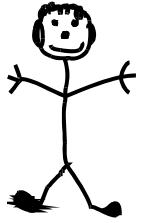




FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP

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



17th April 2018

Summer 2018

We hope you have all had a great Easter break it is lovely to see the children again, they are full of smiles and eager to engage. Below is an overview of the planned activities and information for this term.

Playgroup

Thank you to all who provided pictures of 'Our Families' the children love looking at them and sharing their family members with us. It also gives ownership to the children as part of the setting. If you have not yet provided a photo please feel free to send one in to add to the display.

We have had a few changes to our 'story of the week', we have introduced a story for a longer period of time, such as over a half term, to allow the children to really get to know the story and we have more opportunity to add activities linked to the story.

We now have a beautiful sensory garden next to our playground. Fruit and vegetable plants have been planted for the children to observe the growing cycle and taste the crop. Many thanks to Emma and her friends for setting it up!

Learning and Development

We are now sending our out parent/child focus forms for you to provide us with information of current interests your child has. This information helps us to provide engaging activities to progress your child's development from their interests. There is also a section to share any concerns or suggestions for a new next step which will 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

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.

Planned Events

We have a **Bags2school** collection on Tuesday 1st May. Empty bags are being sent out this week, and filled bags can be left at playgroup on Monday 30th April and at 9am on Tuesday 1st May. Please consider supporting the fundraiser and fill with any unwanted clothes etc. Funds raised will be used directly with the children.

We have a **Zoolab** visit booked for Wednesday 16th May from 1.30 – 2.30. All children are invited, however parents will be required to stay with their child if they are not usually in session. We only do this activity every two years and it is a great opportunity to experience insects and small animals. As this is an additional event we are providing we do ask for a £2 donation to cover some of the cost. Donation forms will be sent out shortly.

Our **Leavers Photos** are on the morning of Wednesday 6th June. This consists of an individual and group photo for you to purchase.

Somersham Carnival is Saturday 16th June. We do expect all parents to help out in some way with art work, decorating the float and manning the stall. Permission slips will be sent out nearer the time for parents and children to ride on the float. Staff will be providing a stall at the school fete, therefore we ask parents to over-see the carnival stall.

Our **Sports Day** is Thursday 12th July at 2.15pm. All children are invited to attend and participate. It will be held on the field behind playgroup.

Woodland Wednesday will continue to take place, we do ask for parent helpers, please sign up if you can help and we will continue with **PE sessions** to promote physical development, listening to instructions and dressing and undressing.

Bradley Bear

Bradley Bear will be continuing his journey and visiting your home. 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'. Please provide a named sun hat for your child now the weather is getting warmer.

We will provide **Suncream** and **apply it after lunch** with your permission. Permission forms will be sent out shortly to allow us to apply it. We will use a supermarket brand, however should you prefer a specific brand you can provide it. Children must arrive with sun cream applied otherwise their time outdoors will be limited.

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

We rely on fundraising events to provide new resources for the children as funding and fees does not cover the cost. **Would you like to co-ordinate the fundraising events, or set up a team of fundraisers?** If so please speak to a member of staff.

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

Tuesday 1st May - Bags2school

Wednesday 16th May - Zoolab 1.30 – 2.30

Wednesday 6th June - Leavers Photos

Saturday 16th June - Somersham Carnival

Thursday 12th July - Sports Day at 2.15pm

Term Dates

07.05.18 May Day Holiday

28.05.18 Half Term Holiday

04.06.18 Return to Playgroup

20.07.18 End of Summer term