



Newsletter October 2021

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.

Additional Sessions

We know lots of parents are considering sending their children for more hours next year. We will be sending a "request for sessions" letter for January 2022 in the first week of November, it is important that you return the form asap to enable us to plan for staffing the increase in demand. We do already know that some children will be booking for Friday all day, so we will be opening until 3.10pm on a Friday from January if this is of interest to you. If you are unsure, please do talk to us.

Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting on Monday 27th September, we do hope you found it informative.

Thank you to those committee members who have supported Stepping Stones Pre-school for the past year who have now stepped down – Carly Jeanneret, Lisa Gariano, Nicola Hendry-Adams, Mark Littlewood, Rachael Littlewood and Sarah Broadway.

And finally, thank you to those committee members who stayed on to support us for another year, and to those who have joined the committee this year.

I am delighted to announce the Committee of 2021-2022 as follows:

Louise Gowling - Chair

Laura Keir – Treasurer

Rosie O'Connor – Secretary

Demi Robinson - Marketing

Hannah Osborne – Staff Liaison

Helena Scott – Health and Safety

Katie Copping – Fundraising

Amazon charitable donations

If you've never heard of it but you do shop at Amazon please consider shopping using AmazonSmile, it is Amazon's way of giving to charities and we are registered. Shop AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1023443-0>, and Amazon donates to Stepping Stones Pre School Clipston, at no cost to you.

Applying for Primary School

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.

Parents of summer born children can apply to delay their child's start, if you are considering this please speak to us as there is lots of information available and you would need to begin the process much earlier.

Christmas

Dare I say it, Christmas will be here before you know it. We will be taking part in the Christmas jumper day on 10th December – everyone who is in on that day is encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper. We will also be doing a show and party for the children at the end of term, more details to follow.....

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.

Family Board

We are keen to develop a family board within Stepping Stones Pre-school – an area where children can have photos of themselves with their family. They can show their friends their pictures, and it will encourage them to talk about their families. Great for well-being, sense of belonging, speaking and listening skills. Please can you all provide a photo or two of your child with their family for the display. Thank you

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 is unable to attend due to illness please contact us by telephone 01858 525113, the setting is open from 8am or you can leave a message.

Local Lotto

Support us by joining the local lotto. Set up to support community projects in the local area, Local Lotto operates on the principle of raising money within the community for the community, they empower local good causes to raise money in a fun and effective way. In a time of shrinking budgets and increased community need, Local Lotto enables people to support the causes they care most about, helping good causes to connect with their supporters.

A ticket for Local Lotto costs £1 a week and 50p will go directly to good causes!

Go to www.local-lotto.co.uk and search for Stepping Stones Pre-school Clipston to join in – Good luck!

Oral Health

One in four children suffer from rotting teeth by the time they start primary school – a shocking statistic I am sure you will agree. We know as parents of young children you will be brushing their teeth twice a day, and hope that you are getting them checked by the dentist too. At Stepping Stones we are supporting oral health by promoting healthy eating. A high intake of sugar is one of the biggest reasons for the tooth decay statistics, to help your children we only provide milk or water to drink – no squash and would encourage you to fill their water bottles with just water too. We have also stopped any snacks which have high sugar such as biscuits on our snack rota, moving toward more fruit and veg options. We encourage you to consider what you are putting in the lunch boxes and to check the sugar content. Children aged 4-6 should have no more than 19g of free sugars a day. Perhaps consider dried fruit or a yoghurt as a healthier treat. If you would like more information please do talk to 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.

Roaming Rabbit



We have a Stepping Stones Rabbit called “Roaming Rabbit” – named as such because he roams the homes of the Stepping Stones children. He has been in hibernation since March 2020 but we think it is time he came out to play. We will be sending him home with a child next week, he can stay for a few days and then please return him. If he has enjoyed having a sleepover at your house please add to his diary, you can include photos but please be aware the diary does travel with him so only add suitable pictures which you are happy to share with all our families.

Most children love to have Roaming Rabbit to stay but if you would rather not join in at this time, please do let us know.

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
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 – Friday 22nd July

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