



**FIRST
STEPS**
@St. Mary's

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336: Fax. 0191 4898338

Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

Acting Head of School: Mrs. A. Tumelty

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and welcome you back to the Spring term here in First Steps Nursery. This half term our topic 'Amazing animals', during which we will be learning about animals from around the world, including cold places like Antarctica or jungle animals from very hot countries such as Africa. Some key books covered this term will include 'Polar bear, polar bear, what do you hear', 'Dear Zoo', 'Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see' and 'Handa's surprise'.

The children will be involved in discussions about the names of animals that live in these different climates, will talk about their body parts, how they move and where they live. We will listen to animal sounds, learn songs about animals and celebrate Chinese New Year, which this year is the year of the rabbit. We are in the process of developing an igloo role-play area for the children to play at being explorers, look at books and draw their favorite animals from Antarctica.

This term, we have booked Emma's exotic animal encounters on Wednesday 15th February for the children to experience and handle live animals such as parrots, snakes, owls, frogs and chameleons to name but a few. After half term, we also have another exciting event planned for our children to enjoy. On 20th March we will have a batch of duck eggs delivered which the children can observe hatching and help to look after, feed and handle in the first few days of their life. This will round off our topic about animals and our exploration of life cycles and habitats perfectly we are sure you will agree. We will keep you all posted so please check face book and our school website for photos and updates.



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Our Forest school and Library day sessions will return to their original days this term. These are as follows:

Library day will take place on **Tuesday for Red group**, **Wednesday for Green group** / **Yellow group** and **Thursday for Blue group**. Please make sure that your child comes in to Nursery with their book bag on this day, ready to be changed.

Please ensure that your child has a bag of clothes on their peg including several sets of underwear and socks and skirt or trousers in order that they can be changed by staff if necessary. We are very low in stock of underwear socks and trousers if you have any to donate at home for spares. If your child requires nappies or wipes please also send these into Nursery in a labelled bag.

Please make sure that all clothing, especially coats and jumpers or cardigans are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Forest school will take place for **Red** and **Blue** group on Wednesday and for **Green** and **Yellow (when the new children are settled)** group on Thursday. For this session the children will need to bring wellies and an appropriate coat for the weather on this day.

We are a healthy school and therefore encourage healthy packed lunches. Please do not include chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or cans or chocolate sandwiches in your child's packed lunch. Grapes or small fruit like tomatoes should be cut in half length ways. Water bottles should be filled with water, not juice. A separate juice carton or drink may be included in their packed lunch bag.

Yours Sincerely,
Mrs. Walker and the Nursery team.



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