



FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP

The Scout Hut, Parkhall Road, Somersham, Cambridgeshire PE28 3HE
Tel: 07855 035212 (8am to 3pm) email@firststepplaygroup.co.uk



11th January 2017

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a great Christmas break. Below is an overview of the planned activities and information for this term at playgroup.

Spring 2017

Children have settled back very well and are directing their own play to which we are engaging with and extending through in the moment planning. Our rolling snack is now fully imbedded and we will now be inviting children to help prepare the fruit with an adult, this is a great learning opportunity that covers many areas.

Bradley Bear has been to visit many family homes and will continue to do so, all children will have the opportunity to look after him. We all love seeing what the children have been doing with Bradley.

This term we will be looking at different countries as last term children took an interest in asking where Santa came from and this led to looking at maps and talking about where we live.

If you have a relative your child is aware of, that lives in another country, please inform your child's key person and we can help them understand where the country is.

To further support this theme we are looking at other countries celebrations during this term.

23rd January – Chinese New Year – We will be focusing on Chinese New Year the week before to give the children knowledge for the actual date of the celebration.

27th February – International Food Week. During this week we will be focusing on different countries through activities and tasting food from around the world at snack time.

2nd March – World Book Day. We invite the children into playgroup dressed as their favourite book character.

17th March – St Patrick's Day – We will have activities linked to St Patrick's Day.

24th March – Red Nose Day – Supporting Red Nose Day with activities.

After February half term, during a Wednesday morning we will be starting P.E sessions with the Next Step children. Please supply a pair of shorts and T-shirt for your child to change into. This session is not only to do P.E but to support their dressing/undressing skills ready for the school environment.

We will also begin implementing the first phonic letters and sounds after February half term too for the Next Step children. The first letters and sounds will be S.A.T.P.I.N

As soon as we return in April we will be holding our Easter Celebration on the morning of Tuesday 18th, all children and parents are invited, please save the date and more information will be sent out nearer the time.

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. Focus forms will be sent out to inform staff of current interests and any special events.

Staff are in the process of setting a next step for your child, this is a particular area of development to be integrated within their play. Additional next step development will be made through our planning in the moment and you will see the evidence of this through your tapestry app. If you have a particular area you would like to focus on please talk to your child's key person.

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

Please ensure that your child's coat and jumpers 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'. We welcome donations of welly boots, hats, gloves and slippers. We would like the children to have the opportunity to change into slippers indoors as throughout the winter month.

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.

Fundraising

If you are able to help co-ordinate any fundraising events please speak to Emma Hobbs. To buy new resources for the children we do rely on 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.

Diary Dates	Term Dates
02.03.17 – World book day	09.01.17 Start of Spring term
24.03.17 – Red Nose Day	13.02.17 Half Term Holiday
18.04.17 – Easter Celebration	20.02.17 Return to playgroup
	31.03.17 End of Spring term
	18.04.17 Return to playgroup
	29.05.17 Half Term Holiday
	05.06.17 Return to playgroup
	21.07.17 End of Summer term