



Newsletter January 2025

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful festive period and are well rested ready for a new term. There are various dates for your new diaries below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to us.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 15th January at 5:00pm is the deadline for Primary School Applications for those children starting school in September 2025. Applications must be made via the Gov.uk website. We recommend not leaving it until the last day in case of any technical difficulties. If you need any help, please do not hesitate to ask. Please do not miss the deadline.

Sunday 9th February at 2:00pm we will be holding our popular Lambing Fundraising event at a local farm. It's lambing season and the children may take part in a competition to guess which ewe will be the first to have a lamb! There will also be tea and cake available of course. It is a great event and we would highly recommend contacting Louise to book asap! See the poster below for further details.

Topics this month

This month our topics are: healthy eating; Burns Night and Scotland; other countries around the World; and Chinese New Year. The children will primarily be focusing on these themes in the activities we do. They are welcome to bring in a relevant book/toy from home that they would like to share with the other children.

Progress Reports and Parent meetings

All children will receive a written report about their child's progress, written by the child's key worker, during the month of February. In March all parents will be invited to a face-to-face meeting with their child's key worker.

Shoes

Please can the children wear shoes that they can do up themselves as it reduces the amount of time they can all play if we have to spend time putting them all on each child.

Forest School

A reminder that dresses must not be worn for Forest School as it makes the waterproofs bulky and uncomfortable for the child. Trousers, t-shirts and jumpers please. Lots of layers are advisable in this cold weather. Also please can the children bring gloves with fingers NOT mittens as mittens restrict the child's grip and they cannot participate in all the activities on offer.

Voluntary Payments

We really appreciate the donations that are made to us throughout the year and would just like to remind you all how useful the Voluntary Payments are. Primarily they cover essential costs like the stationary and toilet/cleaning products, but it also goes towards resources like the childrens' snacks, craft materials and activities, both in the setting and at Forest School. We are happy to accept any amount, as it all goes towards the setting, and therefore towards the education of your children. Please see the bottom of the newsletter for some of the activities that your donations have financed.

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.

Easyfundraising

Please remember to use easyfundraising when you do your online shopping this year. Over 7,500 brands including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Stepping Stones Pre-school, Clipston, for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway. #MakeltCount <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/steppingstonespsclipston>

Term dates

Spring term first half	Monday 6 th January – Friday 14 th February 2025
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February – Monday 26 th February 2025
Spring term second half	Monday 24 th February – Friday 4 th April 2025
Easter break	Monday 7 th April – Monday 21 st April 2025
Summer term first half	Tuesday 22 nd April – Thursday 22 nd May 2025
Summer half term	Friday 23 rd May – Friday 30 th May 2025
Summer term second half	Monday 2 nd June – Friday 18 th July 2025

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

Some of the activities that your donations help to fund:



Stepping Stones Lambing Event

Date: Sunday 9th February 2025

Time: 2:00-3:00

Stepping Stones Pre-School is hosting a fundraising visit for children and their families to see the ewes and lambs at Little Oxendon Farm, at the kind invitation of Did and Louise Gowling.

For donation of your choice, each family may enter our lambing competition to guess which ewe will lamb first (the ewes have been numbered!)

There will be a prize for the winning guess!

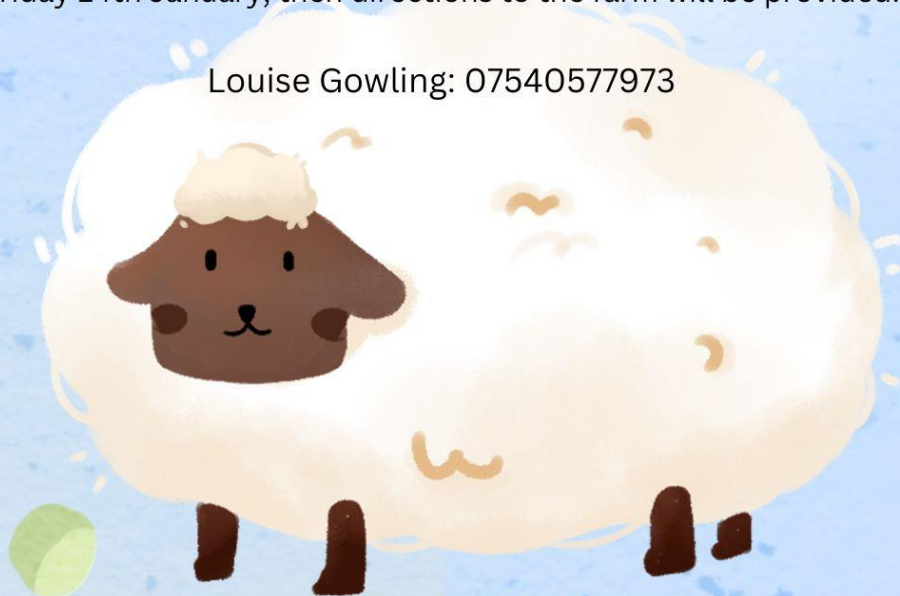
Please let Louise know if you would like to take part and choose a number.

Tea, coffee and cake will be on sale, so don't forget to bring your pennies!

We will be outside and in the barn, so warm clothing and wellies are highly recommended.

Please confirm to Louise whether you will be attending by Friday 24th January, then directions to the farm will be provided.

Louise Gowling: 07540577973



Pregnant ladies are advised that there is a risk to unborn babies by being near lambing sheep, therefore attend at your own risk.