

# First Steps Newsletter



AUTUMN Term 2021

We would like to wish you 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!

## WELCOME

We would like to Welcome Gemma Widdowson to our team, as she starts her apprenticeship with us 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](http://www.nhs.uk/food/swaps)

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

As a Committee run playgroup, we are always looking for new Committee members

We really need your support. If you or anyone you know have a little spare time then please speak to Alison for more information.

Next Committee meeting at Playgroup is on Thursday 23rd September at 7.30pm

All Welcome!

## Contact Details

First Steps Playgroup

Old School Hall

Church Road

Barlestone

CV13 0EE

Phone: 01455 292083

Mobile: 07903 132279

Email: [firststeps@live.co.uk](mailto:firststeps@live.co.uk)

Website: [www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk](http://www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk)

**It is really important we can contact you, especially with COVID 19 in mind!**

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

## Dates for the Diary

St Giles Fair & Dog Show at the Church on 25th September 1-4pm  
First Steps will be attending with face painting and games!

Harvest Festival Celebrations (date & time tbc)

Disco - (date & time tbc)

Christmas Cracker - (date & time tbc)

More details to follow.

## OPENING TIMES

Morning sessions are:

\*Monday to Friday  
9am to 12.00pm

Afternoon sessions are:

\*Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
12.30pm to 3.30pm

## Term Dates

Half term break:  
Monday 18  
October – Friday  
22 October 2021

Term ends:  
Friday 17  
December 2021

Spring Term starts:  
Tuesday 4  
January 2022

## SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

In the times in which we live, it is vitally important that we make every effort to keep our children safe. With this in mind, we will be running a series of features in our newsletters on the subject of safeguarding.

### What should you do?

If you think that a child is being abused or harmed, take action straight away!

If you have concerns about a child, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Contact:

Leicestershire County Council – 0116 305 0005  
[childrensduty@leics.gov.uk](mailto:childrensduty@leics.gov.uk)

Police

Non emergencies, call 101

In emergencies, always dial 999

ChildLine – 0800 1111

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)



## Do you have any spare time?

We are looking to recruit a group of volunteers that can support First Steps by coming in to the setting and playing with the children. If you think this is something you would enjoy then please contact Alison for more details.

A very warm welcome to all our new starters! If your child is potty training, please could you 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!

The Old School Hall is available to hire for private functions. For more details, please contact Cathie on 07486538793.

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.

#### SICKNESS POLICY

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

For example, if their last illness was on Sunday evening, then your child would not be able to attend the setting until Wednesday morning.

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

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#### COVID 19

**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.**

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

#### 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!!



#### Easy Fundraising.org.uk

Go to:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/firststepsbarlestone](http://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!



#### [www.childcarechoices.co.uk](http://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.



Don't forget to visit our website:

[www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk](http://www.firststepsbarlestone.co.uk)



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

First Steps Playgroup

We have a Health Care Plan 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.



**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.**

The weather can be very changeable at this time of year, so please provide your child with a rain coat, wellingtons and a change of clothes & a sun hat. We will provide sun cream.

Many thanks for your continued support of First Steps Playgroup.

