



Footsteps Pre-school Playgroup
News and Information - 14th March 2018
Email: footstepsstandrewschurch@gmail.com

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you find this news of interest and would be grateful to receive your responses where appropriate.

EASTER SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, RADCLIFFE

We hope you are able to join us at one of the services over at our church <http://www.standrewsradcliffe.org.uk/> everyone is welcome. All Footsteps children are invited to attend the prayer trail with our Vicar, Rev. Jo McKee at Church on Thursday 29th March at 9.00am with their families for approximately 30/45 minutes. For those children who normally attend a **Thursday morning session**, please can parents/carers meet us over at Church too at 9am with your child. You are welcome to stay and bring the children back to Footsteps for a short stay and play session where you will have a chance to look at your child's learning journey and enjoy spending some time with them playing and exploring the setting and Easter activities. If your child is not in on Thursdays, please see paragraph below.

TAPESTRY ON-LINE LEARNING JOURNEY

As you know, we appreciate your weekly input on Tapestry to help us plan for your child's next steps - so please let us know if you need your password resetting or you need some support to add your own photographs and observations. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to pop in to have a look at your child's paper learning journey and to discuss their learning and development and current summative assessment showing where they are up to. We will try our best to accommodate everyone over the next few weeks before and after Easter so you can touch base with your child's key worker. Please email myself to make arrangements so I can put dates in the diary. Thank you.

THE BRUSH BUS

The Brush Bus tooth brushing scheme has been launched in pre-school and nursery childcare settings in order to increase exposure to fluoride among the under five year old children in Bury. The Bury Oral Health Promotion Team are facilitating daily tooth brushing with family fluoride toothpaste at targeted establishments via staff training, support, advice to parents/carers and the provision of equipment. We have found ways to incorporate tooth brushing into the daily routines of all children attending our setting.

Fluoride toothpaste is an effective method of reducing tooth decay and its benefits can be maximized, if brushing with toothpaste is started early in a child's life, supervised by an adult at least twice a day with a higher concentration of fluoride toothpaste.

Good habits developed in early childhood can have a great impact on a child's future health. The Brush Bus programme used in conjunction with the Bury Council Golden Apple Award scheme already in place in nurseries could in time, have a real impact on children's dental health. We at Footsteps are fully in support of this.

Many parents struggle to brush young children's teeth at home and parents who have children in nurseries where brushing programmes have been implemented, report that their children are much more enthusiastic about having their teeth brushed at home.

Has your child talked about brushing their teeth at home? Do they know what picture is on their own toothbrush and do they sing Auntie Karen's 'You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch ch ch song? ☺

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY - TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2018 - ODD SOCKS

World Down Syndrome Day is on 21st March. This date - the 21st day of the 3rd month - represents the 3 copies of chromosome 21, which is unique to people with Down syndrome. This year marks the 12th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day, which is officially recognised by the United Nations. We invite all our children and staff to wear 'odd socks' bright socks, long socks, printed socks, to show their support. Children can wear bright clothing too, the brighter the better as we celebrate this special day. Suggested donations of £1.00 will go towards the charity if you would like to contribute. Thank you.

NEW FACES

We welcome two new faces - Auntie Sarah is a former parent of one of our Footsteps children and she has recently joined our team having lots of experience in a previous childcare setting. Auntie Reean is a student and former St. Andrew's Primary school pupil who is currently doing her college placement with us on Tuesdays and Fridays. The children love having them both around and we appreciate their hard work and commitment they are showing towards Footsteps.

Auntie Louise R is currently undertaking the Foundation Degree in Early Years and is our new 3rd in Charge member of staff. Louise is one of our three Designated People for safeguarding.

We are pleased to announce that Auntie Michelle is our new Footsteps Deputy Manager. Michelle has been an 'Auntie' and more recently, third in charge for 8 years and has gained a wealth of experience to fulfil this new role. Congratulations to Auntie Michelle from all the team and Footsteps Committee.

VOLUNTEERS - HANDY MAN/WOMAN

We are hoping to find a helper as soon as possible for little jobs/repairs. We have reorganised the shed and disposed of old/broken toys and now need to revamp the outdoors by varnishing the wooden apparatus, adding to our mud kitchen, creating a new bug hotel and creating a gardening/planting area. If you or any family members are able to help out, please let myself or Auntie Michelle know. Thank you.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is the season of coughs, colds and sickness bugs. 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. We have been informed of one of our children having a sickness bug and we believe that chicken pox is on the rise in the local area. If you need any advice, please do ask me.

Please DO NOT let your child stroke the cat that seems to have taken up residence in the school grounds. We have heard it is not over friendly.

BAGS IN THE ENTRANCE HALL

Please note that all children have access to the entrance hall so they can access their coat pegs and this means they also have access to bags which may contain **medication or carrier bags**. Please hand all **prescribed medicines** to an Auntie to be kept out of reach in the kitchen area in a medication box. Please note that we cannot give children calpol at Footsteps unless it is prescribed by your family doctor. If it is a recent prescription, we require our medication book to be completed before we can administer the medicine.

Please hand any wows, snack or letters to us in the mornings as we will not know they are in the childrens bags initially. Thank you.

NUT FREE SETTING

This means that no food products containing nuts are to be brought into the building.

We hope this will reduce the risk of any child, who may have or develop an allergy to nuts coming into contact with a food product which could potentially be very harmful to them.

We realise that many foods are labelled as having 'traces of nut' or 'cannot guarantee nut free' which are very difficult to avoid. We will speak to parents of any children who join the setting who have a nut allergy to establish the severity of the allergy and put in place a risk assessment.

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all those families who support us in filling up our snack basket in the morning - our children can try lots of new foods because you are so generous. If you do want to contribute and not sure what we would like, please ask one of the aunties.

WOW MOMENTS

Please can you complete a 'Wow' slip for your child - we have been sending them home this week. We want to hear about their special achievements from home and like to celebrate them with their friends and the aunties before displaying them on our **Wow** door.

HALF TERM

Footsteps will close for the Easter holidays on Thursday 29th March 2018 at 3.35pm after the afternoon session and re-open on Monday 16th April.

AUNTIES ACHIEVEMENTS

The Aunties at Footsteps embrace the training opportunities offered to them, some statutory and others to develop their own continuous professional development. Recent training completed includes:

Single Agency Safeguarding	- Aunties Michelle, Ella and Sheila
Effective Safeguarding practice	- Auntie Louise R
Lead SENDCo	- Aunties Karen and Michelle
Healthy Movers	- Aunties Louise Mc and Ella
Equality and Diversity	- Aunties Louise Mc, Ella and Karen
Food Hygiene	- Auntie Sarah
Paediatric First Aid	- Aunties Yvette and Michelle
Designated Person Safeguarding	- Auntie Louise R
Promoting Positive Behaviour	- Aunties Louise R, Ella and Karen
Autism awareness	- Aunties Karen, Michelle, Ella and Louise Mc
How to achieve a good/outstanding Ofsted	- Aunties Michelle and Karen
Prevent Duty	- Aunties Louise R, Ella and Karen
Supporting children with SEND in the Early Years	- Aunties Ella and Karen

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards

Karen Ramsay
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Holiday Arrangements 2017/2018

	CLOSE ON	RE-OPEN ON
AUTUMN TERM 2017		
		Tuesday September 5 th
Half Term	Friday, October 20 th	Tuesday, October 31 st
Christmas	Tuesday, December 19 th	
SPRING TERM 2018		
		Wednesday, January 3 rd
Half Term	Thursday, February 15 th	Monday, February 26 th
Easter	Thursday, March 29 th	
SUMMER TERM 2018		
		Monday, April 16 th
May Bank Holiday	Monday, May 7 th	Tuesday, May 8 th
Half Term	Friday, May 25 th	Tuesday, June 5 th
Summer	Wednesday, July 18 th	

Holiday list 2017/2018