



## September 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 school year.

### Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September** is our Stepping Stones parents social evening at the Orbel Room in Clipston (behind the Church). Please see the poster below for further details.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September** – Kelle will be holding a Forest School parent briefing from 9:00-9.30am at Stepping Stones. See below for further details.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** is our Annual General Meeting at Clipston Village Hall. Please see below for further information.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October** is our first Stay and Play session from 9:00 to 10:00. See below for further details.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** is our second Stay and Play session from 2:00 to 3:00. See below for further details.

### Allergies

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

### Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 8:00pm at 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 the Committee team. Also, always a highlight, Miss Gallone, the Reception teacher from Clipston Primary School, will be attending to give a talk about getting children ready for school. Please see the flyer below.

### 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.

## **Christmas**

I know we have only just come back but it is worth noting that our last day of term is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Friday. 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, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, and Fundraising. This year our Chairman and Secretary will be standing down, and being a charity, we must fill these roles for Stepping Stones to continue to open, so please ask if you are interested in getting involved. You can either speak to Shelley or any member of the Committee. 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.

## **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, 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 19<sup>th</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.

Kelle, our Forest School Leader, will provide a separate parent briefing on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Outdoors**

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

## **Social media – 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.

## **Stay and Play**

Our next Stay and Play sessions are:

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 9:00-10:00
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2:00-3:00

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.

### **Volunteering – talking about your jobs/hobbies**

The children love it when we have volunteers who come in and talk to us about their jobs/hobbies – 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.

### **Volunteering – talking about your languages/culture**

We're also interested in whether any parents would be interested in coming in to tell us about other cultures around the world and to teach the children a few words in another language.

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Registered Charity No. 1023443



# Stepping Stones Social Evening



Please join Stepping Stones staff  
and Committee for drinks!

Wednesday 11 September 2024

From 7:45pm

In the Orbell Room behind  
Clipston church





# STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL AGM



Where: Clipston Village Hall  
Date: Thursday 26 September  
Time: 8:00pm



This is a great chance to meet the staff and other parents, plus you can find out more about Stepping Stones, and it is your chance to join the Committee and get involved with your child's care. There will also be a brilliant talk by Miss Gallone, Reception teacher at Clipston Primary School, about preparing your child for 'Big School'



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