

## First Steps Day Nursery Ltd



### Autumn Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have lots of exciting activities planned over the next few months.

Over the coming weeks the children will be looking at the following topics:

Autumn

Nocturnal Animals

Halloween

Bonfire Night

#### **Extra-Curricular Activities:**

We often hear from parents who are unable to take their children to various 'after school' activities due to work commitments, so we have looked into the possibilities for introducing a regular activity here at First Steps. After a little research we have found the following...

#### **The Petite Acting Academy**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October the Petit Acting Academy will visit our Pre-school Early Years Children for a music and drama session. The children will experience a programme of action, songs, puppets, basic drama and movement skills. For further information please visit: [www.petiteactingacademy.co.uk](http://www.petiteactingacademy.co.uk)

#### **Diddi Dance**

We have booked a taster session with Diddi Dance for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, but we would like to know if you would be interested in regular (weekly or fortnightly) dance classes for your children, at an additional cost of £2.50

per session. Diddi dance offer original music and lesson plans to enhance and compliment EYFS, with dance exercises, games, props and instruments to help co-ordination, rhythm and gross motor skills.

If you would like further information please visit: [www.diddidance.com](http://www.diddidance.com)

Further information to follow.

### **Menus**

We are in the process of updating our weekly menus to ensure that we continue to meet the 'Healthy and sustainable Pre-school Scheme' National Award Criteria.

Once approved we will ensure that a copy of the new menu is sent home.

An example of some of the changes that will take place are: Children under 1 year will receive alternative puddings (ie. pureed fruit) where the salt or sugar content may be deemed too high for a child under 12 months (to replace trifle or ice cream for example).

We have also been instructed to monitor the breakfast cereals that children bring from home. We would be grateful if parents could support our Healthy Eating policy, and only supply cereals that do not contain added sugar such as plain Corn Flakes, Weetabix or Rice Crispies for example.

### **Childcare Fees**

Unfortunately we must apply a £1 increase to our daily fees as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014, in line with the recent National Minimum Wage Increase which will also take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

From 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 the following charges will apply:

Babies and Toddlers: £36 Full Day / £31 Half Day

Pre-school / Early Years: £35 Full Day / £30 Half Day

### **Forest School**

Forest School Staff training and activity planning has begun!! More information to follow.

## **Witch and Wizard School**

W/C 27<sup>th</sup> October will see the return of the Witch and Wizard School (back by popular demand!) The children will have daily opportunities to create spells and potions, and make some tasty spooky treats.

## **Forever Living Range**

At 6pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, one of our parents: Sally (Heidi's Mum) will be holding a Forever Living product party at the nursery and you are welcome to come along and sample a wide range of Health and Nutrition and well-being products. There is of course no obligation to buy.

## **Halloween Party**

Witch and wizard week will come to a close with a Halloween Party on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Photographs**

Emotive photography will be at First Steps on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** to take individual, sibling and group photographs. All children present on the day will be photographed, but there is of course no obligation to buy. If it is not your child's usual Nursery day, you are more than welcome to bring them along to be photographed in the morning.

## **Children in Need**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November we would like to raise money for Children in Need, and ask that all children (and staff) come to nursery in fancy dress!

We will also be baking lots of cakes and biscuits for you buy throughout the week. All proceeds will be donated to Children in Need.

## **Wellington Boots**

Please could you ensure that your child has a pair of labelled wellies at Nursery. Also, if you have supplied a pair of wellies (some time ago) please could you check that they still fit your child.

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**Dates for the diary:**

- **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October - Forever Living Product Party from 6pm**
- **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Halloween party (Halloween Fancy Dress)**
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Emotive Photography will be arriving early for a 9am start.**
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Children in need (Please come dressed as a Princess or Super Hero)**

Many Thanks for your continued support

The First Steps Team