



October Newsletter 2024

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter, as always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 9th October is our second Stay and Play session from 2:00 to 3:00.

Monday 28th October-Monday 4th November – Half Term – please note that Monday 4th November is a Teacher Training Day so we will open again on Tuesday 5th November (Remember, remember!)

Tuesday 2nd December we have invited Revd Tom Grant, Clipston's vicar, to come to talk to the children about the Christmas story.

Friday 20th December is our final day of term, and we will be performing our Nativity Show in Clipston Village Hall. Full details will be provided nearer the time.

Annual General Meeting – New Committee and role of Chair

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 26th September. Thank you to everyone who attended. The Minutes are available on request.

As part of the meeting we voted in our new Committee, but unfortunately no one stepped up to take on the role of Chair.

In accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission **we have 6 weeks to fill the role of Chair**. Unless someone volunteers by the time we hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on Monday 4th November, Stepping Stones Pre-School will have to close its doors with immediate effect after half term from Tuesday 5th November.

We can provide information about the role of the Committee which includes specific information about the role of Chair to anyone on request.

The role does not need to be taken up by a parent or carer of a current Stepping Stones child. It can be taken up by anyone who is keen to support us and help maintain a successful setting.

Our previous Co-Chairs Hannah Osborne and Katie Usher will remain until the role has been filled (thank you both), and are happy to answer any questions about it, as are any members of the Committee.

We were very fortunate to have lots of parents keen to support Stepping Stones Pre-School by joining the Committee, and we are very grateful to them. The other members of the Committee are as follows:

Sorrell Gray
Lily Faulkner - Safeguarding
Sean Faulkner – Health & Safety
Louise Gowling – Treasurer
Danielle Nutley
Ellis Wheeler - Secretary
Katelyn Williams

School applications

A reminder to apply for your child's primary school place on the gov.uk website. Applications close on the 15th January 2025 for a September 2025 start.

If you need any help with your application, please just ask. Please see below a flyer from Clipston Primary School about arranging visits if they're of interest.

Grant

We are delighted to announce that we have secured a grant of £3,726 from the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit (KWCB).

In accordance with the rules of the grant, these funds will go towards a number of very specific areas such as: books; sensory equipment (with a particular focus on SEND); Forest School tools and kit; indoor and outdoor toys; cooking and gardening equipment; and marketing material. These funds will make a significant difference to the childrens' experiences and learning at Stepping Stones, and we are incredibly grateful to KWCB for their generosity.

Unfortunately the funds cannot go towards our running costs, such as salaries and the rent, for which we will continue to hold our fundraising events throughout the year as before, and welcome any support you can give us.

Topics this month

This month we're focussing our activities around Autumn and Harvest Festival. This month Halloween and Diwali both fall during the Half Term break so the children will also have the opportunity to participate in activities related to these two festivals in the weeks beforehand.

Allergies

We are a nut-free setting. Please ensure your child's packed lunch does not contain NUTS. We currently have a child with a severe nut allergy, so please be very careful what goes into the packed lunch. This includes cereal bars, peanut butter and chocolate spread that contains nuts.

Bags/coats

Children should wear a waterproof coat and bring a bag to Stepping Stones daily, containing spare shoes such as trainers or pumps, plus a change of clothing including socks, and any other essentials your child may need during the day. Toys from home should not be included. It is essential that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Book Wallets and our Lending Library

Each child now has their own Book Wallet in which they can take home a book from our Library. These books will be signed out from here in our Library Register and the books may be kept for one week. The children can then choose a new book to take home. We would appreciate that the books are cared for and returned to the setting in the same condition that they left it.

Christmas cards

Please don't buy your Christmas cards too early! We are in the process of making Christmas cards with all the children. We will be sending them to a printing company and by November you will have the option to purchase professionally-printed cards and gifts with your child's individual picture on. The printing company will donate 10% of all purchases to Stepping Stones, so not only will you get some super products, you will also be supporting our fundraising efforts.

Dance Lessons

We are organising for Amy from Miss Amy's Dance Academy to come in on a voluntary basis to work with the children. The children love our music and action sessions so we think they will really benefit from this.

Suggestions Box

There is now a Suggestions Box by the Front Door where parents can leave ideas or recommendations about things that we could do here at Stepping Stones. We're keen to hear from you all!

Outdoors

We will continue to make full use of our outdoor space daily. Please ensure your child comes with appropriate shoes and waterproof coat to play outdoors in all weathers. As the weather gets colder, please also send your child with a NAMED hat and gloves. We recommend cheap supermarket gloves which are thin, so easy to play in, but if they get mucky or lost it's not a disaster.

Parent Survey

Later this month we will be sending out a Parent Survey. We would be very grateful if you could take some time to give us your feedback so that we know about our successes and any areas that may need some improvement.

Social media – please follow us!

Stepping Stones has Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please do follow us to see what we're up to each week. It's also a place for us to advertise our fundraising events.

Volunteers

Do you have job, second language, skill or interest you would like to share with the children? If so we would like to hear from you. We love our children to experience a wide range of people, and to learn about our world from the experts – You!

If you are able to come into the setting to teach the children and share your skills and experience, either as a one off, or on a regular basis, we would love to hear from you. In the past we have had a doctor, a dentist, a bee keeper, and a banjo player! We have also had a mum who came in to do cooking and another who came in to do reading. Please talk to Shelley if you think you can help.

Easyfundraising

Please remember to use Easyfundraising when you do your online shopping this year. Over 7,500 brands such as ASDA, eBay, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Argos, Expedia, Tesco, Morrisons, TUI, and M&S, will donate to Stepping Stones Pre-school for FREE when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations really help us and all you have to do is register to use it, and then Easyfundraising will do all the hard work!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/steppingstonespsclipston>

Term dates

Autumn term first half	Tuesday 3 rd September – Friday 25 th October 2024
Half term break	Monday 28 th October – Monday 4 th November 2024
Autumn term second half	Tuesday 5 th November – Friday 20 th December 2024
Christmas break	Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January 2025
Spring term first half	Monday 6 th January – Friday 14 th February 2025
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February – Monday 26 th February 2025
Spring term second half	Monday 24 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

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 Registered Charity No. 1023443

Clipston Primary School



Admissions 2025

Prospective Parents are very welcome to visit us. Please contact the office to make an appointment. With a village location, idyllic grounds, excellent opportunities and a super staff team, every child achieves their best at Clipston. We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

01858 525261 Office@Clipston.northants.sch.uk

www.ClipstonPrimarySchool.org



Be Kind ~ Be Your Best ~ Be Happy