



Newsletter April 2024

HAPPY EASTER! We hope you all have a super break and look forward to seeing you again when we return on Monday 15th April.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th April (10:00 – 12:00) we are holding a Fundraising Coffee morning at Clipston Village Hall. There will also be cosmos, sweet peas and pansies plants for sale with all proceeds going to Stepping Stones. Please do come along and support us if you can. Please see the poster below for further information.

Saturday 11th May we are holding a Fundraising Indoor Car Boot Sale from 10:00 to 12:00 in Naseby Village Hall. Please contact Rosie O'Connor (rosie.oc@outlook.com) to book a table (£10 per table). Please see the poster below for further information.

Saturday 22nd June we will be selling refreshments at the Clipston Festival on the Recreational Field just outside the village. This is a fun, family outing, so please do join 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.

Fundraising and Comic Relief

Thank you for all your support with our fundraising this term. We know the children are going to really enjoy the benefits, and we look forward to our events next term.

The Lambing Event in February at the Gowlings' farm was great fun, with the children meeting all the new lambs and their mothers. It raised a wonderful £150.

The Easter Hunt last weekend was a huge success raising a brilliant £365, with support from the community as well as our Stepping Stones families. The winner of the chocolate hamper was Pete and our winner for 'Name the Chick' was Leo. Congratulations to the winners!

Thank you for joining us in supporting Comic Relief on Friday 15th March. The children enjoyed coming in dressed up, and we raised £30 to donate to this great cause. Thank you.

School allocation

For those of you whose child is due to start primary school in September 2024 you will find out your allocated school on Tuesday 16 April. We sincerely hope you all get your first choice. As soon as you know please tell us which school your child will be attending so that we can assist you with transition as appropriate. Good luck.

Rates and setting changes

A copy of the letter we recently sent out to parents regarding procedural changes to the setting is copied at the end of this newsletter. We have announced that we will be altering our ratios for 3-year-olds and above, and we will be accepting 2-year-olds from September 2024.

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.

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

High Street, Clipston, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9RU
01858 525 113 info@steppingstonesclipston.co.uk



Join us for

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 20th April

10am to 12 noon

Clipston Village Hall

Come and enjoy Tea, Coffee & Yummy cakes with all proceeds going to support Stepping Stones Pre-school

Plants for sale - sweet peas, cosmos and pansies - all proceeds to Stepping Stones

Cash and card accepted

Stepping Stones Pre-School presents



INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE

£10 a
table

Tea, coffee
and cake
for sale

Saturday 11th May

10:00-12:00

Naseby Village Hall,
NN6 6DE

Contact Rosie O'Connor to book a table
rosie.oc@outlook.com
07870665284





Monday 18 March 2024

Upcoming Changes

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you will know Stepping Stones Pre-School lease part of Clipston Primary School's building and have done so for many years. From September 2024 the annual rent that we pay will increase by a considerable amount from £1,650 to £15,849.

We are sure you can appreciate that Stepping Stones will need to make some procedural changes to accommodate the increase in rent.

Starting immediately, we will be altering our ratios. Previously we worked to a 1:5 ratio across all age groups, however we will now move towards a 1:8 ratio for 3-year-olds and above, which is in line with legal requirements and with other nurseries/pre-schools. The ratio for 2-year-olds will remain at 1:5.

To further enhance the service we offer to the local community, from September 2024 we will be taking children from the age of 2 years. We currently take children from the age of 2½. Please let us know if this is something that would benefit you and your family, and please do tell your friends if it may be of interest to them.

Alongside this, we will continue to fundraise on a regular basis, with lots of exciting events coming up. Here is a list of the events planned for this term:

- Easter Hunt, from Clipston Village Hall, Saturday 23 March
- Clipston Coffee morning, Clipston Village Hall, Saturday 20 April (we will also be selling cosmos, sweet peas and pansies)
- Jumble Sale, Naseby Village Hall, Saturday 11 May
- Clipston Festival, Clipston Recreational Field, Saturday 22 June (we will be selling the refreshments as in previous years)

More information will be given out nearer the events themselves, but please put these dates in your diaries and come along if you can! We truly value the support of all our families, and the local community.

If you have any questions, or can support us as a charity in any way, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Stepping Stones team or Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Stepping Stones Pre-School Committee

Stepping Stones Pre-School
High Street, Clipston, LE16 9RU 01858 525113