January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, as always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 15th January at 5:00pm is the deadline for Primary School applications for those children starting school in September 2026. 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.
The allocations will be given out on Thursday 16th April.

16th - 23rd February is half term.

Monday 23rd February is a Teacher Training Day.

Tuesday 24th February is the beginning of the second half of term.

Saturday 28th February is our Chris Blake concert. We are expecting this to be a fantastic event, following Chris's previous events in Clipston. Tickets are on sale now - please see the flyer below for further details and use the QR code to purchase tickets, or click on this link:
https://stepping-stones-pre-school-clipston.sumupstore.com/product/classical-music-from-films-concert

Thursday 12th March is the Joules Seconds Sale at Market Harborough Football Club. Our event last year was a huge success. The hall was absolutely packed with clothes, shoes and accessories for all ages and sizes. We will be looking for volunteers to help set it up and, as Katelyn mentioned at the Christmas nativity show, this means you will get first choice out of all the clothes! See the flyer below for details.
Tickets are for sale now and can be purchased by clicking on this link:
https://stepping-stones-pre-school-clipston.sumupstore.com/product/joules-outlet-sale

Friday 27th March is the final day of the Spring Term.

Welcome

Welcome back to all our children and a big hello to our new starters this term! Everyone has settled back into the new term really well and we are looking forward to all the activities and fun that will be had this term.

Parent Whatsapp group

Please let Rosie at Stepping Stones know if you would like to join the Parent Whatsapp group if you are not already a member.

Topics this month

This month our topics will include New Year, healthy eating, Burns Night (Scotland and other countries), and Winter!

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.

Forest School

A reminder that dresses must not be worn on Forest School days as they make 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, so they will have to borrow some Stepping Stones gloves.

Invoices and voluntary payments

In line with new Government rulings your invoices will look slightly different, providing you with a clearer breakdown of charges, both mandatory and voluntary.
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. We are happy to accept any amount, as it all goes towards the setting, and therefore towards the education of your children.

Outdoors

We will continue to make full use of our outdoor space daily. Please ensure your child comes with appropriate shoes and a warm waterproof coat to play outdoors in all weathers. Please also send your child with a NAMED hat and gloves. We recommend cheap supermarket gloves which are thin, so easy to play in, but if they get mucky or lost it's not a disaster.

Term dates

Spring term first half	Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February 2026
Spring half term	Monday 16th February – Monday 23rd February 2026
Spring term second half	Tuesday 24th February – Friday 27th March 2026
Easter break	Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026
Summer term first half	Monday 13th April – Thursday 21st May 2026
Summer half term	Friday 22nd May – Friday 29th May 2026
Summer term second half	Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July 2026

Notable dates
Monday 23rd February, Friday 22nd May, Monday 20th July
Bank holidays: Friday 3rd April, Monday 6th April, Monday 4th May, Monday 25th May

Stepping Stones Pre-School presents

Music from the movies

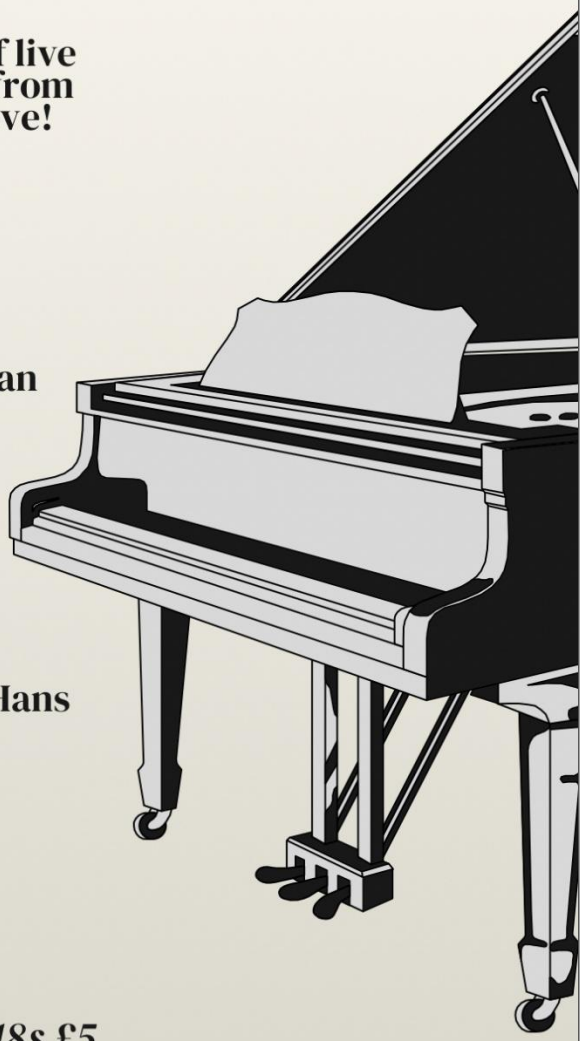
Book your tickets by scanning here!

Join us for an exciting evening of live classical musical performances from film scores that you know and love!

Chris Blake
Royal College of Music
Ulster Orchestra
Piano

Evie Mills
Northern Ireland's Young Musician of the Year 2023
Royal Academy of Music
Cello

Julie Piggott
Ulster Orchestra
Violin



Including pieces by Beethoven, Hans Zimmer and John Williams plus many more!

28th February 2026 - 7pm

Clipston Village Hall

Adults £12.50 / Students and U18s £5

Please book in advance using QR code above

Bar & refreshments available

Joules

OUTLET SALE

Thursday March 12th

Harborough Town Football Club • LE16 9HF

6pm - VIP early access £8
(Limited availability)

6.30- 8pm General access £5.75

Tickets on the door £9
(Subject to availability)

All proceeds go to
Stepping Stones Preschool –
Charity number, 1023443