



Stepping Stones Pre-School

Welcome...

Welcome to all of our new families- the children have settled in so well! The children are enjoying getting to know their new friends & everyone has settled back into Pre-School life well.

Committee Updates...

Thanks for those of you who have joined the Stepping Stones committee. At our last meeting there were some great ideas for fundraising being put forward, so keep your eyes peeled for some fun you can be involved with soon!

In the meantime, if you are interested in helping to raise money for Stepping Stones, there are some easy ways to get involved...

For those of you who are not aware, Stepping Stones is a charity & you can help raise money for us whilst shopping online through Easyfundraising.

Easyfundraising info:

This is our cause page where you can see how many people have signed up and how much we've raised: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/steppingstonessurbiton/>

This is the donation reminder tool, so that each time you are shopping on a page that you can donate, a handy reminder pops up! : <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/donation-reminder/?v=b>

And this is the app, however it looks like it's not yet available on

Android: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/easyfundraising-app/>

Amazon wish list...

We have also setup a wish list with Amazon to purchase resources to help support your children's learning and development. We currently have a wish list for books, and I will continue to create new wish lists as you can imagine we need to restock resources regularly! Perhaps instead of bringing in cakes for your child's birthday- you might like to purchase a book from our wish list for the children to share? Here is the link for our wish list:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/1SG3UAOYJBZ9H>

Thank you/reminders & requests

Tissues...

As the sniffles increase, we are running low on tissues! Please could you bring some in to try and help keep the germs at bay!

Snack...

Thank you for keeping our snack bowl topped up with fruit, vegetables and breadsticks, the children are enjoying the variety!

Welly's & spare clothes...

With all the wet weather we've been having, please make sure that you bring named welly's for your child and plenty of spare clothes!

Drop off time...

AM Session-please ensure you arrive by 9.10am at the **latest**. This is to ensure that the session is not disrupted. Thank you.

Dates for your diary...

Half Term...

Monday 16th February-Friday 20th February.

Inset Day...

We are closed for an inset day Thursday 26th February.

Coffee morning...

Our Spring Term Coffee morning will be on Friday 27th March at Surbiton Children's Centre from 8.45am.

Parent Consultations...

Parent consultations are a 1:1 session where you can discuss your child's progress more in depth. These will take place week commencing 9th March. Please see signup sheets closer to the time.

A focus on child development at home... Festivals! With Christmas festivities all over-it's time to focus on new celebrations for 2015!

14th February Valentines Day



Shrove Tuesday 17th & Ash Wednesday 18th



19th February Chinese New Year-Year of the Sheep/Goat



Why celebrate festivals with children?

Celebrating festivals with children helps them with lots of skills:

It helps them work out different times of the year

Children learn about what makes different families special

Children learn about different cultures

Children are encourage to try new foods/listen to different music

A chance to express feelings and spend time with family members working on language & social skills

What we're learning at Stepping Stones...

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Communication & Language
<p>We have been playing group games, such as hide & seek!</p> <p> Play group games together at home.</p>	<p>We are encouraging children to use their words to speak to teachers and friends.</p> <p>Look at photos with your child of special times together- encourage them to talk to you about what happened.</p>
Physical development	Literacy
<p>We have been working on balance and coordination, changing around our climbing equipment to give new & exciting challenges.</p> <p> Encourage children to try new climbing equipment at the park, or use equipment in a different way.</p>	<p>We have been building up children's writing muscles using play-doh, sand and mark making tools, whisks and soap.</p> <p>Try encouraging your child to squeeze sponges helping to wash up or in the bath.</p>
Mathematics	Understanding the world
<p>We have been working problem solving what is heavy & what is light by using scales.</p> <p> Talk about sizes at home, who is tallest- mummy or daddy?</p>	<p>We have been playing with the dolls house- talking about our own homes and who lives there.</p> <p>Play with little people at home giving names to the characters from your family.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p> = Ideas for learning you can extend at home</p>
<p>Children have been using the role play area to re-live home experiences, cooking, amking tea etc.</p> <p> Let your child help you make lunch or tea-or do the washing up with you!</p>	

*Best wishes,
Sarah & the Stepping Stones Team*