 7<sup>th</sup> of April and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.





Wednesday 24th December (Christmas EVE)

**First Steps will close for Christmas at 12:30pm**

First Steps re-opens to the children

**Monday 5th January 2026**

Easter closure dates

**Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**

**Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Extended break Tuesday and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th April 2026**

May day- Bank Holiday closure

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

End of May bank holiday closure

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

August closure dates

**1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> August**

First Steps Reopens

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026**