

Stepping Stones Pre-School

Welcome back...

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter break, it's lovely having the children back with us!



Staff news...

Chloe has now completed her level 2 apprenticeship- Well done Chloe! She is doing really well and is now beginning her Advanced Apprenticeship for the Children and Young People's Workforce (Early Years Educator) Level 3, along with Emma. Chloe & Emma will attend college on a Monday, which means we will have them both back in session on a Thursday, we wish them all the best with their studies. Our volunteer Deepika, who was studying her level 2 in Children's Learning and Development has now finished her placement with us. Thank you Deepika for all of the help you gave us whilst volunteering!

National Updates: There are 2 important national updates that have come onto the Early Years agenda. We think it's good practice that we update parents with this information...

Prevent duty..

From 1 July 2015, the government placed a duty on all schools and childcare providers to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. The government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as: "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs." In practice at Stepping Stones, this is just a 'bolt-on' to our safeguarding duty, and British Values are an intrinsic part of the EYFS and what we provide. Along with the newsletter this half term I have included some policies that we have updated with the new legislation. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Local Offer...

If you are interested in finding out more about Special Educational Needs or Disability, and what support and services are on offer for families including young people aged 0-25 in your local area of Kingston, then visit the 'Local Offer' to find out more information. Visit <http://www.afclocaloffer.org.uk> , contact sendlocaloffer@achievingforchildren.org.uk , or call 020 8547 4722.

What is a Local Offer?

This is the term that the Department for Education (DfE) have chosen to describe the collection of information about the support that local authorities must make available to help children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents, carers, children and young people with SEND to see clearly, from a single and regularly updated source, the services available to local families and how to access them. The offer covers services from birth to 25, across education, health and social care. It describes state-funded, charitable and private services, and includes services outside the local area (e.g. schools) which are used by local families. Put simply, information on "Local" services and support on "Offer" is gathered together and made easy to find in a "Local Offer".

Caterpillars...

We had some truly amazing learning experiences with the eggs that we hatched, so to extend the children's learning of lifecycles we are having caterpillars that we will hatch into butterflies they will arrive **Monday 18th April**.

Jo Jingles...

One of our fabulous past parents has trained as a Jo Jingles teacher, and has offered to give us some free sessions. Some of you may know or remember Megan, and I'm sure you'll join us in giving Megan a HUGE thank you. We are very confident that she will be fantastic in this role! Megan will be coming Wednesday 20th & 27th April in the morning session to carry out some Jo Jingles sessions with the children. Find out more about Jo Jingles here: [Jo Jingles website link](#).

Thank you/reminders & requests

Parent Survey...

Thanks to those of you who took the time to complete our parent survey. Once we have collated the responses we will send out the feedback.

Tissues...

Please remember to bring in some boxes of tissues for us ☺

Sunny Weather...

Hopefully soon the sun will have it's hat on! To ensure we are keeping children safe in the sun, please ensure you apply sun cream before coming to Stepping Stones. Please keep a labelled bottle of sun cream in your child's bag and a labelled sun hat.

Shoes...

Please ensure that your child is wearing closed toe shoes to Pre-School, this is for health & safety reasons; we don't want little toes being squashed by things that get dropped and we need to make sure we can run, jump, hop with the appropriate footwear to help us do so!

Dates for your diary...

People who help us...



We have some special visitors coming to Pre-School over April & May, to help us learn about 'people who help us'. This **Wednesday 13th April** we have Rachel, an Oral Health Promoter from Kings College to talk to the children and parents about the importance of keeping teeth healthy. We are also asking any parents have job who helps people, or if you volunteer to help people to come and talk to the children. There will be lots of other visitors so please look out on the information board for who is coming & when. If you would like to come in & help, or know of anyone who would like to come in as part of our topic please let me know.

Coffee morning...

Our Spring Term Coffee morning will be on **Friday 13th May** at Surbiton Children's Centre from 8.45am, Nives will be at this coffee morning. If Friday is not your usual session, please do come along, there is plenty of space for children to play whilst you enjoy a well earned cuppa!

Group & Individual photographs...

Wednesday 18th May: Individual & Group photo's taken by Jackie Frost. If Wednesday 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 Wednesday's session as the photographer will be setting up in the annexe.

Fire station visit...

We also will be visiting Surbiton Fire Station on **Monday 23rd May** (please note that this date may be changed by the Fire Station, due to their diary, I will update you as soon as possible if this happens). We will need as many parent helpers as possible, so please let the member of staff on the gate know (manned with the clipboard) if you will be coming along, closer to the time.

A focus on child development at home... Understanding the World



We are doing planting with the children this week to extend their knowledge and learning around lifecycles and how things grow in the world around us.



You can help to extend the children's learning in lots of ways, for example: by explaining why we need to put the plant in a sunny spot, away from strong winds. Counting how many cups of water it takes to feed the plant or fill up the watering can. ☀

We are growing cress alongside potting plants to support the children's understanding of how things grow, and by using something that grows quickly it means that the children will maintain their interest in growing.

What we're learning at Stepping Stones...

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Communication & Language
<p>We have been focussing on helping children to learn to share and work with other children, by setting problems for children to solve. e.g. build a fence to separate cows & pigs in the farm.</p> <p> Set a problem for children to solve at home with you, e.g. build a house for Teddy.</p>	<p>With our chick experience the children have been learning lots of new vocabulary (and so have the staff!), I wonder what new words the children will teach you when we have the caterpillars?!</p> <p>Introduce new words to your children's vocabulary... it's a 'glorious' day!</p>
Physical development	Literacy
<p>We have been practicing balance and coordination by doing egg & spoon races!</p> <p>Try doing the balancing equipment in the park with your child too- I bet it's trickier than you think. 😊</p> <p> </p>	<p>We are focussing on helping children with their speech sounds, by singing songs that have mouth movements to build up their tongue muscles and also playing Mr Tongue.</p> <p>Borrow Mr Tongue from us and have a play at home!</p> <p> </p>
Mathematics	Understanding the world
<p>We are using the language of capacity to bake Easter biscuits, and some cakes, e.g. 'do I need more or less?', 'we need a little bit', 'can you fill it up?'</p> <p> Use the language of capacity in the bath by filling and emptying containers.</p>	<p>We are encouraging children to understand growth and decay by planting seeds.</p> <p>Look at the changes outside... blossom on the trees, new spring and summer flowers coming out.</p> <p> </p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p> = Ideas for learning you can extend at home</p>
<p>We are looking at different textures by having a feely den in our outside den and new feely display board.</p> <p> Talk about different textures at home, is the carpet rough or smooth?</p>	

Best wishes, Sarah & the Stepping Stones Team