September 2026 Newsletter

Dear all, we are delighted to welcome you all back to Stepping Stones this week and have had a super start to the new academic year.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 10th September – Kelle will be holding a Forest School parent briefing from 9:00-9.30am at Stepping Stones for the children attending Forest School this year. See below for further details.

Thursday 17th September is our Annual General Meeting at Clipston Village Hall. Please see below for further information.

Tuesday 6th October is our first Stay and Play session from 9:00 to 10:00. See below for further details.

Friday 9th October is our second Stay and Play session from 9:00 to 10:00. See below for further details.

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 17th September at 8:00pm in Clipston Village Hall. We really hope you can attend. It is a great opportunity to hear more about Stepping Stones business, to meet staff and other parents, and to become part of our volunteer Committee team. Also, always a highlight, Miss Gallone, the Reception teacher from Clipston Primary School, will be attending to give you ideas about how to help your child get ready for 'big' school.

Tapestry

For safeguarding purposes please do not share photographs from Tapestry on social media.

Parent Whatsapp group

We have a parent whatsapp group which is mostly used for reminders about notices, parties and events. Please text Rosie O'Connor (07870665284) if you would like to be added.

Allergies

Please ensure your child's packed lunch does not contain NUTS. We currently have a number of children with severe nut allergies, so please, please be very careful what goes into your child's packed lunch. This includes cereal bars and chocolate spread that contains nuts. Many thanks.

Committee

Our management Committee is made up of parent volunteers who undertake a variety of roles including Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Health & Safety, and Safeguarding. This year we are also introducing a separate Fundraising Committee to plan and run our events through the year. 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.

Please speak to Mona or any member of the Committee if you would like to discuss this at all.

Bags/coats

Children should wear a waterproof coat and bring a bag to Stepping Stones daily, containing spare shoes, such as trainers or pumps, plus a change of clothing including socks, and any other essentials your child may need during the day.
Toys from home should not be included.
It is essential that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.
In the 'How you can help us' document you will find information about My Name Tags which are personalised stickers for clothing and possessions, and we have a special Stepping Stones code so that we raise some funds each time the code is used.

Christmas

I know we have only just come back but it is worth noting that our last day of term is Thursday 17th 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 refreshments available to buy. All children are invited, including those who do not usually attend on a Friday. It is a much-loved event in the annual calendar and one I am sure you will want to book in your diary. The show will then be uploaded to Tapestry. More information will follow nearer the time but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Family board

In our Butterfly Room we have a family board where we display photos of our current children with their families. If you have not already done so, please bring in one or two photos of your family for the display. You can email them to us if that's easier, and we can print them out. Thank you in advance.

Forest School

Forest School will officially begin on Thursday 17th September. Before that we will be settling the children (new and old) into the setting and preparing them for their new adventure - talking about Forest School, playing with mud, planting, and doing practice walks around the village.

Kelle, our Forest School Leader, will provide a separate parent briefing on Thursday 10th September from 9:00-9.30am at Stepping Stones. 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. If your child is attending Forest School this term, please come along to Kelle's briefing to find out more. If you can't attend, please let us know and we will give you the relevant information.

Outdoors

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

Social media – please follow us!

Stepping Stones has Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please do follow us to see what we're up to each week. It's also a place for us to advertise our fundraising events.
Instagram: steppingstonesclipston
Facebook: Steppingstonespreschoolclipston

Stay and Play

Our next Stay and Play sessions are:

- Tuesday 6th October 9:00-10:00
- Friday 9th October 9:00-10:00

No need to book, just come along and let your child(ren) show you what they like to do here at Stepping Stones!

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

Volunteering – talking about your jobs/hobbies/languages

The children love it when we have volunteers who come in and talk to us about their jobs/hobbies or the countries that they're from – do any of you have a job or hobby that might be of interest to a group of young children? We would be delighted to invite you in to tell everyone about it. We have previously had lambs visiting, plus a bee-keeper, a policeman, and a nurse. Parents have also come in to talk about other countries that they're from. If you are interested in this please speak to Mona or another member of the Stepping Stones team.