



~ Welcome to the December edition of The First Steps newsletter ~

### Sports Week!

This month we held our annual Sports Week at The First Steps. On Day 1 children were placed in their teams and paraded to the garden for the opening ceremony. We had the Blue Circles, Red Diamonds, Teal Triangles, Grey Squares, Pink Hearts and Yellow Crescents. Our youngest children in Rising 2s also got involved as they represented the Grey Stars.

Teddy and Nico paraded The First Steps Torches around the garden and then the whole school joined together for a dance led by Jun from Lets Asia.



Throughout the week there was a whole host of fun and engaging activities for children across the school to take part in as they worked individually and in teams. It was wonderful to see the effort of all the children and also our older children supporting children from younger year groups.



Well done to everyone for their effort and a big thank you to Lets Asia for hosting such a great week!

### Diwali

On Friday 13th November we celebrated the Hindu festival of Diwali. Students and staff came to school in traditional dress or colourful clothing and we held a wonderful assembly in the gym. Children in K1 performed an Indian dance and Ms Simmi and Ms Deena talked to the children about the origins of Diwali and why and how it is celebrated.



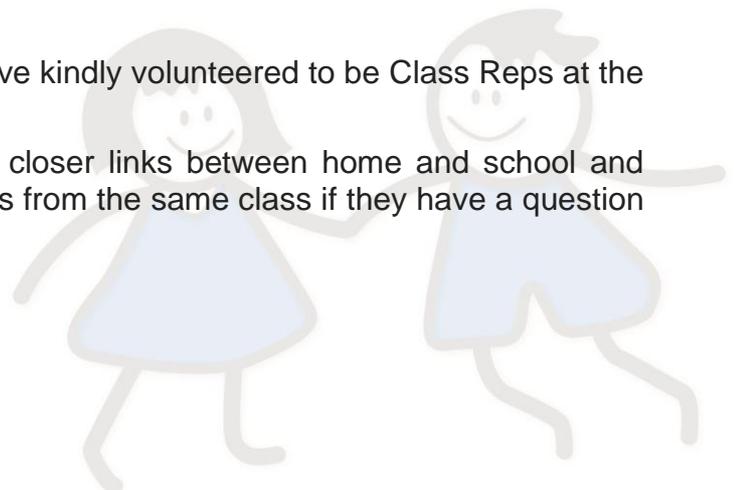
This festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. The word Diwali actually means 'rows of lighted lamps' and Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops and public places are decorated with small lamps called diyas.



### Class Reps

I am delighted that a number of parents have kindly volunteered to be Class Reps at the First Steps.

The role of a Class Rep is to encourage closer links between home and school and provide a channel of communication for all parents from the same class if they have a question or a concern.





The role involves liaising with the class teacher and the school to ensure that all parents are aware of items such as upcoming events and anything that is specific to the particular class. They may also help to arrange opportunities for children from the same class to meet outside of school.

### Our Class Reps for the current school year are:

- Rising 2s Busy Bees: Joanna (Ockie's Mum)
- Nursery Ladybirds: Ann (Isaac's Mum)
- K1 Panthers: Damali (Nathan's Mum)
- K1 Lions: Tisha and Chanob (Lupin's Mum and Dad)
- K1 Leopards: Oliver (Noah's Dad)
- K2 Sharks: Sophie (Peppa's Mum)
- K2 Orcas: Xin (Mengbai's Mum)
- Year 1 and 2 Polar Bears: Rebecca (Jacob's Mum)



I know that many of the Class Reps have already been in contact with parents in their respective classes and over the coming weeks I hope this additional method of communication will be beneficial to our parent community.

### Christmas Performance

We will be holding our annual Christmas Performance on Thursday 17th December from 9.05am onwards in the school garden. All classes will have an opportunity to perform on the stage, including our French and German classes, and the children are currently busy rehearsing!

Following the performance, the whole school will join together for a picnic in the garden. Parents are invited to bring food and drink to school on this day to share. Further details about the picnic will be sent out by Class Reps and teachers.

Before and after the performance there will also be stalls selling second hand toys, cookies and Christmas Crafts in aid of Cedar Learning Center (CLC) and Good Shepherd Sisters.

As per the School calendar, we operate a half day for children on Thursday 17th December with school closing after the picnic.

More information will be shared next week but please put the date in your diary!

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns then please come and speak to me or email me at [head@thefirststeps.ac.th](mailto:head@thefirststeps.ac.th)

Sincerely,

*Mr. Alistair*





### Upcoming Events

#### MONTH OF DECEMBER – 2020

##### Friday 4th December: Term 1 Reports sent to parents

Term 1 reports will be sent home to parents which will provide a summary of the progress and attainment for Term 1.

##### Monday 7th December: School Closed

The School will be closed to staff and students on Monday 7th December.

##### Tuesday 8th December – Friday 15th December: Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs)

Parents are invited into school for 1:1 meeting with their child's teacher to discuss their Term 1 report and targets for Term 2.

##### Wednesday 16th December: FSB Parent Presentation

Parents are invited to a presentation about the new Primary School expansion. I am aware parents are very busy and many have work commitments. Therefore, I will be hosting presentations at different times throughout the day. The presentations will be from 8.15am – 8.45am, 8.50am – 9.20am, and 1.00pm – 1.30pm.

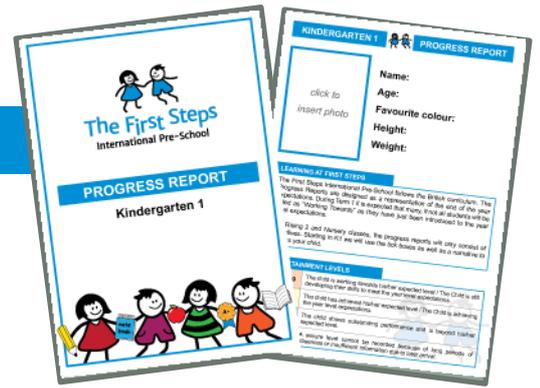
##### Thursday 17th December: Christmas Performance

Our annual Christmas Performance will be held on Thursday 17th December from 9am in the garden. This will be a half day for students, as per the school calendar.

##### Friday 18th December: Last Day of Term 1

##### Monday 11th January: First Day of Term 2

*More information will be sent out about all events in the coming weeks.*



### Gentle Reminders

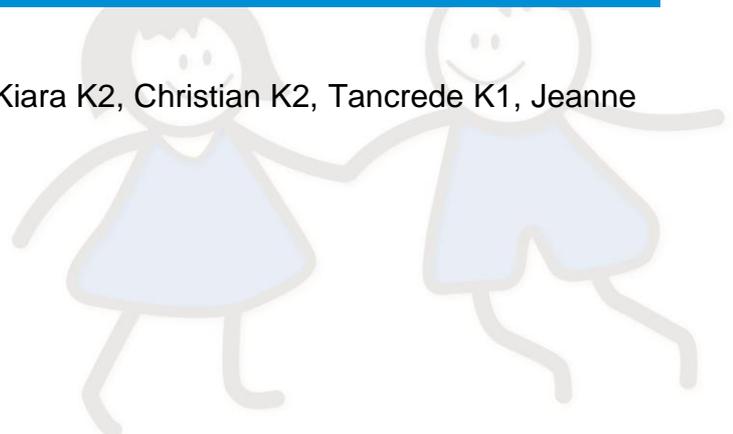
**Performance Clothing:** Parents are requested to bring in items of clothing and/or contributions for the Christmas Performance. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any questions.

### Happy Birthday To You...

#### Born in December

**Children:** Niko Y1, Axel Y1, Ockie R2, Nina N2, Kiara K2, Christian K2, Tancrede K1, Jeanne K1, Nelly N1, Poppy R2, Remi R2, Ryota K2

**Staff:** P. Mon and Teacher Maria





### A Message from The Director

Hello December,

The end of 2020 is upon us and what a year it has been! We had a complete COVID-19 lockdown of school and Thailand. We did Online Learning for the whole school and even kept the Rising 2's in the loop... bless you, Mums and Dads. Our entire teaching and assistant staff took 2 or 3 steps forward in their use of technology, and we decided that a Primary School was next on the "To Do List". Through all this, Thailand somehow maintained almost no COVID-19 cases (4,150 out of 75 million people). **Amazing Thailand** is all I have to say!

I hope that the worst is behind us and I am happy to be living in our Thai bubble with nice weather and little if no COVID-19 worries, but I feel the world still has an uphill battle over the next year or two so let's hang in there. Our community of mixed nationalities has stuck together through it all – with world issues staying out of the school and in the newspapers and on our minds. It has not distracted our children from the most important thing in their lives – having the chance to be a child every day without pressure from the chaos outside.

I love The First Steps, our little haven in Bangkok, and I cannot wait for it to get bigger over the next few years. Change is always difficult and never easy; I just hope we can all work together to figure out how to make things work. Just like we have over the tempestuous year, 2020.

I hope everyone will enjoy the Christmas break in beautiful Thailand and bring on 2021....

Warm Regards,

*Mr. Damon*

Sincerely,

The First Steps International Pre-School

