



Newsletter November 2022

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, if after reading it you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Applying for Primary School

For children due to start school in September 2023 the deadline for applications is 15th January 2023 at 5pm - please do not miss the deadline as it could mean you do not get the school of your choice, even if you are in catchment.

Parents of summer born children can apply to delay their child's start, if you are considering this please speak to us as there is lots of information available and you would need to begin the process much earlier.

Christmas

Our Christmas plans are well underway. Please note the following dates for your diary:



11th November – Deadline for ordering Dandy Christmas cards

4th December – Christmas movie morning

5th – 9th December – Christmas Jumpers

16th December – Christmas Raffle Draw

16th December – Nativity show and Christmas Party

Our nativity show will take place at Clipston Village Hall at 10.30am on [Friday 16th December](#). All children are invited to take part in the show, rehearsals have begun! Children who do not usually attend Stepping Stones on a Friday should be brought directly to the village hall for a 10.30am start. The event will last for 30 minutes approximately. After the show the committee will be organising some party games and dancing and children should bring a party packed lunch. Each child should have an adult (parent / carer) stay with them and supervise them as the staff team will not be at the party. Teas and cakes will be on sale for adults. Children should be taken home by their appropriate adult after the party. If your child usually attends Stepping Stones on a Friday afternoon and this is a problem please speak to Sam asap. You will receive an individual letter about your child's part and appropriate outfit next week.

We are hosting a Christmas movie morning at East Farndon Village Hall on [Sunday 4th December](#) at 10.30am. This will be a fundraising event, drinks, snacks and cakes will be on sale (card or cash payments). It is open to all families and friends of Stepping Stones Pre-school, no ticket required, you can just turn up and donate as you wish. The film will be Paw Patrol – Pups save Christmas – a great way for all of us to get into the Christmas spirit. We hope you can join us.

To enable all children to take part in Christmas Jumper day we will be hosting Christmas jumper week! Children are encouraged to come to Stepping Stones in Christmas jumpers [week commencing 5th December](#) and we will be collecting money for the Save the Children charity, recommended donation of £1 for the week. We will be teaching the children about the Save the Children charity and how not all children are as fortunate as them.

Stepping Stones Committee are launching a Christmas raffle, there are some amazing prizes!, this years 1st prize is a “booze barrow”, yes a wheelbarrow full of booze, with some mixers! Tickets will be available from Stepping Stones and all committee members from 15th November – all proceeds will go to Stepping Stones Pre-school so please support us by buying tickets yourselves and promoting them to friends and family. The raffle will be drawn on [Friday 16th December](#).

You have all received the example Christmas card your children made – the deadline for ordering cards and other gifts is [Friday 11th November](#). The printing company will donate a percentage of the profits to Stepping Stones so please do purchase them if you like what you see.

It is a busy time with lots going on so please do ask if you have any questions about any of the above. Thank you.

[Children in Need – Friday 18th November](#)

We will be joining in with Children in Need Day – all children are invited to come in wearing their pyjama's and bring their favourite teddy!

[January 2023 sessions and Funding](#)

You have received a form to request sessions for January 2023. You will no doubt be aware that we are very busy this year and we may not be able to accommodate all requests, we have opened up the option for Thursday at the setting to try to ease the pressure, all children can book a Thursday at the setting, only children in their preschool year can book the Forest school option. Please ensure you return the form by 17th November at the latest to enable us to plan. Children who turn 3 before the end of December will become eligible for funding in January 2023, if both parents work you may be entitled to 30 hours funding, if you think you might be please follow the instructions on the Northamptonshire website and if you are please supply your code before 10th December. In order for us to claim your funding we will be preparing the funding forms for all eligible children and asking you to sign before we close for Christmas.

Outdoors

As the cold weather approaches please ensure your child comes with an appropriate coat, shoes or wellies for playing outdoors in all weathers as well as gloves and a hat, with their name in. We will continue to make full use of our outdoor space daily. If your child is due to start school in September this is the winter they need to learn to put their own gloves on – you will be really helping them by practising this skill at home.

Reports

The team have been busy writing reports for all children.

- For children who started at Stepping Stones before July 2022, your child's report is available to view on Tapestry. Please do read the report, add comments and sign, it is really important to us that we know you have read the report and to gain your feedback. Once you have read the report, if you would like an appointment to discuss your child with their key worker please let us know and we will organise this.
- For children who started in September you will be given your report at the meeting arranged with your keyworker.

Stay and play

Monday 21st November 2 – 3pm and Friday 25th November 2 – 3pm

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.

Term dates

Autumn term second half	Tuesday 1 st November 2022 – Friday 16 th December 2022
Christmas break	Monday 19 th December 2022 – Monday 2 nd January 2023
Spring term first half	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 – Friday 10 th February 2023
Half term break	Monday 13 th February 2023 – Monday 20 th February 2023
Spring term second half	Tuesday 21 st February 2023 – Friday 31 st March 2023
Easter break	Monday 3 rd April – Friday 14 th April 2023
Summer term first half	Monday 17 th April – Thursday 25 th May 2023
Half term break	Friday 26 th May – Friday 2 nd June 2023
Summer term second half	Monday 5 th June – Friday 21 July 2023

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