



Footsteps Pre-school Playgroup
News and Information - 14th May 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.

We are in the swing of another busy half term at Footsteps and we hope everyone had a lovely Easter holiday. We have enjoyed hearing stories from the children about what they have been learning whilst they have been away from us. There have been some great photos added to the Tapestry on-line learning journey too! We have been able to use these ideas to build on and extend the childrens learning by giving them opportunities to explore and find out more about what interests them at the moment. Their key persons have been busy planning their key children's next steps and so far we have talked about insects/mini beasts, Thomas the Tank Engine, growing taller, gardening, swimming lessons, our families, a new baby, playing at the park, going to Church and going on holiday.

THEMES

Our themes for this half term are:-

- ❖ **Growing and planting**
- ❖ **The lifecycle of frogs and butterflies**
- ❖ **Minibeasts**
- ❖ **London**

Children will have a variety of opportunities to find out about healthy practices and the value of exercise. They will be able to use number names and compare quantities through investigating fruit and vegetables and will take part in lots of activities, displaying their work around the setting for all to enjoy. We have lots planned and the children will be able to enjoy some new experiences.

We will be looking at how things change as they grow, e.g. seed/plant, caterpillar/butterfly, tadpole/frog etc. (if anyone has any frogspawn in their garden at the moment and could spare some, please let us know). The baby caterpillars are on their way to us - ready to amaze the children as they transform into beautiful butterflies. We would like the children to bring in a small size baby photograph of themselves which will be used for talk time in key person groups so that the children can see how different they look and compare what they can do now that they couldn't do when they were babies. It would be nice for all the children to take part and we would like them to bring their photograph in before Friday 25th May. Can you please write your child's name on the back and their approximate age at the time the photo was taken. Thank you.

SUN CREAM

We are looking forward to spending as much time as possible outside this term and we are hoping the weather will continue to warm up! Even though it is still a little chilly some days, when the sun does come out it is very strong and we would also ask that you start applying sun lotion to your children before they come to playgroup in the mornings or afternoon.

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As you can imagine we simply don't have enough hands or time to apply lotion to every child so we would really appreciate your support. Please try to cover delicate areas such as shoulders, cheeks, nose and neck. It is also a good idea to bring sun cream to playgroup with your child, so that if your child is staying on for an afternoon session or have been playing in the water and we feel we need to re-apply some more lotion we can do.

PLEASE REMEMBER to place all sun cream bottles, CLEARLY NAMED, in the basket. Sun lotion should NOT be left in the children's bags as children have access to the cloakroom. If your child does bring their own sun hat to Footsteps please make sure it is named. During hot spells, drinking water is always available outside for the children to access. Thank you.

THE ROYAL WEDDING

A tea party or four will be taking place next week to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. We will be inviting the children to dress up as Prince or Princess or wear anything red, white or blue for their Royal picnics which will include cucumber sandwiches followed by jelly and ice cream. If anyone has any bunting to donate or anything suitable to decorate our garden we would love to recycle it.

Please talk to your child about the big event, explaining what will be happening and do let us know what questions they have asked you so we can continue their learning at Footsteps. One child has already questioned his parents why he has not yet been to London! Please bring in any newspaper cuttings/magazine cuttings/pictures of castles, maybe a photograph of a family wedding so we can make a scrap book and add our own party photographs to it too.

We will be marking the occasion by planting a 'Royal' Golden Delicious Apple tree in our garden and the children can each decorate a small 'Footsteps rock' to be placed around the base of the tree to mark this memorable day.

FUNDRASING

World Down Syndrome Day - You helped us to raise £37.66 and we have sent a cheque off to Smiley Faces, Bolton donating towards the group sessions that they put on to support families in the local community.

The National Autistic Society were grateful to receive a cheque from Footsteps for £17.64 too!

The Easter Raffle was won by one of our little boys and thanks again to our generous parents who donated the large Easter basket as we raised £57.00 to buy some new maths toys for the children. We will be asking the children what they would like us to spend the money on.

NEW FACES

We welcome another new face - Auntie Tia. Tia is undertaking a Health and Social Care course at Bolton College and is enjoying her placement with us on Tuesdays and Fridays until the end of the Summer term.

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Please ensure you inform us immediately of any change of details such as mobile phone numbers or other contact details for parents and your emergency contacts. It is essential that our records are kept up to date in case of emergencies.

Please remember to tell a member of staff if someone different is collecting your child from playgroup. We will not allow your child to go with anyone unless we have your prior permission AND DETAILS ABOUT THAT PERSON. Safeguarding is our priority.

PHOTOGRAPER

An Early Years photographer is coming into Footsteps on both Wednesday 23rd May and Thursday 24th May to take group photographs during both the morning and afternoon sessions. If your child does not attend on either of these days/times, and you would like them to have their photograph taken with their peer group please let us know.

HALF TERM

Footsteps will close for the half term holiday on Friday 25th May 2018 and re-open on Tuesday 5th June at 9am. I have attached next years holiday list for your information.

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:

Food Hygiene - Level 2	- Aunties Michelle and Karen and student Reean
Equality and Diversity	- Auntie Michelle
Safeguarding - Toxic Trio	- Auntie Michelle
Designated Safeguarding Lead Renewal	- Auntie Karen
Safeguarding - Managing Allegations	- Auntie Michelle
Safeguarding - Hidden Male	- Aunties Karen and Michelle
Safeguarding - Safer Recruitment	- Auntie Karen
Emotion Coaching	- Aunties Yvette and Michelle

What a challenge! - Challenging The Mathematical Thinking of 3 and 4 year olds	- Aunties Yvette and Louise Mc
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Thank you to all our parents/grandparents and carers for your continued support.
Kind regards

Karen Ramsay
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Holiday Arrangements 2018/2019

	CLOSE ON	RE-OPEN ON
AUTUMN TERM 2018		
		Wednesday, September 5 th
Half Term	Friday, October 19 th	Monday, October 29 th
Christmas	Wednesday, December 19 th	
SPRING TERM 2019		
		Monday, January 7 th
Half Term	Thursday, February 14 th	Monday, February 25 th
Easter	Friday, March 29 th	
SUMMER TERM 2019		
		Monday, April 15 th
Bank Holiday	Thursday, April 18 th	Tuesday, April 23 rd
Bank Holiday	Friday, May 3 rd	Tuesday, May 7 th
Half Term	Friday, May 24 th	Tuesday, June 4 th
Summer	Friday, July 19 th	

Holiday list 2018/2019