



Newsletter March 2022

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, if after reading it you have any further questions, please email preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk and we will do our best to answer.

Committee:

Stepping Stones Preschool is a registered charity which is managed by a group of volunteers who form the committee. We are legally required to have a management committee and without it the setting could not operate, so we are heavily reliant on the goodwill and dedication of our volunteers. Each year committee members are elected at our Annual General Meeting in September. They meet once a term to discuss the running of the setting and agree future plans.

Current committee members are:

Louise Gowling - Chairperson
Rosie O'Connor - Secretary
Isadora Ambrose – Treasurer
Hannah Osborne – Staff liaison
Katie Copping – Safeguarding
Helena Scott – Health and Safety

If you want to know more about the committee and / or how to join please talk to Sam Frape or any of the committee members.

Covid-19

As I am sure you are aware there have been a lot of changes to the Covid-19 rules during the past month, in summary:

The Government has already implemented the following:

- *removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing*
- *removed all remaining domestic Covid-19 restrictions in law, including the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid-19 test. This will be replaced with government 'advice' to stay at home if positive for Covid-19 until Friday 1 April.*
- *end of routine contact tracing, and no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and under-18s to test daily for seven days.*

- *remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.*

As of Friday 1 April, the government will:

- *replace government advice to stay at home following a positive Covid-19 test with the expectation that people will 'exercise personal responsibility'.*
- *end free symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public, though free symptomatic testing to the oldest age groups and those most vulnerable to Covid will continue. The government also intends to work with retailers to ensure that "everyone who wants to can buy a test".*

We are following the latest guidance:

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)

While those testing positive for Covid-19 are no longer legally required to self-isolate, the new guidance states that "if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people."

New starter

We are delighted to announce that we have a new member of staff, Laura Curtis, starting on Monday 7th March to support the setting with administration. She will work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Price increase

From April 2022 the rates will increase to:

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

£3.00 for lunch club

Red Nose Day

We will be supporting Comic Relief on Friday 18th March, children are encouraged to come in dressed up as a hero – it could be spiderman, superwoman or anyone you think is a hero – maybe your own Mum or Dad! Anything goes, we have lots of dressing up outfits at Stepping Stones so please let us know if you would like to borrow one – no need to go out buying. We will be doing a collection for the Comic Relief charity and a donation of £1 is recommended. We will be using the opportunity to teach the children that there are people who are not as fortunate as us.

Social event

We have a social evening on the 24th of March from 7pm onwards at The Bulls Head, Clipston. It is a casual event where parents, carers and staff are invited to come along, have a drink and meet each other. We hope to see you there....

Tapestry

We hope that you all log into Tapestry sometimes and look at the observations the team have sent. Please do send your comments back to the team, it is really nice to get feedback, even as simple as a "like" helps us know that we are getting it right. You are also able to upload photos and text and we would love to see / hear what your child is up to at home, if they are enjoying a new toy or a trip out please do share your photos with us too. Thank you

The team are currently in the process of writing reports for all children, they will be available on Tapestry by the 4th March, we would be grateful if you can read and then comment and sign the report online. As always if you want to discuss the report with your key worker, please let us know and we will organise that. Thank you

DATES TO REMEMBER:

4th March – Child reports available on Tapestry

18th March – Red nose day, come in dressed up as a superhero, suggested donation £1

24th March – Adult social event at The Bulls Head, Clipston

1st April – Price increase

Term dates

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| 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* |
| Summer break | Friday 22 nd July – Friday 2 nd September |
| Autumn term first half | Monday 5 th September – Friday 21 st October |

***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**

High Street, Clipston, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9RU
01858 525113

preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk

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