



Newsletter February 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

Friday 2nd February Spratton Hall are offering a Discovery Day. Please see poster below for details.

Saturday 3rd February FINAL REMINDER: we are holding a fundraising event at a local farm. It's lambing season and children will be able to take part in a competition to guess which sheep will be the first to lamb, as well as tea and cake of course! It is a great event and I would highly recommend contacting Louise to book asap. See the poster below for further details.

Thursday 22nd – Saturday 24th February Home is Where the Start Is. An online Family Festival organised by the Early Years Alliance. See the poster 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.

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.

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 tomorrow and always. This includes cereal bars and chocolate spread that contains nuts. Many thanks.

What to expect over the coming weeks

All children will receive a written report about their child's progress, written by the child's key worker, during the month of February. In March all parents will be invited to a face-to-face meeting with their child's key worker. As always, if you want to talk to your child's keyworker or Sam at any time please just ask.

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
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Home is where the
start is

Communication counts

An online family festival of fun and learning

THURSDAY 22 - SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2024

Book your free sessions today!

During this online family event, hosted by the Early Years Alliance, we will share information, advice and ideas on how you can support children's learning and development at home through lots of fun, exciting sessions for you and your children.

Activities will include:

- * Communication and language sessions
- * Fun music classes with Boogie Mites
- * Makaton signing taster sessions
- * Bilingualism tips and ideas

.... and much more!



Book your free sessions today:
<https://bit.ly/FamilyFestival2024>






SPRATTON HALL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

MUSIC & DANCE DISCOVERY DAY

Friday 2nd February 2pm – 3pm

Children aged 2 to 4

Our Music and Dance Discovery Day is a the perfect opportunity for pre-school children and their parents to spend some time at Spratton Hall exploring our facilities and chatting to our fantastic Early Years teachers.

There will be music and dance-based activities for the children, supervised by our specialist teaching staff, as well as some tasty refreshments for all.

TO BOOK OR FIND OUT MORE:



registrar@sprattonhall.com



Scan



sprattonhall.com

Places fill very fast so early booking is advised.

Stepping Stones Lambing Event

Date: Saturday 3rd February

Time: 10.30-11.30

Stepping Stones is hosting a fundraising visit for children and their families to see the ewes and lambs at Little Oxendon Farm.

For a donation of your choice, each family can enter our lambing competition to guess which ewe will lamb first (the ewes have been numbered)!

There will be a prize for the winning guess!

Please let Louise know if you would like to choose a number.

Tea, coffee and cake will also be on sale, so don't forget to bring your pennies!

We will be outside and in the barn so warm clothing and wellies are recommended!

Please confirm to Louise if you plan to attend by Friday 26th January, then directions to the farm will be provided.

Louise:07540577973

Pregnant ladies are advised there is a risk to unborn babies by being near lambing sheep, therefore you attend at your own risk.

