



Newsletter March 2024

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

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 6th March – World Book Day – we will be celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday instead of the official date of Thursday 7th March because of Forest School. The children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character. Throughout the week we will have a theme of 'finding pleasure in reading' and we encourage the children to bring a book in to share any time during that week.

Wednesday 13th March – Stay and Play session – see below for further details.

Friday 15th March – Comic Relief – see below for further details.

Saturday 16th March – Spratton Hall Easter Egg Hunt – open to all children 7 years and under, and their families, and is free of charge to all guests. See the poster below for further information.

Wednesday 20th March – Stay and Play session – see below for further details.

Saturday 20th April (10am – 12noon) we are holding a Fundraising Coffee morning at Clipston Village Hall. Please do come along and support us if you can.

Monday 24th June we will be going on our annual trip to Kelmarsh Hall – more details will follow, but due to the logistics of the event you will be required to drop your child off slightly later than usual (around 9:30am) and collect them earlier than usual (around 1:30pm). There will be an option to bring them back to Stepping Stones to finish the day if they usually attend on a Monday afternoon.

Friday 19th July we are planning our end of year show and party. This is the final day of the academic year.

Reports

The latest reports for your children are now available on Tapestry, unless your child started in the past four months (then you get a different report.). The team have worked very hard writing them and we really do appreciate you reading them and adding your thoughts and comments to them. If, as a result of reading the report, you would like a meeting with your keyworker please just ask. We will be doing our annual parent meetings for all parents during March, but you do not have to wait, if you want to speak to your keyworker or Sam at any time, as always please just say.

Comic Relief

We will be supporting Comic Relief on Friday 15th March. This year the theme for Comic Relief is 'Do Something Funny for Money'. The children are encouraged to come in fancy dress, and we will be doing funny activities throughout the day! We have lots of dressing up outfits at Stepping Stones so please let us know if you would like to borrow one – no need to go out buying. We will be doing a collection for the Comic Relief charity and a donation of £1 is recommended. We will be using the opportunity to teach the children that there are people who are not as fortunate as us.

Stay and Play

The next stay and play sessions are:

Wednesday 13th March 8:40am-9:40am

Wednesday 20th March 2pm-3pm

No need to book, just come along.

If you are super keen to come to a stay and play session but these times / days do not suit you, then please email me, and I will organise something with you directly.

Rates

In light of the imminent increase in Minimum Wage and our rising running costs, from 1st April 2024 our sessions will be charged at £19.50, the consumables will be £2.50 per day, and lunch club will be £3.25.

The charges for consumables and Forest School will remain voluntary but we appreciate any amount you can give us. It all goes towards the setting, and therefore your children.

Recruitment

We are recruiting for an Early Years Educator on a 0-hours contract on whom we can call when we need extra help (for example when staff are sick or on training courses). There are no fixed days or hours of work, and this would suit a flexible individual with a passion for working with children.

Funding

If you pay for childcare in England, from April, many working parents of two-year-olds will be entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare a week.

You can apply now if your child was born at least a year and 36 weeks ago, and the funded hours kick in during the term after they turn two. Some helpful information for those of you with babies - from September, eligible parents of children aged 9 months+ will be entitled to funded care too – but obviously they can't start at Stepping Stones until they're two and a half.

Applications can be made and further information can be found on the Gov.uk website.

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

Spring term first half	Wednesday 3 rd January – Friday 16 th February 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February – Monday 26 th February 2024
Spring term second half	Tuesday 27 th February – Thursday 28 th March 2024
Easter break	Tuesday 2 nd April – Friday 12 th April 2024
Summer term first half	Monday 15 th April – Thursday 23 rd May 2024
Summer half term	Friday 24 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
Summer term second half	Monday 3 rd June – Friday 19 th July 2024

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SPRATTON HALL

EASTER EGG HUNT

Children aged 7 and under (and their parents) are invited to an eggcellent Easter eggstravaganza!



SATURDAY 16TH MARCH | 10AM TO 12PM

Hunt for clues on a Spring stroll around our grounds, solve the puzzle and win an Easter prize! Refreshments will be available on the day.

Places are limited, please email
registrar@sprattonhall.com
to book your place.