

# Stepping Stones Pre-School

## Welcome back...

We hope you all had a lovely half term!



## Staff news...

It is with great sadness that I'm informing you Charis is leaving at the end of the Summer Term. Charis is an amazing practitioner, with a natural talent for Early Years, and whilst we are very sad to see her go, we have been very fortunate to have Charis with us and enhance our practice in the 2 years she has been with Stepping Stones. We wish Charis all the very best for the future and hope to stay in touch. In addition, Emma has decided to go to college full time in September, so sadly she will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term. We wish Emma all the best with her future studies!



Sarah will begin assigning Key Children to new Key People over the next few weeks to ensure that children are supported with the transition to a new Key Person.

## Child Safety week...

I recently attended some training and learnt that 6th-12th June is Child Safety week, Child Safety Week is run by [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) (CAPT) to raise awareness of the risks of child accidents and how they can be prevented. Did you know...?



### Accidents in the home:

- 500,000 under the age of 4 are injured in the home every year
- 39% of all children's accidents are from falling. 10 children die each year from falling through a window or a balcony
- The largest number of accidents are caused in the lounge/living room area with the most serious accidents caused in the kitchen
- 30,000 children each year go to A&E with signs of poisoning-usually occurring from taking domestic cleaning substances
- 50,000 children under the age of 14 go to A&E because of burns and scalds
- 3000 injuries occur by tripping over piles of washing/toys left on the floor
- 3% of toddlers die by drowning-in the bath, while swimming, by the sea including ponds in the garden

These statistics are terrifying, and whilst we don't want to wrap children 'up in cotton wool', we need to become more aware of the risks that are immediately around us. This year's topic is 'Turn off Technology', like or loathe technology, it has become embedded in the way we live our lives. How many of you are reading the newsletter on your smart phone? Many of us couldn't live without our smart phone, and whilst they are great for keeping us connected, they can be seriously distracting! So this week CAPT are asking us to turn off technology and tune into our children. You can get involved by taking a quiz on their website (harder than you might think!) <http://capt.org.uk/get-involved/quizzes>. Or perhaps setting yourself a challenge- no smart phone for an hour a day & devote that time to tune into your child? Check out our Facebook page for a tip each day this week on how to make your home a safer place... <https://www.facebook.com/steppingstonessurbiton/>

Bitrex... You may have heard of Bitrex before Bitrex is odourless, colourless, and harmless. But it is the most powerfully bitter substance in the world. A tiny drop of Bitrex added to a product makes it taste disgusting - and so if it is accidentally swallowed the chances are it will be instantly spat out. It's added to lots of products which children may think are sweets and try to put them in their mouth, washing detergent tablets etc. You can see which products contain Bitrex to help protect your children by checking out their website: <http://www.bitrex.com/public>. We have ordered a Bitrex taste test which we be carrying out on the staff team & parents over the coming weeks!



### 60 minute makeover...

If you have ever fancied yourself as a landscape gardener, or, you are willing to give up an hour to help us out... we need YOU! We need as many parent helpers as possible to help us give the garden a makeover. 2 years ago our fabulous parents helped us clear an unused outside area to help make our nature garden, and now some of the weeds are beginning to grow back. We particularly need help with: weeding the area by the fence (pavement side, by the banner), pulling up weeds between the nursery garden and our garden, sweeping the sand from the soft pore, and donations of compost and new plants to give our pots a makeover. We are going to get the children involved by letting them help sweep up the sand & plant up the pots.

We also would love to make some additions to the garden, so if you know anybody who is disposing of a sink (so we can make our own), or who would like a project, we would love to create a mud kitchen:

Mud kitchens are a fabulous way to extend children's learning across all areas of the curriculum. Read up about the benefits here: [http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2014/making-a-mud-](http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2014/making-a-mud-kitchen)

### kitchen



When? Friday 17th June at 10.45am.



### Thank you/reminders & requests

#### Fire Station...

Thank you for all your help to make our Fire Station trip possible!

#### 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...

#### Inset day...

Monday 13th June we are closed for both sessions for an inset day.

#### End of Summer term...

Our last day of term is Wednesday 13th July. (Term dates for next academic year will be emailed to you in the coming weeks).

#### Special person week...

It's Father's Day on June 19th, we recognise Father's Day by having a Special Person week, week commencing 20th 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.

#### Parent Consultations...

Parent consultations will commence 27th June. Please do sign up for an appointment with your child's Key Person.

#### End of term fun...

Details of our end of term celebrations are still TBC so... keep your eyes peeled for more information on this!

HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!





Whilst as adults we understand what is happening when children break up for the Summer Holidays, or when they move on in to a new setting in September, this is a very difficult concept for a child to understand. By talking about this too early, we can easily confuse children, and actually confuse their sense of belonging. Support children to understand this change by keeping things as consistent as possible and keeping their Special Book updated over the Summer so that children can take it to a new setting for settling in or bring it back and share their lovely experiences with us!



### What we're learning at Stepping Stones...

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Communication & Language
<p>We are working on being able to label feelings. Have you seen our 'feelings stones' and the 'worry eater' which we have had out as part of the setup?</p> <p> Help children to understand different feelings by labelling your own, and extend beyond 'happy' or 'sad'.</p>	<p>To teach the children new vocabulary we have been planting peas and beans, and then replanting them as seedlings, introducing the children to a new wide range of words.</p> <p>Teach your children the names of some of the plants in your garden or out and about: daisy, buttercup, dandelion are all new words which will expand their vocabulary!</p>
Physical development	Literacy
<p>We are working on children's fine motor skills with our 'finger gym' (the golf tees &amp; the nails in wooden blocks) to support early writing skills.</p> <p>Allow children to do up their own buttons or shoes to support fine motor skills.</p>	<p>We are learning about address, and that writing has a purpose.</p> <p>Point out the addresses on post you get through your door, or point out words as you read a story.</p>
Mathematics	Understanding the world
<p>We have been using natural materials to categorise objects and count them too. For example, leaves, shells, spring grasses.</p> <p> Grab a bucket and go on a nature walk- who can collect the most? What is the smallest thing you found, or the biggest?</p>	<p>We have learnt that you need to dial '999' in an emergency, and the next step is for children to learn where they live.</p> <p>Talk to children about where you live &amp; encourage them to learn your house number, or your road name.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p> = Ideas for learning you can extend at home</p>
<p>We have been role playing the the hairdressers area- staff have been looking fabulous with their new hair do's! 😊</p> <p> Use the language of role play to help extend children's play and help them to learn. Shampoo, conditioner, detangler, what is the difference between a hair brush and a comb?</p>	