



Newsletter December 2021

Applying for Primary School – Deadline 15th January – don't miss it.

For children due to start school in September 2022 the deadline for applications is 15th January 2022 at 5pm - please do not miss the deadline as it could mean you do not get the school of your choice, even if you are in catchment.



3rd December – Nativity Show

6th – 10th December – Christmas Jumpers

10th December – Christmas Raffle Draw

15th December – Christmas Party

We are looking forward to the nativity on Friday - Children who are not in the setting on Friday mornings should meet us at the village hall at 10.20am for a 10.30am start. Two adults per child maximum please. Any questions please ask.

Stepping Stones will be celebrating Christmas jumpers [week commencing 6th December](#) and we will be collecting money for the Save the Children charity, recommended donation of £1 for the week.

Last chance for the Christmas raffle! – it will be drawn on [Friday 10th December](#) – lots of super prizes – tickets are available from the setting, don't delay....

The Christmas party is on [Wednesday 15th December](#). Children can dress in their favourite party or dressing up outfit (no paint that day!). Children who usually attend all day on a Wednesday will stay all day. Children who do not usually attend on a Wednesday are invited to attend from 9am – 12.10pm. All children are invited to bring a special packed lunch. I will send out a reminder nearer the time with any additional information, in the meanwhile if you have any questions please ask.

COVID-19

We are following the latest government guidance which was updated on 29th November and can be found on the webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

Date for your diary

On Saturday the 5th of February 2022 we will be holding a fundraising event at a local farm, it's lambing season and children will be able to take part in a competition to guess which sheep will be the 1st to have the lamb – as well as tea and cake of course!

Family photo request

We are making a family board, we would like one or two pictures of your child with their family, it can be Mummy and Daddy or include pets or other special people, grandparents etc. we will be displaying the photos for all to see so please ensure they are appropriate (i.e. not in the bath). It is nice for children to see their loved ones on display, show their friends and talk about their families. Thank you in advance.

Opportunity.....

A vacancy has arisen on our Committee for a Treasurer – usually we would only accept new members to the committee at the AGM in September, however due to exceptional circumstances there is an opportunity for a Treasurer to join from January 2022. If you have a way with numbers and would like to get involved and support Stepping Stones then this is for you. The commitment is approximately 1 hour a month, plus termly meetings and the end of year budget / reports. If you would like more information, please talk to Sam or Louise Gowling – Chair of the committee.

We hope you can help.

Parent Whatsapp group

Rosie O'Connor (Kitty's Mummy and Committee Secretary) manages our parents Whatsapp group – a great way to keep in touch with other parents – if you are not on the group and do want to join please text Rosie directly on 07870665284 and she will welcome you onto the group.

Price increase

Along with the rest of society our costs are increasing and unfortunately this means we are in a position where we do need to increase our charges.

From April 2022 the rates will increase to:

£18.00 for a 3 hour session (morning or afternoon)

£3.00 for lunch club

We are very grateful to those families who pay our voluntary contributions and it is due to your generosity and support that we are not needing to increase the compulsory charges more and that we can maintain our excellent adult:child ratio's. We are not intending to increase the voluntary contributions this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support which helps us to provide the service we are proud of.

Reports

We hope you have taken a moment to read your child's report on Tapestry, if you have not done so yet then please do. We would be grateful if you could add a comment and sign so we get the feedback too. If you do want to discuss any aspect of your child's report with their keyworker then please do speak to us.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas

Term dates

Autumn term second half	Tuesday 2nd Nov – Friday 17th Dec 2021
Term break	Monday 20th Dec – Tuesday 4th Jan 2022
Spring term first half	Wednesday 5th Jan – Friday 11th Feb 2022
Half term break	Monday 14th Feb - Monday 21st Feb 2022
Spring term second half	Tuesday 22nd Feb - Friday 1st April
Term break	Monday 4th April - Monday 18th April
Summer term first half	Tuesday 19th April – Thursday 26th May
Half term break	Friday 27th May – Friday 3rd June
Summer term second half	Monday 6th June – Thursday 21st July*

***please note the change of date as we will now be closed on Friday 22nd due to the additional day allocated to schools for the Queens Platinum Jubilee**

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