



September Newsletter

We have had a super start to the new school year.

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27th September at 8pm at the Orbell Room, (at the back of Clipston church). We hope you can attend; it is a great opportunity to hear more about the Stepping Stones business, meet other parents and the reception teacher from Clipston school will attend to talk about school readiness.

Bags

Children should bring a bag to Stepping Stones daily, it should contain spare shoes such as slippers, trainers or pumps, a change of clothing including socks and any other personal essentials your child may need during the day. Toys from home should not be included. It is really helpful if all items are labelled with your child's name.

Christmas

I know we have only just come back but it is worth noting that our last day of term is Wednesday 20th December. As is tradition, on the last day we will be going to the village hall and the children will be performing a nativity show. After the show there will be party games and a picnic lunch. All children are invited, including those who do not usually attend on a Wednesday. It is a much-loved event in the annual calendar and one I am sure you will want to book in your diary. More information will follow nearer the time but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Committee

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 year so if you are interested in getting involved, please speak to Sam or any member of the committee.

Family board

In our butterfly room we have a family board, a board where we display the current children's photos with their families. If you have not already, please bring in one or two photos of your family for the display. Thank you in advance.

Forest school

Forest school will officially begin on Thursday 21st 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.

There will be a separate parent briefing on Thursday the 14th 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.

Funding

All children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare from the term after their 3rd birthday. We will calculate your hours and prepare your forms ready for your signature.

If you are entitled to 30 hours funding or 2-year-old funding you will need to apply on the Northamptonshire Council website, they will provide you with a reference number to send to us.

If you have already been claiming 30 hours funding, please ensure you update it every 3 months as requested by the HMRC.

Hygiene

We will be continuing with regular supervised handwashing for all children throughout the day, including on arrival, after using the toilet and before and after eating. We would encourage you to also supervise handwashing at home at these times to support consistency for your child. Children will be reminded to catch their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or an elbow. We will continue to promote the “catch it, bin it, kill it” approach.

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.

Term dates

Autumn term first half	Tuesday 5 th September – Friday 20 th October
Half term break	Monday 23 rd October – Monday 30 th October 2023
Autumn term second half	Tuesday 31 st October – Wednesday 20 th December 2023
Christmas break	Thursday 21 st December 2023 – Tuesday 2 nd January 2024
Spring term first half	Wednesday 3 rd January – Friday 16 th February 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February – Monday 26 th February 2024
Spring term second half	Tuesday 27 th February – Thursday 28 th March 2024
Easter break	Tuesday 2 nd April – Friday 12 th April 2024
Summer term first half	Monday 15 th April – Thursday 23 rd May 2024
Summer half term	Friday 24 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
Summer term second half	Monday 3 rd June – Friday 19 th July 2024

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

preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk

Registered Charity No. 1023443



Stepping Stones Social Evening



Please join Stepping Stones staff
and Committee for drinks!

Thursday, 14 September 2023

From 7:30pm

In the Orbell Room behind
Clipston church



Stepping Stones Pre-School

DUCK RACE AND FAMILY PICNIC



Haddon Fields, Clipston



Date: Saturday 23 September 2023



Time: 11:00am



Bring your
own picnic



Sponsor a duck!
Prize for the
winner

