

September has flown by and as we welcome October, we would also like to welcome all our new families to Small Steps and say how we look forward to working with you in the following year. The children have settled back into the routines of nursery and have been exploring lots of activities and getting messy and creative.

Important Dates

- Thursday 19th October – nursery photographer (information below)
- Wednesday 20th December – last day before Christmas break.
- Wednesday 3rd January 2024 – first day back.

Things to bring as the weather changes....

- Please could you provide your child with a named coat. We do go outside in all weathers!
- If your child wears wellies, could you please also provide a pair of shoes for them to wear inside.
- Puddle suits or all-in-ones are great for the children to use in the garden, especially those in Butterflies room.
- Please make sure your child has a well-fitting pair of shoes to wear at nursery. This will help them to avoid trips and falls when being active.
- In Butterflies room the children do not wear shoes inside. If you have pair of slippers or thicker socks you would like them to wear please let your key person know.

Thank you.

We are also getting lots of toys brought into nursery. Please can we limit this to comforters, as things can easily get lost or broken and they limit children's play.

We are learning in Butterflies ...

We will be exploring leaves, pinecones and pumpkins that come with the autumn season. We will be using our senses to investigate these and looking at animals that live in the woods, such as foxes, hedgehogs and squirrels.



We will also be exploring Bonfire Night and then looking at the books "Dear Zoo", "Noisy Farm", "Oh Dear" and the Tiger Who Came to Tea". These books have lots of repeated phrases and animals sounds, which are great for promoting speech and language!

We are learning in Bumble Bees

The next few weeks will be themed around the season of autumn and the different festivals we have, such as bonfire night and Remembrance Day.

- 09/10/23 – All About Me – my Feelings
- 16/10/23 – Autumn
- 23/10/23 – Autumn
- 30/10/23 – "Room on a Broom" week

Then in November our theme will be animals, with the focuses on the following weeks:

- 06/11/23 – Jungle animals
- 13/11/23 – Farm animals
- 20/11/23 – Sea creatures
- 27/11/23 – Pets
- 04/12/23 – Polar animals

If you have any pets at home or interesting photos of the children with different animals, we would love to see them!

The Lending Library

Our Lending Library continues to be well used and we are trying to continually rotate books to allow for new choice.

For our new parents, please feel free to choose books from our Library as often as you like. All we ask is that you put them back. Please do not worry if they get damaged or lost!

Illness

We just wanted to remind all parents that our Illness policy states that some illnesses require the child to stay away from nursery for an amount of time. This applies to any vomiting and diarrhoea, which requires the children to remain at home for **48 hours** after their last incident.

We also ask that children who have temperatures do not attend the setting until they are well enough and do not need medication to control it. We understand there are many viruses around at this time of year, but please see your GP or ring 111 for advice if you have any concerns.

Lateness

Please can you be mindful that the pick-up times are 12:45pm, 3:45pm and 5:30pm.

A late collection fee will be added to invoices for anything over 15 minutes. We understand that somethings are unavoidable, and we appreciate a phone call or you arranging for someone else to collect in these circumstances.

Can we please remind all parents that we are a nut free setting. Please do not give your children nuts or peanut butter spread. Please could you make sure grapes are cut up into quarters.

Photographer

On Thursday 19th October we will be having Ian Taylor Photography coming into nursery. Ian takes lovely natural shots of the children as they play.

If your child is usually in on a Thursday then they will be included in the photographs, unless you tell us otherwise. If your child doesn't attend on a Thursday, then we are happy for you to call in on Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 2pm for you to have your photos taken. You will need to stay with your child while they are being photographed.

Nursery Practitioner Positions

We are currently looking for new members of staff to join our team.

If you know someone who is looking for a new challenge then please let them know that we have positions available.

A level 2 or 3 in childcare would be required and a range of different hours are available.

We are holding a Practitioners Open Morning on Saturday 28th October 10am – 12pm for anyone interested in a position and wanting to come along and chat with us.



Independence skills to try at home - With our pre-school children we often encourage them to put their coats on by themselves, using what we call the "funky flip"! (as pictured) They really enjoy being able to do this by themselves.

The next part – doing up the zip can be tricky, but we encourage them by starting the zip off and then getting them to pull it up, so they can feel the sense of achievement when they get it to the top! Lots of praise gives the children confidence to try again.