



Steady Steps Nursery and Pre-school

Spring Term Newsletter 2022

It has been a busy start to the new term, with lots of exciting teaching and learning at Steady Steps. We hope you are enjoying the regular updates we post in your Child's journal, as well as our social media posts.

We welcomed Ofsted into our Setting on Friday 14th January for a routine inspection. We look forward to sharing our grade with you in the next few days. The children were amazing and we were very proud of how comfortable they made Ofsted feel in our Setting.

Tapestry

We hope you like the new style of observations we put on Tapestry. We wanted to make them more parent friendly but also to capture your child's voice in their play.

We will still be adding your child's unique review every three months and like the observations we add, we value and take into account your feedback and thoughts. Additionally, you are more than welcome to make an appointment to meet with your child's Key-Person to discuss your child's development.



Snack



Since the beginning of the Spring term, we have been trialling fresh fruit as opposed to cereal at morning snack time. This is proving popular with the children and fits in well with the new Statutory Framework, introduced September 2021. The new Framework places emphasis on nutrition and healthier eating. We are finding that the children are ready for their lunch rather than filling up on cereal mid-morning.

Fees

Unfortunately, in April there will be an increase in fees-details to follow.

Contact details

Reminder-Please ensure contact details are up to date. It is important that if you change your mobile number that let us know

Planning Consultation



Don't forget it is important to us that you feel involved in our Planning for learning. We strongly believe that parents and carers play a central role in making decisions about children's education. If you think of an idea that would enhance the children's learning or ways you can get involved, please get in contact with us. Every so often both the Nursery and Pre-school will put an updated Planning Consultation up on social media and Tapestry, we would love to hear your suggestions. At the moment the children are really interested in our different weather.

Thank you for the Postcards!



We have been absolutely blown away by the number of postcards we have received from around the world. The children have been enthralled and excited by exploring the different countries. It has been so exciting to receive a new card and then finding the country on our Globe. Thank you to everyone for generously sharing our request and making it happen.



Thank you for supporting our Christmas raffle. We raised an amazing £163.

We have used some of this money to buy some new resources for the Under Two's. We have also put some aside for the purchase of two new bikes with stabilisers for the Pre-school children.



Named Clothing

Please can we remind you to name all clothing, including hats and gloves and scarves.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee

We are looking forward to celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee later this year.

Details to follow.



We finish for February half term at 15:20 on Friday 18th February and we re- open for Breakfast Club at 07:30 on Monday 28th February.

CONGRATULATIONS



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Congratulations to Mrs Lambert and Miss Payne for both achieving their Level 3 Early years Educator. Certificates are in and up on our wall of fame. So, it's time to make it official. Well done to both of you, we know how hard you have worked.



We would like to welcome our newest member of our team, Mrs Stephanie Westwood. Stephanie has joined us as a Trainee and is working towards her Level 3 Early Years educator.



We are excited to announce that after half term we have recruited a new fully qualified member of the team starting in the pre-school.

Objects made from natural materials:

Shaving brush
Small baskets
Bone show horn
Small raffia mat or coasters
Specs case
Make up brushes
Cork table mats

Objects in leather, textile, rubber and fur:

Leather purse
Rubber ball
Fur fabric
Velvet
Raffia
Powder puff
Woolen ball
Leather containers

Paper/Cardboard objects:

Inserts from packaging
Sturdy cardboard tubes
Circle from inside sticky tape
Small stiff cardboard boxes
Stacking gift boxes

Wooden objects:

Clothes peg
Small bowls
Wood off cuts
Spoons
Honey dipper
Pastry brush
Small baskets
Wooden nail brush
Curtain rings
Wooden egg cup
Wooden egg
small rolling pin
cotton reels

Metal objects:

Spoons
Measuring spoons
Garlic crusher
Metal beaker
Brass curtain rings
Metal bowl
Tea strainer
Whisk
Empty tin (no sharp edges)
Bells

Natural objects:

Fir cones
Shells
Loofer
Large pebbles
Pumice stone
Natural sponge
Peacock feathers
.....and any other object that looks exciting!

Objects made from natural materials:

Hair rollers
Keys
Silk scarves

Heuristic Play

Heuristic Play materials are built into our environment. With both the Nursery and the Pre-school having shelves, baskets and specific areas dedicated to Heuristic Play materials. Heuristic Play is one of the most developmentally advantageous types of play in the early years. It takes objects, not designed as toys and provides children with the opportunity to explore, experience and discover textures, shapes, sizes and designs. At present our resources are running a bit low and we are putting out a request to stock up our Heuristic Play materials and resources. Please could you have a look in your cupboards for any of the resources listed, we would be very grateful.