



Welcome to the November edition of The First Steps newsletter!

Recycling at The First Steps

You will probably have noticed 'Bobo the Whale' who was in the garden during Term 1A. Bobo is part of project run by the Sang Foundation (sangfoundation.org) which helps to educate children about single use plastics and the dangers of plastic in our oceans. Children across the school have had the opportunity to visit Bobo in the garden and discuss the importance of recycling and protecting the environment.

Following on from this we have placed new bins around school for paper, plastic and other waste. Every classroom also has bins which match the colours of those around school in order to provide a consistent approach to recycling.

Later this half term we will also be introducing a plastic bottle top collection linked to Precious Plastic Bangkok, a volunteer-run initiative that collects bottle tops from all over Bangkok before shredding and melting them into new products.

I look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming weeks.



Loy Krathong

Loy Krathong is an annual festival celebrated in November (or the twelfth month of the Thai Lunar calendar) as this is the end of rainy season when the rice is ready to be harvested and the water level is at its highest. People celebrate this occasion by taking part in activities such as boat racing and dancing as well as floating krathongs together under the light of the full moon at night. Floating the krathong symbolises the floating away of sorrow from the past year.

This year Loy Krathong was on Saturday 31st October and so in the week prior to this date the children had an opportunity to learn about this important Thai festival. Khun Krathi who teaches Thai Language and Culture to children at The First Steps spent time with each class to explain the meaning of Loy Krathong and the traditions associated with the celebration. Every class then had an opportunity to float a class krathong together before each child made their own smaller krathong in their classroom.





Halloween

On Friday 30th October we held our annual Halloween Parade in the garden. Staff and children came to school wearing a whole range of wonderful costumes and had the opportunity to share them with our school community as each class took turns to parade around the garden. There were witches and wizards, spiders and bats, skeletons and pumpkins, and many more spooky outfits!

Well done to Rio and Ark who introduced the parade, and thank you to all the parents who came along to support the children.



Rewards Systems

Following the October newsletter, I received feedback from a number of parents relating to the introduction of new rewards at The First Steps. A coffee morning was also held with Mr Damon and I which was attended by a group of parents who wished to share their views.

Following these discussions, it has been decided that the weekly Star Award presented to a child from each class, and 'Top Table' will not commence. Rewards will continue to be used in classrooms and across the school in the same way that they have for many years. As with other teachers, I might also hand out rewards to children when I am teaching my scheduled classes each week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their feedback and willingness to contact me. I very much value open discussion and look forward to continuing to work closely with our parent community.

Parent Feedback Survey

Prior to half term a parent survey was sent out to parents in order to gain feedback and opinion about different aspects of The First Steps. I would like to thank all those parents who took their time to share their feedback with the school. I have now had an opportunity to study the results and discuss them with Mr. Damon. Parents should have received these results via a separate email, however if you haven't, please contact the school office.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Alistair





Upcoming Events

MONTH OF NOVEMBER – 2020

Friday 13th November: Diwali Celebration

On this day we will be celebrating Diwali in school. Children are asked to come to school wearing traditional Indian dress or brightly coloured clothing on this day.

Wednesday 25th November – Friday 27th November: Sports Week

This is a week of fun focused on the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise and a balanced diet. Throughout the week there was a whole host of fun and engaging activities for children across the school to take part in.

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.

Tuesday 8th December – Friday 11th 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.

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



Gentle Reminders

Digital Media Consent Form

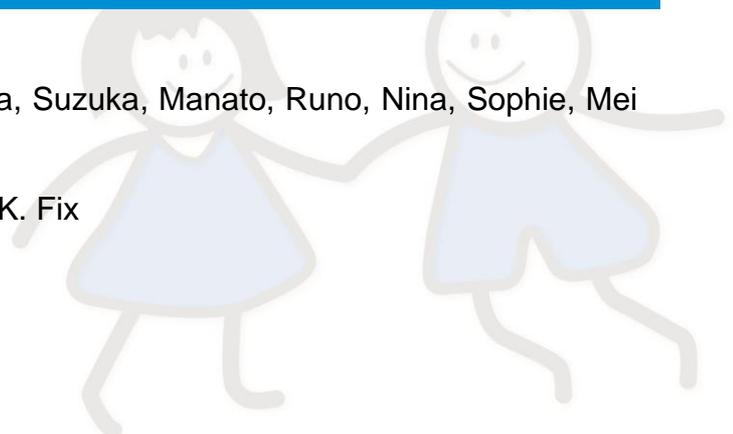
Parents are requested to return the Digital Media Consent Form to their child's teacher. If parents have any questions, please contact the school office.

Happy Birthday To You...

Born in November

Children: Jordan, Benicio, Maëva, Mari, Elle, Eva, Suzuka, Manato, Runo, Nina, Sophie, Mei Mei, Albert, Patricio, Anton, Mio, Nathan

Staff: Ms. Jayne, P. Prae, Ms. Simmi, Ms. Nina, K. Fix





A Message from The Director

Hello Moms and dads,

November is here already! The weather has been wonderful this past week and we hold our breath waiting for poor AQI to come our way. We are hoping it will be less this year with the COVID slowdown of the economy, but we are ready for it either way.

New School news – in the next couple of weeks we will have a definitive answer for everyone as to where the school will be and more details about the project. We may even have some preliminary design options to show as our architects have already begun working on ideas/base options. We thank you for your patience and look forward to sharing some great news with everyone.

Alistair and I have been working on plans for the new school and we will be asking for parents' feedback on a few things. With growth comes challenges and issues that were unforeseen – but between Alistair, Myself, Deena our office ladies Poom and Sandy we have well over 70 years of experience to draw on... and Alistair has been a part of 2 new schools from their beginning, one in Bangkok and one in Doha, so we will be leaning heavily on his experience to make sure we plan ahead to cover all potential issues. This way our Next Step in the growth of our family, can be a smooth as possible.

Warm Regards,

Mr. Damon

Sincerely,

The First Steps International Pre-School

