



Newsletter December 2021 – Part 2

I would only usually write one newsletter a month, but I have so much news this week that I thought it may help to put it all in one place. As always, if you want to discuss any of the enclosed please don't hesitate to get in touch.

COVID-19

After our lovely nativity I think you would all agree that it was rubbish to hear about our coronavirus cases and our thoughts went out to those families. Without wanting to tempt fate I am please to say that we have not been informed of any further cases linked to Stepping Stones since Monday and those affected will be coming out of isolation early next week.

Unfortunately, there have been two confirmed cases within Clipston school so though it seems to have calmed here it is never far away. We continue to encourage everyone to be following the guidance, doing the lateral flow tests and going for a PCR at the first sign of symptoms.

As we are classed as having "an outbreak" we have obviously gone to our outbreak plan which includes taking away all soft furnishings, taking away shared malleable products such as sand, playdough etc and only using this for individuals and then disposing, and all staff have worn face masks at all times. Although we may be deemed clear of the most infectious period by early next week we intend to maintain these measures until the end of term.

We are following the latest government guidance which can be found on the webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

Advent calendar

At Stepping stones we have a lovely advent calendar – each day a child takes the toy from the pocket, so if your child comes home with a small plastic animal it is likely it was their turn and is theirs to keep.

Cancelled – Party Wednesday 15th December

Due to our covid outbreak we have cancelled the party plans next Wednesday – we will, as always, have a fun week but I am sure you will agree it is unwise at this time to open to the extended group in one session.

FUNDRAISING EXTRAVAGANZA

It has been an incredible week for fundraising at Stepping Stones this week, thank you all for your generosity.

The Raffle

Most of you know that our committee have worked very hard to put together a Christmas raffle and this year it was one like no other, with lots of amazing prizes and a huge selling effort from our committee – the raffle made an incredible

£1,615.00

Thank you so much to everyone who bought tickets and especially to our amazing committee that made it happen. I am blown away!

Dandy cards

I am pleased so many of you liked the cards and gifts designed by your little people. Dandy cards donated £46.60 this week from the profits from their sales.

Save the children

We had a Christmas jumper week this week and together we have donated £23.00 to the Save the Children Charity, thank you to everyone who has supported this.

Thank you to Tom

Thank you to Tom Copping who today has fixed our leaking shed by replacing the felt on the roof, our toys are safe from the weather for another day. As a charity we do not have huge funds for such jobs and we really appreciate your time and skill in sorting this for us.

With one week to go until we close:

We Wish you all a Very Merry Christmas

Term dates

Autumn term second half	Tuesday 2nd Nov – Friday 17th Dec 2021
Term break	Monday 20th Dec – Tuesday 4th Jan 2022
Spring term first half	Wednesday 5th Jan – Friday 11th Feb 2022
Half term break	Monday 14th Feb - Monday 21st Feb 2022
Spring term second half	Tuesday 22nd Feb - Friday 1st April
Term break	Monday 4th April - Monday 18th April
Summer term first half	Tuesday 19th April – Thursday 26th May

Half term break	Friday 27th May – Friday 3rd June
Summer term second half	Monday 6th June – Thursday 21st July*

***please note the change of date as we will now be closed on Friday 22nd due to the additional day allocated to schools for the Queens Platinum Jubilee**

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