



Footsteps News and Information 12th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We welcome all our families back for another busy half term at Footsteps. Thank you for all your cards and gifts at Christmas time from all the staff as they were very much appreciated.

THEMES

We are planning lots of exciting activities for the children to learn about this term including **Winter time, Cold Weather, Ice, Arctic Animals, Penguins and Polar Bears**. We will be looking at the colours **White** and **Blue**. Although we will continue with other number and counting activities we will be working with **Numbers 2 and 3**, for example; our 3 White Snowmen song. We have just purchased some new maths resources to make counting fun with some of the sponsor money from our welly waddle.

Help us plan for your child's next steps - We would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the '**Look what I**' slips on a regular basis so you can share your child's interests with us to inform the planning of their next steps. For example; I have been to the garden centre, the Zoo, the park. I like to go dancing, swimming, gymnastics or football classes. I would like to go to the moon, drive a bus or I like singing songs I have learnt at Footsteps etc. This will be invaluable information for your child's learning journey and their key worker will be waiting for your contributions to build on and embed their learning opportunities. The latest theme that is coming from the children's own interests has been Fire engines. Quite a number of children are showing an interest and carrying out role play in this topic.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The children will be making bird feeders this week and next and the seed packet does say may contain traces of nuts. If your child has an allergy please can you make your child's key worker aware if you have not done so already. Thank you.

It is the season of coughs and colds. Please do not send your child into Footsteps if they have a high temperature. We want the children to get the best out of the session and it is no fun for them if they are unwell. If your child is taking medication and needs to bring it to Footsteps, the medication consent book must be completed and signed by a parent/carer.

FUNDRAISING - THANK YOU!

Our sponsored Welly Waddle, dinosaur hunt was a huge success. The children raised a total of £298.00 to help Footsteps buy new resources. Along with the new maths resources we have purchased two new sturdy bikes which are great for gross motor skills and will provide the children with lots of physical exercise outside. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

TAPESTRY

Thank you to all those parents/carers who access their child's learning journey each week. Partnership with yourselves is key to their learning and development and sharing of ideas and milestones is important. If you need a new password link resending or help in any way, please just ask. We love to read your comments and see your own photos of what the children have been getting up to outside of Footsteps.

The stay and play sessions and Christingle Service at Church were well supported and the feedback has shown you enjoyed them too. We look forward to hosting more stay and play sessions at Easter and hope you are able to attend to see your children enjoying their time with us.

THE BRUSH BUS

Children in the North West of England have some of the highest rates of tooth decay in the country and we have joined the scheme recently to carry out tooth brushing at Footsteps. All children aged 2-4 are invited to join in and brushes and toothpaste are provided free of charge to our setting. I am sending consent forms home this week. Please sign and return them as soon as possible if you would like your child to take part. If you have any questions at all, please ask me.

NAMES IN COATS

It is the children's own choice to play outside and we have been encouraging the children with self help skills, for example; putting on their own coats, hats, gloves and wellington boots. You can help at home by encouraging your child to dress themselves and put their own shoes on with support if needed.

Can I please REMIND parents/carers that children do need a warm coat/rain coat to be able to play outside. If they have a woolly hat, scarf and gloves could you also ensure that they are marked with the child's name or initials, helping to avoid any problems should there be two or more of the same garments in the cloakroom and to help with delays in children getting ready to go outside/home time. Thank you.

HALF TERM

Footsteps will close for the half term holiday on Thursday 15th February at 3.35pm after the afternoon session and re-open on Monday 26th February 2018.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards

Karen Ramsay
Playgroup Leader

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 where I have been

Name: _____ Date: _____

(This information will help your child's keyworker to plan for their next steps on their learning journey.)

Parent/Carer Name: _____

 what I can do

Name: _____ Date: _____

(This information will help your child's keyworker to plan for their next steps on their learning journey.)

Parent/Carer Name: _____