



Newsletter February 2025

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

17th-21st February – it's half-term. Monday 24th February is a Teacher Training day and we return on Tuesday 25th February.

Wednesday 5th March – (our) World Book Day – see below for further details.

Monday 10th March – Stay and Play session (2:00pm-3:00pm) – see below for further details.

Wednesday 19th March – Stay and Play session (8:40am-9:40am) – see below for further details.

Wednesday 19th March and Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day, Comic Relief – see below for further details.

Topics this month

This month our topics include: Love and Valentines Day; our favourite stories; and farm and baby animals. The children will primarily be focusing on these themes in the activities we do. They are welcome to bring in a relevant book/toy from home that they would like to share with the other children.

Progress Reports and Parent meetings

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. Please look out for the relevant emails.

Staff

We are sad to announce that Karina Mimms left us on Wednesday 12 February due to personal reasons. Karina has been a valued member of the Stepping Stones team since September 2022. We wish her all the best for the future.

We are delighted to have two members of staff joining the team. Marie Green is a new addition to the team who we look forward to getting to know better after half term. Sarah White was a member of staff at Stepping Stones for many years and is returning to join us on Mondays and Tuesdays from March. We hope you will welcome them both.

Lambing Event

Thank you to all the families for attending our Lambing Event fundraiser on Sunday. Thank you also to Louise, Did, Jake and Wilf Gowling for inviting us all to the farm. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was incredible to see lambs being born while we were there! Some photos from the visit are at the bottom of this newsletter.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday 5th March instead of the official date of Thursday 6th March (because of Forest School). The children are invited to dress up in their pyjamas for the day to encourage bedtime reading. 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 with their friends any time during that week.

Comic Relief & Red Nose Day

We will be supporting Comic Relief on Wednesday 19th March and Friday 21st 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 sessions

The next stay and play sessions are:

Monday 10th March 2:00-3:00pm

Wednesday 19th March 8:40am-9:40am

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

Early Years Foundation Stage – information for Parents

As members of the Early Years Alliance, we regularly benefit from their resources. This month they have sent us a link to a useful breakdown of what, as parents, you should expect from the Early Years Foundation stage which covers ages 0-5 (including your child's Reception year at primary school). Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions.

Please click [HERE](#) to visit the link.

Self-care and independence

Please can the children wear shoes that they can do up themselves as it reduces the amount of time they can all play if we have to spend time putting them all on each child. Likewise if you are able, we'd

love it if the children were more confident in doing up the zips on their coats for themselves. We work on this every day with all the children here at Stepping Stones, and many of them are good at it, but it would be great if you could encourage your child to do their own coats up at home if possible.

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.

Term dates

Spring term first half	Monday 6 th January – Friday 14 th February 2025
Spring half term	Monday 17 th February – Tuesday 25 th February 2025
Spring term second half	Tuesday 25 th February – Friday 4 th April 2025
Easter break	Monday 7 th April – Monday 21 st April 2025
Summer term first half	Tuesday 22 nd April – Thursday 22 nd May 2025
Summer half term	Friday 23 rd May – Friday 30 th May 2025
Summer term second half	Monday 2 nd June – Friday 18 th July 2025

Notable dates:

Monday 24th February – teacher training day

Friday 18th April – bank holiday

Monday 21st April – bank holiday

Monday 5th May – bank holiday

Friday 23rd May – teacher training day

Monday 26th May – bank holiday

Monday 21st July – teacher training day

Tuesday 22nd July – teacher training day

High Street, Clipston, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9RU

01858 525113 info@steppingstonesclipston.co.uk

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