



## October Newsletter

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

### The Announcement

Clipston Primary School has announced today that the Local Authority has decided it is not going to continue with its proposal to change the age range of the school to include 3-year-olds within their current Early Years Foundation Stage class at this time.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to all those who attended.

We were very fortunate to have lots of parents keen to support Stepping Stones by joining the committee, an essential part of our business, so from now the committee members are:

Emma Davies  
Charlotte Horn  
Louise Gowling - Treasurer  
Melissa Hill  
Rosie O'Connor – Secretary  
Hannah Osborne  
Sammie Robinson - Chairperson  
Katie Usher  
Kaytelyn Williams

### School applications

A reminder to apply for your child's primary school place on the gov.uk website. Applications close on the 15th of January 2024 for September 2024 start. If you need any help with your application please just ask.

### Childcare vouchers

We accept childcare vouchers, the government runs a scheme for working parents where you can register and get tax free childcare – if you think you might be eligible then follow the link to find out more. Any questions please talk to Sam, millions of people in the UK are missing out on £££'s savings.

[Get Tax-Free Childcare: step by step - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## **The Early Years Curriculum**

The curriculum we follow is called the Early Years Foundation Stage, it is a guide of what your children should be learning during their early years. To accompany the curriculum there is a parents guide called: "what to expect in the EYFS, a guide for parents", please follow the link below to see the full document, it is a thorough read!

[What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf \(foundationyears.org.uk\)](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/what-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf)

## **Christmas**

The Stepping Stones Christmas show and party will be on the last day of term - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at Clipston Village Hall. You may wish to keep the date available. All children, even those who do not usually attend on a Friday are involved. More details will follow.

Also, please don't buy your Christmas cards too early! We are in the process of making Christmas cards with all the children. We will be sending them to a printing company and by November you will have the option to purchase professionally printed home-made cards and gifts. The printing company will donate 10% of all purchases to Stepping Stones so not only will you get some super products you will also be supporting our fundraising efforts.

## **Family board**

In the butterfly room we have a family board, it is a lovely display of our children with their families. If you haven't already done so, please bring in a photograph of your child with their family to display on the board. It is lovely for the children to see their family and they like to show their friends and talk about who's who. Thank you.

## **Forest school**

Forest school has got off to a super start with all children enjoying exploring the new environment. We have been bug hunting, log climbing, playing the hedgehog game and pass the glove. We have had a great time and are looking forward to many more weeks of fun at forest school.

## **Fundraising event**

Save the date! On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 3.15pm we will be hosting a Christmas window event, it will be a walk around the village looking at the Christmas windows then back to Stepping Stones for tea and cake. More details will follow.

## **Outdoors**

We will continue to make full use of our outdoor space daily so please send your child with appropriate shoes and coat for all weathers. As the weather gets colder, please also send your child with a hat and gloves which have their name in, we recommend cheap supermarket gloves which are thin so your child can still play in them and if they get mucky or lost it's not a disaster.

## Lunch

Please note we are a nut free preschool, please do not send your child with any products which contain nuts including peanut butter, nutella products and cereal bars. Thank you. Food should be packaged in a way that the child is able to open it themselves where possible, it would really help if you can try practising opening common packets / containers at home.

## Stay and play

We will be continuing to offer stay and play dates for parents / carers throughout the year on different days and at different times to try to accommodate all needs. The next dates are:

Monday 6th November 8.40 – 10am

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 8.40 – 10am

No need to book, just turn up. If the child's primary carer is unable to attend and another close relative would like to, they are very welcome, maximum 2 adults per child please. Younger siblings are welcome but please supervise them throughout the session.

## Volunteers

Do you have job, skill or interest you would like to share with the children, we would like to hear from you. We like our children to experience a wide range of people and to learn about our world from the experts – You! If you are able to come into the setting to teach the children and share your skills and experience, either as a one off or on a regular basis we would like to hear from you, in the past we have had a doctor, a dentist, a bee keeper, and a banjo player, we have also had a mum who came in to do cooking and another who came in to do reading. Please talk to Sam if you think you can help.

## Term dates

Autumn term first half	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Half term break	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October – Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Autumn term second half	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October – Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Christmas break	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 – Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024
Spring term first half	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Spring term second half	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Easter break	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Summer term first half	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024
Summer half term	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024
Summer term second half	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024

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