



## Newsletter September 2021

We have had a super start this year with our children (old and new) settling in nicely. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, if after reading it you have any further questions, please email [preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk](mailto:preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk) and we will do our best to answer.

### Allergies

Please ensure your child does not bring any items containing nuts into the setting as we do have a child with a nut allergy, please check labels of items such as cereal bars, chocolate, pesto. Thank you

### Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 27th September at 8pm at Clipston Village Hall, we encourage all parents to attend. The AGM is an opportunity for parents to gain an insight into the workings of the setting, progress in the previous year and plans for the coming year as well as information on helping your child get ready for "big school". During the meeting committee members for the coming year will be elected.

Our management committee is made up of parent volunteers who undertake a variety of roles including chair, treasurer, secretary, and fundraising. They meet each half term to review the workings of the setting and make key business decisions. The committee raises funds to invest in new equipment and support the setting financially. Some members of the committee will be standing down this summer so if you are interested in getting involved, please speak to Sam or any member of the committee.

### COVID-19

We are following the latest government guidance which 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>

We understand the rules now, however if a member of your household does have coronavirus, we would urge you to consider keeping your child at home even after a negative PCR test as we are a small group who do not socially distance and with vulnerable members. I am sure you appreciate we would all be at high risk of spreading this nasty illness if it were to get in so to keep each other as safe as possible please take extra precautions where possible.

## **E-safety**

We hope you are enjoying seeing the photographs of your children on tapestry playing with other children within the setting. Please respect the privacy of all our families and ensure these photographs remain within your family group and are not shared on social media.

We understand that an increasing number of young children are now having access to laptops, tablets and phones and have attached some information which you may find useful to keep your little people safe online. We hope you find it useful.

## **Facebook**

Please follow us on Facebook – SteppingStonesPreschoolClipston

## **Forest school**

There will be a parent briefing regarding Forest school on Thursday the 16th of September from 9-9.30am at the setting, this will be an opportunity to hear all the information you will need to prepare your child for the experience and to ask any questions.

Forest school will officially begin on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, before that we will be settling the children (new and old) into the setting and preparing them for the new adventure - talking about Forest school, playing with mud, planting and doing practice walks around the village.

## **Illness**

As children begin to mix again it is inevitable that we will experience an increase in child illness such as coughs and colds. Please do not bring your child to Stepping Stones if they are poorly, and do not bring them if they need medicine such as Calpol – it is not nice for a child who feels poorly to be in a busy setting and obviously germs are spread easily within a small group of children playing closely together.

If your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms please keep them at home and get a PCR test as recommended by the government.

## **Jane**

I am sad to announce that one of our team members, Jane, will be leaving us at Christmas. We will be recruiting a new member of the team which will be advertised locally, the role will be approximately 11 hours per week and will include Forest school. If you know of anyone who is interested in working in our lovely preschool, please do put them in touch with us.

## **Outdoors**

We will continue to make full use of our outdoor space daily. Please ensure your child comes with appropriate shoes and coat to play outdoors in all weathers.

## Social evening

We are hosting a social evening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at The Orbel Room (behind the church), Clipston from 7.30pm. It is an opportunity for parents / carers and staff to get to know each other in a more relaxed environment, we do hope you will join us, everyone welcome.

**Looking forward to seeing you very soon....**

## Term dates

Autumn term first half	Thursday 2nd Sept – Friday 22nd Oct 2021
Half term break	Monday 25th Oct – Monday 1st Nov 2021
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

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