



Newsletter January 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, if after reading it you have any further questions, please email preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk and we will do our best to answer.

Staff Team

I am sad to announce that Sarah will be leaving Stepping Stones on Friday 14th January, we will be very sad to see her go but she has been offered an opportunity at another school which she could not refuse. I am sure you will join us in thanking Sarah for all her hard work for Stepping Stones over the past five years and wishing her every success in the future.

I am delighted to announce the arrival of two new team members, Kelle Coulthard and Jan Syer. We are extremely fortunate to have found and appointed two very experienced Early Years Educators and I am confident that they will settle in quickly and that your children will enjoy playing with them. Please join us in giving them a warm Stepping Stones welcome when you meet them.

Applying for Primary School – Deadline 15th January – don't miss it.

For children due to start school in September 2022 the deadline for applications is 15th January 2022 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.

COVID-19

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>

We understand the rules, however if a member of your household does have coronavirus, we would urge you to consider keeping your child at home even after a negative PCR test as we are a small group who do not socially distance and with vulnerable members. I am sure you appreciate we would all be at high risk of spreading this nasty illness if it were to get in so to keep each other as safe as possible please take extra precautions where possible.

Date for your diary

On Saturday the 5th of February 2022 we will be 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 1st to have the lamb – as well as tea and cake of course!

Family photo request

We are making a family board, we would like one or two pictures of your child with their family, it can be Mummy and Daddy or include pets or other special people, grandparents etc. we will be displaying the photos for all to see so please ensure they are appropriate (i.e. not in the bath). It is nice for children to see their loved ones on display, show their friends and talk about their families. Thank you in advance.

Outdoors

We will continue to provide opportunities for your children to play outdoors throughout the winter so please ensure they come dressed appropriately and bring gloves and a hat every day. Thank you.

Parent Whatsapp group

Rosie O'Connor (Kitty's Mummy and Committee Secretary) manages our parents Whatsapp group – a great way to keep in touch with other parents – if you are not on the group and do want to join please text Rosie directly on 07870665284 and she will welcome you onto the group.

Price increase

Along with the rest of society our costs are increasing and unfortunately this means we are in a position where we do need to increase our charges.

From April 2022 the rates will increase to:

£18.00 for a 3 hour session (morning or afternoon)

£3.00 for lunch club

We are very grateful to those families who pay our voluntary contributions and it is due to your generosity and support that we are not needing to increase the compulsory charges more and that we can maintain our excellent adult:child ratio's. We are not intending to increase the voluntary contributions this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support which helps us to provide the service we are proud of.

Satisfaction survey

Thank you to all of you who completed the survey in December, I am pleased that over three quarters of parents provided feedback which is so important to us. We will issue a summary of the survey over the coming days but overall, I can say that the feedback was very positive and we are delighted with the response.

Social event

We are hoping to plan another social event for parents, carers and staff in the near future, we are just waiting for the current covid wave to calm a little, we will update you with details soon.....

Term dates

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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