



Newsletter June 2024

Firstly, we are delighted to have Shelley here with us. Everyone has given her a wonderful welcome and please do not hesitate to ask if you'd like to have a chat with her.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 22nd 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 temporary childrens' tattoos, a lucky dip, loom bands kits and bracelets, and other entertainments. 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 takes place from 2:00pm and we will be serving refreshments until 6:00pm.

Monday 1st July we will be going on our annual trip to Kelmarsh Hall – see below for further information.

Friday 12th July we will be drawing our Fundraising Raffle at Stepping Stones. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from Stepping Stones, from Naseby village shop, or from any member of the Stepping Stones Committee. We will be giving you all the opportunity to take some home with you to sell, and we really appreciate your support with this!

See the poster below for a list of some of our fantastic prizes!

Friday 19th 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.

Kelmarsh Hall – Monday 1st July

We are looking forward to our annual trip to Kelmarsh Hall on Monday 1st July. We have only received half of the forms back. Please can let us know if your child/children will or will not be coming as soon as possible so that we can fully plan for the day. If you have any questions at all please do just ask.

End of year

On Friday 19th July, our last day of term, we will be hosting our End of Year Show and Party, which this year will be Goldilocks and the Three Bears. You will be receiving a letter in the coming weeks with full details explaining the plan, which, if you have been to one before, follows the same traditions. In brief, the show will take place at 10:30am at Clipston Primary School hall, followed by a little party and goodbyes.

Presents for Leavers 2024

Rosie is kindly putting together a photo collage of the children leaving us in July to go to big school, as a Leavers' present from the Committee. If your child is scheduled to leave please send her a photograph of your child as soon as possible, either by whatsapp or by email to rosie.oc@outlook.com. It doesn't

need to be professional - a happy snap would be perfect, as long as it is only of your child. If you do not want your child to be included, please just let her or us know.

Summer...

- Please send your child with a sunhat with their name in
- Please apply sun cream prior to arrival. We recommend the “once a day” type. Please do not send suncream into the setting
- Please send your child in closed shoes suitable for running – no flipflops, open sandals or clogs please

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 actually 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 annual AGM, at which members will be elected, takes place towards the end of September. 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 the Reception teacher at Clipston Primary School about preparing children for the move to big school, which is highly informative and really useful 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 Chairman and Secretary.

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.

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. This includes cereal bars and chocolate spread that contains nuts. Many thanks.

Term dates

Summer term first half	Monday 15 th April – Thursday 23 rd May 2024
Half-term break	Friday 24 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
Summer term second half	Monday 3 rd June – Friday 19 th July 2024
Summer break	Monday 22 nd July – Monday 2 nd September 2023
Autumn term first half	Tuesday 3 rd September – Friday 25 th October
Half-term break	Monday 28 th October – Monday 4 th November 2023
Autumn term second half	Tuesday 5 th November – Friday 20 th December 2023

Please see the bottom of this newsletter for the 2024-25 academic year dates, which are in line with those for Clipston VC Endowed Primary School.



STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL CLIPSTON

SUMMER PRIZE DRAW 2024

Prizes include:

- A ONE NIGHT B&B FAMILY ROOM FOR 4 AT THE 5* HEADLAND HOTEL, NEWQUAY(*);
- TWO NIGHTS B&B FOR DOUBLE ROOM AT THE EXMOOR FOREST INN, SIMONSBATH(*);
- A NORTHAMPTON SAINTS RUGBY SHIRT SIGNED BY THE WHOLE 2024 SQUAD;
- A 30-MINUTE AEROPLANE LESSON WITH CM PARAMOTORS;
- A SIGNED LEICESTER TIGERS SHIRT;
- A 30-MINUTE PARAGLIDING LESSON FROM CM PARAMOTORS;
- A CHARLOTTE SPARRE SILK SCARF (WORTH £80), KINDLY DONATED BY CAVELLS', OAKHAM;
- A SIGNED NORTHAMPTON SAINTS RUGBY BALL;
- £70 VOUCHER FROM THE TOLLEMACHE ARMS, HARRINGTON;
- A DAY PASS FOR 2 PEOPLE TO WEST LODGE FARM PARK;
- A VOUCHER FOR GEL NAILS FROM CLEARLY NAILS, MARKET HARBOROUGH;
- A 30-MINUTE FACIAL REFLEXOLOGY TREATMENT FROM BAREFOOT HOLISTICS;
- A VOUCHER FOR TWO PEOPLES' ENTRY TO LAMPORT HALL & GARDENS,
- PLUS A HOT DRINK AND CAKE; £10 VOUCHER FROM LANGTON GARDEN CENTRE;
- A PARENT/TOT SESSION AT CLIPSTON RIDING SCHOOL; £20 ROSIE PAINTS VOUCHER;
- A BAKERS KIT (WHITE CHOCOLATE & RASPBERRY MACARONS) FROM HONEYWELL BAKES;
- £10 VOUCHER FROM THE PAINT POTTLE; £20 WELLAND VALLEY FEEDS VOUCHER;
- A BAKERS KIT (SHARING PLATTER WITH CRACKERS) FROM HONEYWELL BAKES;
- £10 VOUCHER FROM HARTBEEPS; A JCB TRACTOR TOY FROM SHARMANS OF PYTCHLEY;
- A SELECTION OF HOMEMADE BISCUITS FROM HONEYWELL BAKES;
- A BOTTLE OF WARNERS APPLE & PEAR GIN, AND MORE...!



WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED PRIZES TO US. THANK YOU!

TICKETS COST £250 EACH

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
HEADLAND HOTEL: TO BE BOOKED BETWEEN 01/10/2024 AND 31/03/2025, EXCLUDING THE FESTIVE PERIOD
EXMOOR FOREST INN: TO BE BOOKED BETWEEN 01/10/2024 AND 31/03/2025, EXCLUDING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY



PRIZE DRAW FRIDAY 12TH JULY

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM
STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL, OR NASEBY VILLAGE SHOP
OR FROM A COMMITTEE MEMBER
CONTACT 01858 525113 OR INFO@STEPPINGSTONESCLIPSTON.CO.UK

Committee – what we do and how to get involved

The setting is run by Shelley Sutcliffe, the Manager, and Mona Zala, 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. So we rely heavily on the goodwill and dedication of our volunteers. These volunteers must be at least 60% parents/carers who currently have children at Stepping Stones Pre-School. We also often have members whose children have previously attended the setting. However, anyone can become a volunteer.

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.

Three essential Committee roles, which have to be filled each year (according to Charity Commission legislation), are Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary. Other roles include Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Staff Liaison, Marketing, and Fundraising.

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.

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 setting. This can mean anything from organising a fundraising event to negotiating with a landlord over the terms of a lease.

A lot of the work the Committee does is fun – building new partnerships with other parents and professionals, coming up with and implementing new fundraising ideas, getting exciting plans off the ground – but there are some regular jobs too. The three main roles on the Committee are Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. These roles must be filled for the pre-school to be allowed to operate.

A breakdown of the individual roles can be found on the following pages, explaining briefly what each role does, along with some duties that are common to all Committee members. The tasks can be shared between different members, so all the work does not fall on one person.

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

- Staff/setting update: listening to feedback about how things are going at the setting, and working out what action, if anything, is needed.
- 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
- Recruitment:
- Finance: looking at our current financial position and discussing any further steps that need to be taken

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!

The Current Committee at Stepping Stones



Katie Usher
Co-Chairman



Hannah Osborne
Co-Chairman



Louise Gowling
Treasurer



Melissa Hill
Safeguarding



Rosie O'Connor
Secretary



Katelyn Williams



Emma Davies
Health and Safety

Stepping Stones Preschool 2024/2025 Academic Calendar

Pupil Days	Bank holidays
School holidays	Teacher Training Days

Sep-24						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30
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	29	

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

Nov-24						
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		

Dec-24						
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	

Jan-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		

Feb-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		
Sun	2	9	16	23		

Mar-25						
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	

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

May-25						
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		

Jun-25						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30
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	29	

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

Aug-25						
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	

- Training Days:**
- 1 2nd September 2024
 - 2 4th November 2024
 - 3 23rd May 2025
 - 4 21st July 2025
 - 5 22nd July 2025