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Stepping Stones
Preschool Newsletter
February 2019

Hello and welcome back – we hope you had a lovely half term break. As you are aware Sharon is leaving us to move onto pastures new. Her last day at Stepping Stones will be Friday 26th April. We are currently advertising for a new manager.

Parent Involvement and Visitors

If you have a particular hobby/interest that you think the children would love to hear about, please speak to a member of staff.

Tapestry - Progress Reports/Baseline Assessments

This month staff will be completing progress checks on all children and for our new starters they will have a baseline assessment completed by the end of February. We will advise when your child's report is complete so you can then add your comments.

Improving Independence

Just a little reminder about the things we need to be allowing our children to do themselves in preparation for school:

- Putting on and taking off their own coats and shoes
- Managing their own toilet needs i.e. wiping their own bottoms
- Washing hands properly using soap and water

Voluntary Snack and Forest School Contributions

We would like to say a huge thank you for the voluntary contributions that have been received for snack and forest school.

Toys

Just a little reminder that children should not be bringing in toys from home, if your child is wanting to do this you must be taking them home with you at drop off and not leaving them in their bags.

Sickness

Just a reminder if your child has been sick, the setting policy is that they are kept off for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. Also if your child requires calpol they should not be coming in.

Top Tips for Talking and Speaking

Try not to ask too many questions. Too many questions can break the flow of conversation and make the child feel tested. The best questions are those that encourage the child to think rather than answer 'yes' or 'no' e.g. 'I wonder what would happen if.......

Parent Questionnaire

For those of you who haven't returned your parent questionnaire can you please do so ASAP. Your comments and feedback are really welcomed and help us to improve and develop what we offer. Also for parents that have children returning in September completion of the session requirement form is crucial so we can forward plan and give you as much notice as possible as to what sessions we will be offering from then.

Elsie's Visit - Therapy Dog

On Thursday 17th January our volunteer Liz bought her therapy dog 'Elsie' to the setting to meet the children. The children really enjoyed the experience; here are a just a few photos of the morning.





Themes

This term we will be looking at the following themes and the children will be taking part in various activities: Being Healthy World Book Day – Stories/Fairy Tales

orld Book Day – Stories/Fairy Tales Seasons – Spring Easter Mothers Day

Stepping Stones Fundraising Pages

We have our own fundraising pages, so that you can raise cash for the setting while you shop online. The links for these and for more information visit:

www.easyfundraisingorg.uk

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

All money raised for the setting is greatly received.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support with fundraising and attending the events we put on.

We are always looking for opportunities for companies to match fund what we raise. If you would like more information about this, please speak to Sharon.

Stepping Stones Local Lotto - Please sign up



https://www.local-lotto.co.uk/support/stepping-stonespre-school-clipston

Future Events

World Book Day - Friday 8th March

This is on Thursday 7th March, however due to this being a Forest School Day we are going to have our World Book Day on Friday 8th March – therefore for children who attend that day they are invited to come dressed as their favourite story book character and bring that story to share with everyone.



Parent Meetings

These will be taking place on the weeks commencing 11th and 18th March – you will have been given a slip with a designated date and time – which we will try to reschedule if not convenient.

Parent Craft Afternoon – Thursday 28th March from 2.15pm - this is open to children that do not usually attend that day, however parents would need to stay but unfortunately we cannot open this up to siblings.

Classical Music for Kids! – Saturday 30th March 2.30pm at All Saints Church, Clipston

3 hugely talented and successful performers – Chris Blake (Piano), Martin Burrell (Clarinet) and Richard King (Saxophone) – are coming to Clipston to perform popular classical pieces written for children including Percy the Park Keeper 2, Haydn's Toy Symphony and other family favourites.

Audience participation encouraged – expect a lively performance!

Percussion instruments will be available. There will be an interval with refreshments on sale.

Tickets: £20 for a family of 4 or £10 adults, £7.50 seniors, £5 children/students available from Faye Tan (01858 525275/07725427311). Proceeds to Clipston Recreation Fields Trust and All Saints Church wall fund.



Term Dates – term finishes Friday 5th April 2019 and we return on Tuesday 23rd April 2019

