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# Stepping Stones Preschool Newsletter June 2019

***Hello and welcome back, we hope you had a lovely half term break. This term will be a busy one so lots to keep an eye out for.***

We are delighted to announce we have appointed a new Manager for Stepping Stones who will officially join the team in September 2019. Her name is Elaina Camenzuli, pictured below.



Elaina and her family are relocating from Hertfordshire to Northamptonshire. Elaina has eighteen years experience in childcare and for the past four years has been a Nursery Manager. Elaina is really looking forward to joining the team and meeting you all.

## **Progress Reports**

Staff will be busy completing reports for your children this term so you may find not as many observations will be added. Please feel free to add your observations from home, we love to see what the children are doing when they are not with us at the setting. Children that will be going onto school this year will receive their transition document in paper form. Please read, comment and return to your child's key worker.

## **Preschoolers – Tapestry**

If you would like to keep a copy of your child's Tapestry Learning Journey please bring in a blank memory stick and give to Sam by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

## **Weather Reminder**

The better weather is on the way so please ensure your child comes with a clearly named sunhat and suitable footwear (not crocs, slip-on sandals or flip flops). With regards to sun cream, can we please ask that this is applied before coming to the setting and for the children that attend all day we recommend an all day strength cream. We are sorry but we not have the capacity to apply cream while at the setting – if you do have concerns maybe a thin long sleeved top could be worn.

## **Top Tips for Talking**

Praise the child's efforts, even if the results aren't perfect. If a child makes an error in a word or sentence, simply say the correct version rather than pointing out the mistake. For example, if the child says, 'I goed to the park', you might say 'Wow, so you went to the park'.

*Rather than criticise, demonstrate the right way.*

## **Forest School**

Will start again on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately, even as the weather gets warmer children must have long trousers, long sleeved top and wellingtons, please also provide a sunhat and ensure sun-cream has been applied.

## **Improving Independence**

Can we ask parents with preschool children to allow their children time in the morning to do their own coat and shoes. This is one of the tasks that Reception asks that children can do unaided, when they join them in September.

## **Summer Ball**

Tickets are now available for the Stepping Stones Summer Ball on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – if you haven't got your tickets yet please see a member of the committee or staff team.



### **Bookstart Treasure – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June – 3pm**

We will be gifting the children going onto school their Bookstart Treasure Bags, parents are invited to come along and watch this. If your child does not normally attend this day, they are welcome to join us for this. Children can then be taken home once the gifting session has finished. In the meantime if you would like more information about Bookstart and the Treasure Bags please visit [www.bookstart.org.uk/bookstart-packs/bookstart-treasure-chest](http://www.bookstart.org.uk/bookstart-packs/bookstart-treasure-chest)



### **Clipston School Transition Dates**

Children, who will be joining Clipston School from September 2018, will have 2 transition sessions. The only date that will affect their time while at Stepping Stones is **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 8.50-12.00pm**. That morning you will take your child to the reception class and any children that are with us all day will be collected at 12pm by a member of staff and returned to the setting for their lunch and then be collected by you at 3.15pm as normal.

### **Management Committee**

The management committee is made up of parent volunteers who undertake various roles including Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Staff Liaison, Health & Safety, Marketing & Fundraising. They meet each half term to review the workings of the setting and to make critical business decisions. The committee raises funds to invest in new equipment and provide all the little extras like training etc. Some members of the committee will be standing down this summer so if you are interested in getting involved, please speak to Sam or any member of the committee (photos on display in the entrance area). If you don't wish to join the committee, please consider helping in other ways – attending our fundraising events or donating cakes/prizes when requested. One off donations can be made at any time and we are registered to claim gift aid.

**Term finishes on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Reopens on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

From September 2019 we will be open

**8.45 – 3.15 Monday to Friday**

If you know anyone looking for an “outstanding” preschool please spread the word as we still have spaces. Leaflets are available from reception.



### **Summer Trip – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Kelmarsh Hall**

This year the children will be visiting Kelmarsh Hall, can all children that attend on a Thursday please be taken there, not to the setting. Staff will be there to welcome you. Children that do not normally attend on a Thursday are welcome to join us but a parent will need to stay with them. We will be having a picnic lunch at 11.45am and all children will need collecting from Kelmarsh Hall at 12.15pm prompt. There will be someone at the setting to greet those children who will be attending Stepping Stones for the afternoon session after 12.15pm. Please remember clothing appropriate to the weather, apply sun-cream before arrival and bring a sun-hat and packed lunch, including a cold drink.

### **Clipston Festival – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Stepping Stones will be providing tea/coffee and cake at the festival this year. We are looking for volunteers to help serve for an hour session on the day. If you could help out please speak to Sam or any committee member, there is a sign up list in the reception of Stepping Stones. Cake donations will also be welcomed.

### **End of Year Show – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Village Hall**

This year the show will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am at the Village Hall. If your child usually attends Stepping Stones on Friday's please bring them to the setting as usual, we will walk them to the village hall and you can collect your child as soon as the show is finished, approximately 11.15am from the village hall. If your child does not usually attend Stepping Stones on a Friday please bring them straight to the village hall for 10.30am on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, and collect straight after the show. There will be an end of year party at the village hall straight after the show, it is organised by the committee and all parents / carers and children are welcome to stay and enjoy.

