



Stepping Stones Pre-School

Almost at the end of the academic year...

This is always a bitter sweet time of year for us at Stepping Stones as we are enjoying doing lots of lovely activities with the children, and know soon that some will be moving on. So let us take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of Stepping Stones & wish you all the very best of luck in your new settings-we are sure that the children moving on will have a wonderful time! It'll soon be parent consultation time-please do come and catch up with your child's key person to find out how they have progressed with Stepping Stones.

People who help us...

Thank you so much to those parents who have come in and supported the children's learning around 'People who help us'. We have also enjoyed meeting some new people: a policeman, the librarian, the dental health team amongst others. I hope you'll agree that the children have loved this topic!

Staff update...

Hopefully some of you have had a chance to meet our new apprentice Chloe Pettyfer. Chloe has begun an apprenticeship with us and will be in session Monday-Wednesday AM & PM and Friday AM. Please help us to make Chloe feel welcome. You might also like to know that Chloe came to Stepping Stones the first year we opened! We are very happy to support Chloe in her studies, Chloe has had a great start with us and we expect that continue, especially as she had such good early education ☺!

Placements...

Some of you may have noticed that I haven't been around as much recently as I have been on placement at Lime Tree school with year 1, and also went to Sweden to look at their early years education system. It has been so interesting, and I have enjoyed finding out more about other settings practice, but I have to say, I am very glad to be back at Stepping Stones! I will be sharing the photos from my trip to Sweden at our coffee morning on **Monday 1st June**, so do come along if you're interested in taking a look. There were many similarities in Swedish and British early years system, the principles of the curriculum are the same. The main differences are within the culture, which is built in from early years and seems to continue through to all aspects of adult life. The main point which sums up the culture: Society contributes to society, so, everyone goes through the same educational system, and everyone pays the same, even if the setting is privately run. There is a big focus on respect and independence. *(I saw 3 year old using a saw, without an adult standing over her(!), that I'm not sure I would be confident using!).* Early years in Sweden is from 1-7years, 7 years old is when compulsory education starts. The curriculum isn't broken down by areas of learning but by fundamental values, to help a child become an independent and capable adult, meaning that values continue from one generation to another. If you'd like to find out more, feel free to ask ☺.

Lime Tree...

My time at Lime Tree has given me ideas about how to support our children who transition onto more formal education, and some of these ideas I will begin to implement at Stepping Stones.

Thank you/reminders & requests...

Tissues... Please could you bring some in to try and help keep the germs at bay!

Toddler Time... Thank you to all of you who attended Toddler Time. We have had some good feedback and hope you all found it useful.

Shoes & hats... Please remember that children need closed toe shoes and a sun hat, this will help us keep them safe in the garden.



Parent questionnaire... Thanks to all of you who returned our questionnaire. We shared the results at our inset day, and came up with an action plan as a staff team based on your feedback. The results will be published soon along with an action plan based on your feedback.

Dates for your diary...



End of Summer term...

Our last day of term is **Wednesday 15th July**. (Term dates for next academic year will be emailed to you in the coming weeks).

Parent Consultations...

Parent consultations will commence **30th June**. Please do sign up for an appointment with your child's Key Person.

Behaviour management workshop...

On **Thursday 4th June** at 7.30pm, we are hosting a behaviour management workshop. Please fill in the attached slip if you would like to attend.

Group & Individual photographs...

Monday 8th June: Individual & Group photo's taken by Jackie Frost. If Monday is not your child's usual day then please bring them in at 9.45am for the AM session group photo or 1pm for the PM session group photo, you can then have their individual photograph taken afterwards. You are welcome to bring siblings in for photographs; children with siblings will have their photograph when you arrive to drop off your child, or straight after the group photo. Please ensure you arrive promptly (no later than 9.10am or 12.45pm) for Monday's session as the photographer will be setting up in the annexe.

Sports day...

Our super committee are organising a Sponsored Sports Day, **Thursday 11th June @ 10.30 - 11.30am**, Fishponds Park. The committee will send out more information next week for now, please keep the date free ☺.

Special person week...

It's Father's Day on **June 21st**, we recognise Father's Day by having a Special Person week, week commencing **15th June**. Anyone who is special to the child is invited in to come for a play or to read a story to the group. Any time or session, parents need to let a member of staff know if someone will be coming to join in, and if they would like to read a group story they need to let us know in advance so that we can organize time and space.

End of term fun...

Friday 11th July:

End of year party!

*Where & what time?: Stepping Stones 11am-11.45am Friday 10th July

*What?: We are having a Pirates and Princesses themed party!

*Who?: Everyone is invited! If Friday is your usual day please drop your child as usual & if you would like to come along, please come back at 10.55am. If Friday is not your child's usual day & you would like to attend, please come at 10.55am.



16th July PM:

The AM session will run as usual, then after you have collected your child, (if you would like to), we will head over to the Fishpond's to meet all non-Wednesday children, and afternoon children and their families who wish to join us for the picnic.

So...

We'll all meet at Fishponds at 12.00pm (the little orchard) for a Pirates and Princess' picnic. If Wednesday PM is your usual session, you can either drop your child with us, at Stepping Stones and provide them with packed lunch picnic, or meet us at the park at 12.00pm, for fun, games and face painting! If you are unable to accompany your child, pick up will be at 3.30pm from Fishponds.

Monday 13 th July	Tuesday 14 th July	Wednesday 15 th July (last day of term)
Fancy Dress Parents are invited to join in with Story & song time from 11.25am/3.15pm	Fancy dress Parents are invited to join in with Story & song time from 11.25am/3.15pm	Fancy dress PM Session will be held at the Fishponds- drop off and collection from the park...

A focus on child development at home...



We have watched our caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies, and, as we begin to think transitions it is good to talk to children about how big they have grown! Try looking at baby pictures with your child, and talk to them about how they have grown and changed.

Please bring in a baby photo of your child so that we can make a display and talk about how big they have grown ☺.



What we're learning at Stepping Stones...

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Communication & Language
<p>We have been learning how to be helpful at Pre-School, in line with our topic by finding 2 things to tidy away at tidy up time.</p> <p>Ask your child to find 2 (or more!) things to tidy away at the end of the day.</p>	<p>We have been using new words from our 'People who help us' topic, such as 'siren', 'stethoscope' etc.</p> <p>Talk about equipment used when you visit the doctor, or hear a siren.</p>
Physical development	Literacy
<p>We have been playing football, with one of our parents who is a football coach!</p> <p>Play football or throwing and catching at home!</p>	<p>We have been enjoying reading new stories that we bought from Regency Book Shop (from our World Book Day proceeds).</p> <p>Look for books at home that are the same as pre-school so that stories become familiar, or borrow one from our library.</p>
Mathematics	Understanding the world
<p>We have putting numbers on our bikes and finding the matching parking space.</p> <p>Point on the numbers on your front door or number plate of your car.</p>	<p>We have been learning about the lifecycles of butterflies-the learning that came out of this has been amazing!</p> <p>Look out for butterflies on your trips out and about!</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	 = Ideas for learning you can extend at home
<p>We have been using junk modelling containers to make different creations, including shaker instruments.</p> <p>Look for some containers at home that your children can bring in for junk modelling!</p>	

*Best wishes,
Sarah & the Stepping Stones Team*