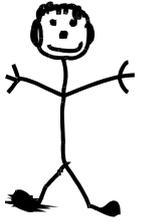


# FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP

The Scout Hut, Parkhall Road, Somersham, Cambridgeshire PE28 3HE  
Tel: 07855 035212 (9am to 3pm) [email@firststepplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:email@firststepplaygroup.co.uk)



15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Welcome back! The autumn term is progressing very well, children are settled and we have already seen some fabulous learning and development! Below is an overview of the planned activities and information for this term at playgroup.

## Autumn 2017

Children have settled back very well and our new starters are settling very well too. We are still focusing on child led play with staff engaging with the children to progress their development 'in the moment'. To help inform us of new emerging interests your child has please complete and return the 'Parent/child focus form' when your child's key person sends it home.

Please continue to add comments and likes to your child's Tapestry account. It's also great if you can add your own observations from home to share with your child's key person, to further support working in partnership. Newsletters will also be posted on Tapestry to reach out to all parents.

Bradley Bear has already been on adventures visiting our families homes, all children will have the opportunity to look after him. We all love seeing what the children have been doing with Bradley.

## Next Steps

This year our Next Step session will be all day to incorporate planned events and child initiated play. We will start our 'Woodland Wednesday' outdoor learning approach for the next step children on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Once again we are fortunate to be able use the forest school area at Somersham School. We do however need parent helpers to ensure there is a high adult/child ratio. There will be a sign-up sheet at playgroup, please do help if you can, without extra adults we will be unable to attend.

The 'Next Step' children will also visit Somersham library on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, they will have the opportunity to explore the library and the lovely volunteers who work there will read them a story.

The 'Next Step' children will also have the opportunity to cook during some sessions, and they have already informed us of their choices and preferences through our mind map planning and we will begin with 'Fairy cakes' on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

## Fundraising Events

Fundraising is extremely important to provide new resources for the children. Our upcoming fundraising events include:

**Individual and sibling photos** with Tempest photography on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 3pm until 4.30. If you have not yet booked a slot and would like to, please speak to a member of staff.

**Bag2school** is booked for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, empty bags to be filled will be sent home the week of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any clothes you now longer need please consider supporting this fundraiser.

**Christmas cards** As previous years your child will be designing their own Christmas cards. These will be sent home from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September for you to view and place an order should you wish to. Any orders must be returned by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Children in Need** We are supporting the Children in Need campaign and invite your child to playgroup wearing spots (or stripes if you don't have spots) on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. If possible please donate to the charity, there will be a donation box available on the day.

**Easy Fundraising** If you shop online please sign up to Easy Fundraising and join First Steps Playgroup Somersham. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/firststepssomersham/> Playgroup will earn commission from your purchases at no extra cost to yourself, you just need to shop through the Easy Fundraising site or app.

## **Planned activities**

We do not necessarily plan themes as the themes come from the children's interests, however there are some celebrations we will implement to support your child's understanding. These include:

**Diwali** Activities will be offered on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October to give children an understanding of a different religious festival.

**Halloween** We will provide pumpkins to explore and a Halloween printing activity.

**Bonfire night** We will discuss fire safety and firework safety and offer a firework painting activity.

**Christmas Tree Decoration** Children will have the opportunity to make a Christmas tree decoration to be displayed on our tree to be included in St John the Baptist Church's event.

**Christmas Jumper Week** We would like to invite all children and staff to wear their Christmas jumpers throughout the week of 11<sup>th</sup> December. This is all week to allow all children to wear a jumper rather than just incorporating it on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. No donation is required for this, it's just a bit of Christmas fun!

**Christmas Disco** – All children are welcome to attend our end of term Christmas disco on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is not normally in session they may attend for 11am until 1pm. More information to follow nearer the time.

## **Superstar box**

Please continue to use our superstar box. This provides us with valuable information we might not see in the setting, and of course your child will get a sticker and celebration from the group.

## **Clothing**

As the weather gets colder please ensure your child has named outdoor coat, hat and gloves as we are outdoors in all weathers. Please ensure that your child's belongings are named, some of our younger children may not recognise their own belongings and clothes can easily become mixed up. If you would like to order name labels we do have some leaflets for Easy2Name. Please also be reminded we have t-shirts, sweatshirts and fleece jackets to purchase if you would like your child to wear a 'uniform'.

## **Illness**

If your child is not attending playgroup for any reason please inform us on 07855 035212. A reminder of our 'Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious' policy, if your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please ensure they are excluded from playgroup for 48 hours after the last bout.

If you have had to administer Calpol or similar to your child before playgroup, please consider whether or not they are well enough to attend the session.

Thank you as always for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns at any time please do not hesitate to speak to your child's key person or a manager.

### **Key Diary Dates**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September** Tempest photos

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** Next Step Woodland Wednesday begins

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** Bag2school collection

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October** Christmas card order deadline

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October** Next Step library visit

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October** Diwali activities

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** Half term holiday

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** Return to playgroup

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** Halloween activities with pumpkin exploration

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** Firework safety and art

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** Children in Need – Dress in spots or stripes

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** Christmas tree display begins in St John the Baptist Church

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Jumper Week

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** Proposed date for Christmas production – information to follow!

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Disco and end of Autumn term