

**Pre-school main contact**  
Mon – Wed 9 – 3 & Friday 9 – 12  
**01760 447444**



**Dear Parents/carers**

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas holiday.

**This term**

We are going to be enjoying our theme of 'journeys' based on three different stories – 'Going on a Bear Hunt', 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Good Samaritan'. If you have any stories, examples or experiences of journeys for either yourself or your child that you would like to share please do get in touch.

**Penny**

We would like to inform you that Penny will be retiring at Easter after over 10 years of working with us. We have very much valued the many things Penny has brought to the team, especially her wonderful story telling, rhymes and songs as well as the many colourful art projects! She will be missed by us all but has said she may come back occasionally to visit!

In line with this we are currently recruiting. The information is on the events board in the corridor if you know of anyone who may be interested.

**Emergency Closures**

If there is a need to close during a session, staff will contact parents/carers via telephone. If we are unable to contact you we will work down your list of contacts so please ensure these details are kept up to date. Should the preschool be closed for weather or other unplanned purposes, we will update with information via our website [www.firststepsashill.co.uk](http://www.firststepsashill.co.uk) and will send a group email to you. Alternatively you can email Lou to clarify.

We will do our very best to give you notice of any closure, but this may not always be possible.

**Slippery path**

Please note that with the cold weather the path between the carpark and preschool can become very slippery. Please do take caution as you enter and exit via that path and whilst on the site in general. Please also ensure you pass this on to any other family or friends who might be collecting or dropping your children off.

**Family time/experience photo wall**

We would love to do a photo area in the preschool home corner of either family time, or experiences the children have had if you would like to send anything in (either printed) or for us to print, of things you've done, who is in your family, favourite pets or things that are special to your child we will put them up. (Please be aware it is a shared space, and these photos will remain out over Noah's ark, Sunday clubs and any other groups or meetings that happen in this space). We will not put names with photos.

**Seasonal clothing**

As the weather turns colder, please make sure to send some extra layers in addition to the spare clothes sent for your child. We do still offer free flow play inside and out throughout the winter time which means the back door is open for periods of time. Naming hats, gloves and coats in addition to all other items of clothing are really helpful for children being able to identify their own as many children have the same or very similar.

For this term the children now need to wear welly boots in order to play outside to try to prevent the mud coming inside! Please make sure to send your child in their shoes (or non-slip slippers) for inside.

### **Healthy Eating**

A reminder to please not send sweets and chocolates into the preschool as part of the children's snack or lunches. We ask that you limit treat foods to no more than 2 items in addition to the healthy options you provide and at snack only provide rice cakes/breadsticks or fruit/veg. If children do bring sweets or multiple treat foods, we may send these home again.

Last term we enjoyed a shared snack experience which we will be continuing this term, exploring a 'fruit or veg of the week' this is to have alongside their snack, not instead of. The children enjoyed exploring the taste, texture and smell of different foods.

**Please ensure small foods such as grapes, cherry tomatoes etc are cut in half or quarters length ways. This is as these foods when not cut can cause a choking hazard.**

We have been contacted by a local dentist to book in a visit to preschool around April time to come talk to the children about how to look after our teeth.

### **Friends and family dropping off**

From time to time friends and family drop the children off on a less regular arrangement. Please make sure to make them aware that they must bring your child to the member of staff and hand them over at the white doors rather than leaving them in the entrance room as we may not see they have entered the building.

### **Funding forms**

Funding forms - to all of you whose children have funded spaces please complete the forms asap and return them to us to ensure you receive the funding for your child's time with us. If you are unsure how to fill the form out, Becky has helpfully put together a guide and completed an example form for you to look at.

Next holiday will be half term: 19<sup>th</sup> – 23 Feb