



Newsletter June 2025

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. As always if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to us.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 10th June – Stay and Play session (2:00-3:00)

Friday 13th June – Stay and Play session (8:45-9:45)

Saturday 21st June we will be selling refreshments at the Clipston Music Festival on the Recreational Field just outside the village. We will also have a separate stand offering loom bands kits and bracelets, and a tombola, plus selling raffle tickets for our Big Summer Raffle. This is a fun, family outing, so please do join us if you can, and if you can volunteer to help us for an hour, we would be **exceptionally** grateful (please sign up using the relevant sheet at Stepping Stones). The festival opens at 2:30pm and we will be serving refreshments until 6:00pm.

Monday 30th June – our Wild Science expedition for all our children on Monday 30th June (1:00pm-2:30pm) to Clipston Village Hall, to meet a variety of animals! Please see below for further details.

Friday 11th July we will be drawing our Fundraising Raffle at Stepping Stones. Tickets will be on sale shortly and will be purchased from Stepping Stones or from any member of the Stepping Stones Committee. Some of our great prizes include a £50 voucher for Avatar Dining, a family voucher for Riverside Hub, a voucher for Clearly Nails, a case of beer from Braybrooke Brewery, and a voucher for a lesson at Clipston Riding School. We will be giving you all the opportunity to take some home with you to sell, and we really appreciate your support with this!

Friday 18th July we are planning our End of Year show and party. This is the final day of the academic year. See below for further information.

Thursday 25th September – our annual AGM in Clipston Village Hall (see below for further information)

Topics this month

This month our topics will include: dinosaurs; lifecycles; books and stories; the summer and our holidays; Wild Science and animals. They are welcome to bring in a relevant book/toy from home that they would like to share with the other children.

Please note that these topics are looked at as part of our daily activities, via the craft table, group time and story-time, but the children will have plenty of their usual free play as well, in which they can choose their own activities.

Stay and Play sessions

Our Stay and Play sessions this month are:

- Tuesday 10th June 2:00-3:00
- Friday 13th June 8:45-9:45

No need to book, just come along.

If you are really keen to come to a Stay and Play session and these times/days don't suit you, then please email me, and we will organise something with you directly.

Parent Surveys - feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed their forms. We were delighted that all the parents said that they would rate Stepping Stones as either 'Outstanding' or 'Good', and that they were all satisfied with the service provided and would recommend Stepping Stones Pre-School to friends or family. Thank you!

Many of you kindly wrote really lovely comments about the work we do. Here are some of the ones we have printed out and put on display:

"There's consistency amongst the pre-school setting which settles my child well."

"Good staff to child ratio which means we can relax knowing our child will always get attention."

"Staff engage the older children well with activities and prepare them for school."

"My son is struggling with his speech/language and they are going above and beyond to support him and us as a family."

"Staff are good at informing parents how their child's day has been."

"We would not have gone to any other nursery!"

"We find that the staff are very approachable and friendly. They always seem to support the children when entering the setting and throughout the day when needed. The children are always happy to go to nursery."

"Smaller setting. More of a 'home away from home' feeling."

We have read all the feedback and would like to make a few points:

- The Parent Noticeboard is situated along the passageway outside the pre-school where you queue to drop-off and collect your children. We use the noticeboard to advertise events, give you details about the childrens' snacks, and to post each monthly newsletter.
- Photographs of the members of our Management Committee are on display near the front door, alongside photographs of all members of staff.
- A suggestion was made that we might introduce uniforms, but we have always wanted to ensure that Stepping Stones Pre-school is available to everyone in the community, irrespective of their financial situation, and we do not want to pressure parents/carers into paying for a uniform which their child may only wear for a few mornings a week.

Thank you all again for your feedback.

Children's portrait photographs – are you a photographer?

Historically a local professional-photographer parent kindly volunteered a morning (and editing time) to photograph the children for individual portraits, which we then sold to raise money for Stepping Stones. It was a fantastic fundraiser and a great opportunity for our families to have some wonderful photographs of their children. Unfortunately, she is no longer able to do this for us and so we wondered if there are any other parents or friends with portrait photography skills who might be able to take over. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss this further. We would be incredibly grateful for help with this.

Wild Science

We have booked a company called Wild Science to bring a range of 5-8 small animals to meet us on Monday 30th June (1:00pm-2:30pm) at Clipston Village Hall. They will be a mix of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. The last time we did this the children met a giant African snail, a lizard, a snake, a guinea pig, and a colour-changing tree frog!

The children will be divided into two groups for two half hour sessions with the animals, and the entire event will run between 1:00pm and 2:30pm. The children will also enjoy some animal crafts, games and stories.

If your child usually attends Stepping Stones on a Monday, please drop them off and pick them up from Stepping Stones at the usual times, bringing your usual packed lunch.

If your child does not usually attend on a Monday, please drop them off at Clipston Village Hall at 12:45pm and collect at 2:30pm. Please send your child already having eaten lunch.

We have not received all the permission forms yet. Please ensure that your form is returned otherwise your child will not be able to participate.

Stepping Stones Pre-School Committee

As you may know Stepping Stones Pre-School is run by an elected Committee of volunteers, primarily parents with children currently attending the setting. This ensures that major decision making is in the hands of the people who use and benefit from the setting. There are loads of ways you can contribute, and the brilliant thing is that you don't need any experience to make a real difference.

Our current Committee are:

Andy Blake Chair	Louise Gowling Treasurer	Ellis Wheeler Secretary
Sorrel Gray	Lily Faulkner	Sean Faulkner
Danielle Nutley	Katelyn Williams	

Our annual AGM, at which members will be elected, will take place on **25th September in Clipston Village Hall**. Please put this date in your diaries! This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, find out more about Stepping Stones, and see how you can get involved. Additionally, there will be a talk given by Miss Gallone, the Reception teacher at Clipston Primary School, about preparing children for the move to big school, which is highly informative in learning how you can help your child get ready in his/her preschool year.

At this year's AGM we will be looking for a new Secretary and Treasurer.

Please see below for further information about the current Committee and the work they do, and please do not hesitate to ask if you would like further information on this. We are very grateful for any support you can give us, and it all goes back into Stepping Stones and therefore the children.

Sunshine and clothing...

As we are looking forward to some sunshine coming soon we'd like to be prepared. When it arrives...

- Please send your child with a sunhat with their name in
- Please apply suncream prior to arrival. We recommend the 'once a day' type. Please do not send suncream into the setting.
- Please send your child in closed-toe shoes suitable for running. No flip-flops, open-toe sandals, or crocs please.
- Please ensure that girls in dresses have shorts or leggings on underneath.
- Please make sure your child's clothing and shoes are labelled with their name clearly.

Allergies

Please ensure your child's packed lunch does not contain NUTS. It has always been the policy for Stepping Stones to not have nuts and we currently have a child with a known nut allergy so please, please be very careful what goes into the packed lunch tomorrow and always. This includes cereal bars and chocolate spread that contains nuts. Many thanks.

Term dates

Summer term second half	Monday 2 nd June – Friday 18 th July 2025
Summer break	Monday 20 th July – Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Autumn term first half	Monday 27 th September – Friday 24 th October 2025
Half-term break	Monday 25 th October – Friday 31 st November 2025
Autumn term second half	Tuesday 4 th November – Friday 19 th December 2025

High Street, Clipston, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9RU
 01858 525113 info@steppingstonesclipston.co.uk
 Registered Charity No. 1023443

Stepping Stones Preschool

2025/2026 Academic Calendar

 Pupil Days	 Bank holidays
 School holidays	 Teacher Training Days

Sep-25						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tue		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	
Thu		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat		6	13	20	27	
Sun		7	14	21	28	

Oct-25						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

Nov-25						
Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Dec-25						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tue		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	31
Thu		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat		6	13	20	27	
Sun		7	14	21	28	

Jan-26						
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	4	11	18	25		

Feb-26						
Mon		2	9	16	23	
Tue		3	10	17	24	
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22		

Mar-26						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

Apr-26						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

May-26						
Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thu		7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	

Jun-26						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tue		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	
Thu		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat		6	13	20	27	
Sun		7	14	21	28	

Jul-26						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

Aug-26						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Training Days:

- 1 1st September 2025
- 2 3rd November 2025
- 3 23rd February 2026
- 4 22nd May 2026
- 5 20th July 2026

Committee – what we do and how to get involved

The setting is run by Mona Zala, the Manager, and Kelle Coulthard, Deputy Manager, and the wonderful team.

Stepping Stones Pre-School 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 cannot legally operate. We rely heavily on, and are very grateful for, the goodwill and dedication of our volunteers.

There are lots of ways you can contribute to the Committee, and the great thing is you don't need any previous experience to make a difference. Research has shown clear benefits when parents are actively involved in their child's learning and development from an early age. Volunteering for your pre-school's Committee offers an ideal opportunity for you to become more involved, both actively and practically, in this aspect of your child's life. It will also make a real difference to how your child's setting is managed.

The Committee members are the charity Trustees of the Pre-School and together they are responsible for the overall management and smooth running of the pre-school.

Three essential Committee roles, which have to be filled each year (according to Charity Commission legislation) are Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. The charity must have a minimum of 5 Trustee volunteers in total. Other roles include Health & Safety, Safeguarding, and Staff Liaison.

There is a sub-Committee of volunteers who meet to organise Fundraising events. Fundraising is a vital part of supporting the charity.

In building new partnerships with other parents and professionals, the Committee come up with and implement new fundraising ideas, getting exciting plans off the ground.

Examples of things that we have been discussing in recent Committee meetings:

- Fundraising: Clipston Music Festival – discussing logistics for the day, in which the Committee and volunteers will be serving refreshments and providing other activities to raise money for the Pre-School
- Fundraising: the Summer Draw: collating the prizes, finalising and printing the raffle tickets, discussing advertising
- End of Year celebrations: finalising plans for the End of Year Show and Party

You will personally benefit from joining the Committee by meeting other parents, updating existing skills, and also learning new ones, as well as putting something positive back into your local community and supporting your child's development.

We are hoping to hold an informal get-together at the beginning of the September term, giving us all a chance to meet and chat. Please look out for further information.

If you feel unable to join the Committee but would like to participate in other ways, we welcome parents into the setting who can share their skills and expertise with the children. In the past this has included playing instruments, bringing in sheep, sharing aspects of other cultures, or explaining jobs such as being a policeman. Please speak to a member of staff if you have any ideas you would like to share. You will be very welcome!

If you would like to join either or both groups please email info@steppingstonesclipston.co.uk. If you have further questions or ideas please do talk to a member of staff or an existing member of the Committee.



STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL AGM



WHERE: CLIPSTON VILLAGE HALL

WHEN: THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER AT 8:00PM

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL AGM!

IT'S A GREAT CHANCE TO:

- MEET THE STAFF AND OTHER PARENTS OVER WELCOME REFRESHMENTS
- LEARN MORE ABOUT STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL FROM THE MANAGER, CHAIRPERSON AND TREASURER'S REPORTS
- BECOME A STEPPING STONES TRUSTEE OR JOIN OUR FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE, AND GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHILD'S CARE
- HEAR FROM MISS GALLONE (HEAD) AND MRS MILLER (TA), RECEPTION CLASS AT CLIPSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR 'BIG' SCHOOL



WWW.STEPPINGSTONECLIPSTON.CO.UK

