First Steps Newsletter

Summer Term 1 2021

We would like to wish you all a very warm welcome back and a special welcome to all our new children! We are looking forward to lots of fun and learning this term!

As a Healthy Tots setting we recommend that you send your child with a variety of healthy food for their lunch with just one treat of either chocolate, crisps or cake. For ideas on healthy packed lunches please visit www.nhs.uk/food/swaps

Exciting News

Felicity Fairy, Eric Elf & Uriel Unicorn have come to stay at First Steps. They are very excited to come and play with you all & will be looking for Listening Ears, Super Sitters, Kind Hands & Walking Feet. They will be giving out special certificates and stickers.

Contact Details

First Steps Playgroup

Old School Hall

Church Road

Barlestone

CV13 0EE

Phone: 01455 292083

Mobile: 07903 132279

Email: firststeps@live.co.uk

Website: www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk

It is really important we can contact you!

Please make sure all contact details we hold for you are correct and up to date, in case of an emergency.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Spotlight on Safeguarding: CHILD BOOSTER SEATS

Important changes to regulations regarding the sale and use of booster cushions came into effect from March 2017.

The key points are as follows:

- Manufacturers can no longer introduce new models of backless booster seats (booster cushions) for children shorter than 125cm or weighing less than 22kg.
- The change does not affect existing models of booster cushions, which are classed as a group 2/3 seat and can be used for children 15kg and above.
- The regulations only apply to new booster cushions, not ones which are already in use and meet existing safety standards. Parents already using those booster cushions are not breaking the law if they continue to use them and do not need to buy new booster cushions to comply with the rule change.

If you are buying a new booster cushion, take extra care to read the manufacturer's labels and instructions to ensure it is appropriate for your child's height and weight.

Mental health & wellbeing

As we continue through this pandemic it is more important than ever that we take care of each other and our mental health.

If you or someone you know is struggling and needs support you might find these websites useful

https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/

OPENING TIMES

Morning sessions are:

*Monday to Friday

8.45am to 12.00pm

Afternoon sessions are:

*Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

12.30pm to 3.30pm

Please name all of your child's/children's items they bring to playgroup.

This will help with any confusion of which items belongs to which child as some items are the same. Many thanks for your support!

Do we have any Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts or Uncles who are?

Tree surgeons - for small logs

Builders - for small bricks

Carpenters - for small pieces of wood.

Term Dates

Bank Holiday Monday 3 May – playgroup closed

Half term break: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021

Term ends: Friday 9 July 2021

Planning for activities

Please could you let us have milk bottle tops, jar lids & cardboard tubes for our loose parts activities at Playgroup. We are also looking for cones, cotton reels, bangles and corks to enhance the children's learning experiences at First Steps.

A very warm welcome to all our new starters! If your child is potty training, could you please provide a change of clothes, including shoes and socks, as accidents sometimes happen and we like to support your child at every step of their development.

If you and your child are new to First Steps and have any questions, please approach Alison or your child's key person or another member of staff; we are always happy to help!

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR CHILD HAS HAD AN INJURY BEFORE THEY ATTEND PLAYGROUP.

(THIS COULD BE ANYTHING FROM A CUT FINGER TO A BUMPED HEAD OR A BRUISE.)

MANY THANKS.

www.childcarechoices.co.uk

You can find lots of useful information on the above website regarding your entitlements, including 30 hour funding, 2 year old funding and Tax Free Childcare.

We have a special Health Form for children who need to take regular medication or suffer from a medical condition.

First Steps need to be clear on how to treat your child in this instance. It is important that we have an agreed procedure to follow should the need arise.

The Health Form will need a signature from you as a parent / carer and a professional such as a GP, nurse or Health Visitor.

Alison or Elaine will come and see you if this affects you and your child.

Easy Fundraising.org.uk

Go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/firststepsbarlestone to register and shop with over 2,000 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay, and many more.

Whenever you buy something, the retailer makes a donation to First Steps Playgroup.

It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easyfundraising, but it could really make a big difference to us!

MESSY PLAY

We really enjoy getting messy with our play, expressive arts and crafts, so please send your child in clothes you don't mind getting messy, as we can't guarantee all stains will wash out!!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

We are registered with Amazon Smile please support our charity when you make your purchases.

SICKNESS POLICY

When your child has had a sickness / diarrhoea bug, our policy states that your child should not attend the setting for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

If you are unsure, please speak to us and we can advise on this. Many thanks.

Don't forget to visit our website: www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk

Find us on: facebook

First Steps Playgroup

COVID 19

Did you know that anyone can now access a Lateral Flow Test. https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site

Symptoms: Fever over 37.8, a new continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell.

You will need to isolate immediately, get a test and if it is positive remain isolated for 10 days, the household must isolate for 10 days.

If the test is negative the household can stop isolating. Providing your child feels well enough they can return to playgroup.

We will do everything we can to keep your child safe at Playgroup during this pandemic.

Please visit our website for our full risk assessment and COVID 19 policy.

Please provide your child with weather related clothing: Hats, scarves, glove & warm coats when it's cold. Sun hats & sun cream when its warmer weather.

Many thanks for your continued support of First Steps Playgroup.