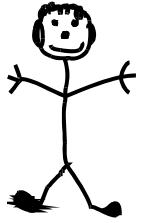




FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP

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



5th January 2018

Spring 2018

We hope you have all had a great Christmas break and are looking forward to welcoming back all families to playgroup from Monday 8th January. Below is an overview of the planned activities and information for this term.

Staffing

Unfortunately Brooke will be leaving us in a few weeks. She has secured a position in a full time nursery. We will be sad to see her go but wish her well in the future.

We pass on our congratulations to Becky as she has achieved her qualification in childcare. Well Done Becky!

We will be supporting a work placement on a Monday and Tuesday for the spring term, her name is Imogen and she is undertaking a level 3 qualification.

During the term we will also have two work experience students, Ethan will be with us for three Thursday's during this half term and Lucy will be with us for one week in March.

Planning

We would like to look closer at 'Our Families' this term and plan to create a display of the people we care about to promote conversations and observe our similarities and differences. To support this please send in a photo of your family to add to our display.

To support our 'International Food Week' we would like to request donations of 'traditional foods from your heritage' or 'favourite family foods' to share during snack time with the children. This is for one week only from Monday 19th February. We will also incorporate Chinese New Year during this week.

This term we will be starting child friendly yoga activities to help promote a healthier body through poses that stretch, strengthen and build coordination.

Learning and Development

From 15th January your child's key person will review your child's longer term next step. This is to support a particular area of development which is integrated within their play. Additional short term next steps 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 us to focus on please talk to your child's key person.

Please note we are not planning a traditional parents evening meeting but instead should you have concerns or would like to discuss your child's development please book a mutually convenient appointment with your child's key person or a manager.

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 which further supports working in partnership. Focus forms will be sent out again to inform staff of your child's current interests or special events.

Next Step Children

Woodland Wednesday sessions will begin from 24th January for the older children, we will require parent helpers again to support a further enhanced ratio. A sign-up sheet will be available from Wednesday 10th January, please support this as our outdoor learning approach is extremely beneficial for all areas of development.

From 19th February on a Wednesday afternoon we will be starting P.E sessions with the children. These sessions are not only to do P.E but to support the dressing/undressing skills ready for the school environment. Please supply a pair of shorts, T-shirt and trainers for your child to change into.

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

World Book Day and Sports Relief

We will be supporting World Book Day and invite your child to playgroup dressed as their favourite book character or to bring in their favourite book on Thursday 1st March.

We will also support Sports Relief with some fun sporting activities on Friday 23rd March.

Easter Concert

Our Easter concert will take place on Thursday 29th March at 9.05am at playgroup. All children, families and friends are invited to attend. After the concert there will be an Easter Egg Hunt and following that the normal session will take place.

Bradley Bear

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.

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'.

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 a similar medicine 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

24th January – Woodland Wednesday sessions begin again

19th 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.

21st February – Next Steps P.E sessions and phonic awareness activities begin.

1st March – World Book Day. We invite the children into playgroup dressed as their favourite book character or with their favourite book.

23th March – Sports Relief – Supporting Sports Relief with fun activities.

29th March – Easter Concert –9.05am at Playgroup.

Term Dates

08.01.18 Start of Spring term

12.02.18 Half Term Holiday

19.02.18 Return to Playgroup

29.03.18 End of Spring term

16.04.18 Return to Playgroup

28.05.18 Half Term Holiday

04.06.18 Return to Playgroup

20.07.18 End of Summer term