



Newsletter December 2020

Welcome to our last newsletter of this calendar year. Please find below details of our remaining weeks running up to Christmas, as well as general information and some news about other projects and events which you may be interested in.

COVID-19

We continue to follow 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/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

A reminder - If your child or a member of the family develops Coronavirus symptoms it is critical that they do not come to preschool and isolate as per government guidance. Any child who develops symptoms at preschool will be isolated and parents will be asked to immediately collect.

Christmas show/party!

On Thursday 17th December we will not be having Forest School and instead we would like to invite all children (including those who do not attend on a Thursday) to attend Stepping Stones for a Christmas party, and to take part in a nativity which will be recorded and posted on Tapestry for you to watch at home together. Children are invited to wear party clothes, feel free to pack party treats for your child in their packed lunch box (no nuts please). We will be having party games and music and a fun festive day! If your child does not normally attend on Thursday but will be attending on 17th please let us know.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December is Christmas Jumper Day and children who attend that day are invited to come in Christmas jumpers if they wish.

Forest School

Our Forest school group are enjoying the sessions and now seem very much at home at our site! We have made the decision going forward to open up the sessions to all 3 year olds, regardless of what year group they are in here. This will be a trial and will be reviewed in July. If you are interested in your child joining once they turn 3, please let us know.

Thank you for all sending warm clothes, hats and gloves for Forest School, it often feels much colder up there as it is so exposed. If your child has warm wellie socks these are also very helpful keeping them warm and happy!

Parent Survey

Look out for a parent survey which we will be sending out to you soon via survey monkey. Please do fill out and respond to this short survey, your views are very important to us and will help us in our planning for next year.

Eco Schools Award

In 2021 we are aiming to gain our first Eco Schools award which is awarded for excellence in environmental action and learning. We will be working to improve the school environment at the same time as learning how to be eco conscious and look after our planet.

Eye Tests

Eye tests are offered free on the NHS for under 16s – children do not need to be able to read to have an eye test so do contact your optician should you wish your child to have a test.

Just Giving

As you will know this year is going to be a difficult year for fundraising for all charities, if you are thinking of giving to a charity this Christmas please consider Stepping Stones as your charity of choice, you can donate via our new “just giving” page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/steppingstones-pre-school>

Allsorts Magazine - message from the editor

You may be interested in Nov/Jan digital version of Allsorts magazine, Amongst the usual info. for families with children aged 0-12, they have a great competition for you to win a £75 voucher and a chance to visit Lapland in 2021 – plus lots of Christmassy cheer! You can view this issue at www.allsortsmag.com

Primary School Applications

The application process for children starting primary school in September 2021 is now open, the closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 15th January 2021.

For your diaries....

Autumn term second half	Tuesday 3 rd November – Friday 18 th December 2020
Christmas holidays	Monday 21 st December 2020 – Monday 4 th January 2021
Spring term first half	Tuesday 5 th January – Friday 12 February 2021
Half term break	Monday 15 th February – Monday 22 nd February 2021
Spring term second half	Tuesday 23 rd February – Friday 26 th March 2021
Easter holidays	Monday 29 th March – Friday 9 th April 2021
Summer term first half	Monday 12 th April – Thursday 27 th May 2021
Half term break	Friday 28 th May – Friday 4 th June 2021
Summer term second half	Monday 7 th June – Tuesday 20 th July 2021

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