

# Autumn Newsletter

## 1st Steps Day Nursery.

### Halloween fun.

It was Friday 31st of October and with the lights turned low, the ghouls, ghosts, vampires and parents came out to our 2nd Halloween fancy dress party. First was the treat bag decorating along with the colouring competition which was won by Ryan and Alexia.

Then off to play some ghoulish games of duck and bob apples. Floating black hands passed your eyes as you bobbed for apples in one of the tanks. The children were wary at first and got very wet trying to catch the apples, but soon got the knack of it and lots of juicy apples were caught!

Other surprises in store for the children was our slimy

boxes of goo. This year we expanded this event to several boxes with goodness knows what in them. Lots of children found the courage to put their hands in them to find a prize (the adults and younger children were a little more cautious!)

Also on offer was toss the hoop to win a treat (almost riot point when Bev was running this game, quoits were flying everywhere from witches and ghouls to catch the treats). Pin the wart on the witch and rap the mummy were also available to play. There was a best fancy dress prize which was won by 'The Mummy', Paisley as she was the most authentically dressed.

At the end of the night, we had a trick or treat around the nursery. Thanks to Sandra, Joanne, Steph, Dom and Claire who made the night possible and joined the fun on the night. Fun was had by all, even the staff!

### Our Mummy, Paisley, joins the colouring fun.



### Up and coming events.

- *Picture perfect,*  
*18th Nov.*
- *Learning links.*  
*20th Nov.*
- *Art exhibition of*  
*your childrens*  
*work: week beg*  
*24th Nov*
- *Parents evening,*  
*1st Dec.*
- *Christmas party.*  
*18th Dec.*
- *Closing times for*  
*Christmas Eve*  
*and New Year's*  
*Eve will be*  
*4.00pm.*

### Healthy Eating

As you may have noticed, our menus have changed again for the winter. They are always displayed outside the office on the notice board for you to look at. We try to offer a varied menu that embraces diversity and encourages children to develop their taste for varied food.

Feedback about our food from questionnaires is very positive and we are more than happy to share ideas and recipes.

Friday will be children's choice so they will be encouraged to think of something

exciting to eat.

As you may be aware, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Some children are arriving at nursery hungry as they have not had breakfast. Sitting with your child and having a meal is important for socialization and language development. By giving your child a healthy breakfast, you are getting them off to a good start and ready for the day.

We serve toast for breakfast or occasionally porridge and a drink of milk at 8.30am. Except for room 1, the under

1 year olds, (baby room.)

A snack is also served around 10.00am which consists of a piece of fruit or fruit juice.

Here are some suggestions for healthy breakfasts.

Porridge, weetabix, muesli, shredies, rice krispies, corn flakes, yogurt, milk/fruit juice,

Toast, with honey, jam, etc, or could have cheese with it.

If you find you are running late, a piece of fruit is always simple and easy to prepare. Bananas are filling!

## Parents information.....

### PRAMS

At the moment we have a lot of prams being left in our pram store which are not being folded down. This causes us and other parents lots of problems at the end of the night when retrieving prams. So please fold them down. If you have any problems staff will be happy to help you.

### COATS

Now winter is upon us there is more coats around, we please ask you to put your child's name in it and hang it up on their peg.

### LUNCH

If you want your child to have lunch and they are going to be late in, can you please phone before 10.30 so we can keep a dinner for them.

### New.. Early Years Foundation Stage.

We have just started the New curriculum EYFS. This stands for Early Years Foundation Stage, and is the replacement curriculum of the Birth to Three and Foundation stage. It was introduced to promote continuity from birth to school age and re-

moving any overlaps in curriculum. The aim of the curriculum is to use the child's



knowledge as the foundation for all we do. We are hoping to work as close as possible with parents and careers so we can plan our activities and assessments around each individual child and their developmental stage. Any questions please contact Alex, Bev, Sandra and Natalie.

## Customer Satisfaction

Many thanks for the return of the questionnaires, they were all very informative and we value your input and suggestions.

General concerns: quality of feedback at the end of the day about children. We have introduced activity sheets outside each room which show what your child has been doing during the day. Menus are displayed outside the office. It is sometimes difficult to speak to staff in your child's room due to shift patterns and also the number of parents who collect their children at any one time. Staff are responsible for the other children in the room whilst you are talking to them, therefore, we ask you to be patient and allow time for

greater feedback if required. Daily sheets for each child has been suggested, however, for our 80 children this would take our staff away from the quality childcare and interaction.

Other feedback: Layout of rooms: they are laid out to maximize space for the children and encourage mobility. Rooms are divided in to areas of learning for children's development.

Answering the door: Please be patient as we may be dealing with other parents, children, etc.

Older children mixing with younger children: This is very important to offer good role models to younger children and offer a caring role to

older children. This is something we are considering on a more permanent basis. Its also necessary for our staffing!

Access into the nursery could be better: For those who may not be aware, there is a side entrance with ramp.

Once again, many thanks to all those who completed the questionnaire. On the whole, they were very positive and complemented many of our staff.

**THE  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
PRIZE DRAW  
WINNER WAS JOEL  
FROM ROOM 2  
WHO WON 50%  
OFF 1 WEEKS  
CHILDCARE.**

## Changing Faces of 1st Steps

As you may have noticed, there has been a lot of new faces in the nursery. Our new staff are Natalie, Lisa, Kate, Holly, Alison, Debbie, Vicky and Jade. Natalie is our Early Years Professional who can take payments and deal with your queries.

**Natalie:  
our new  
EYP.**



We are sorry to loose Angela who has decided to move on and is now working in a chemist and we will shortly say farewell to Christina again who will travel off to Bulgaria.

The reason for so many new faces is the number of children joining the nursery. We are practically full in every room. Therefore, swapping days is very limited and may not be

allowed. Flexi-days have now stopped and we have a waiting list.

What you may notice is that your child stays in the room that they are in for longer. Activities and equipment will be adapted and introduced to the room to ensure that your child does not miss out! They will visit the next room wherever possible to ensure that transitions are smooth when they go up.