

# Stepping Stones Pre-School



## Staff news...

It is with great sadness that I'm informing you Michelle is leaving at the end of the Summer Term. Michelle has decided to take a break from working and potentially explore some new areas of work in the future. We wish Michelle all the very best for the future and hope to stay in touch.

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.

**Deputy post...** we have recruited a lovely new Deputy Manager to job share with Lai from September. Her name is Anna and she has a wealth of experience in Early Years, and most recently she has been managing a room in a day nursery, so she is used to busy nursery life! Anna will be doing 5 mornings in September and Lai will be working in the afternoons. Anna will be coming to do some induction sessions with us over the last 2 weeks of term, please help us to make her feel welcome.



**Work experience...** We have Rebecca Georgiou coming to do some work experience from Hollyfield School with us on the last week of term. Rebecca is doing her 1st year of A levels & is interested in working with children, please help us to make her feel part of the team!

## Long Ditton Cricket Club...

### Moving update (from the committee):

Since we managed to find new premises, we've been very busy on the committee working on next steps to help us have a smooth transition. The staff have visited the new site in Long Ditton and are very excited about the opportunities for learning, particularly with Stokes Field on the doorstep. Thank you for all the support throughout this process and for those of you moving with us, we can't wait to get started in September. We are still planning the actual move date in July which is dependent on a few things, and we may still ask for volunteers if anyone can help us out. We'll be in contact once we have the details confirmed!

### We have some dates for your diary with relation to the move:

**Long Ditton Village Fair:** We will be holding a stall at the Long Ditton Village Fair on Sunday 9th July. The fair is a lovely family day out and we will have a stall to promote our move to Long Ditton, as well as this we have some fun activities for you to get involved with. Please come down and support us. Further details on the fair can be found here:

<http://www.longditton.org/long-ditton-village-fair-sun-8th-july/>



### Come and have a look around Stepping Stones at Long Ditton Cricket Club:

So that you can come and familiarise yourselves with our new space, we are holding an open morning at the Cricket Club on **Thursday 3rd August 10-11am**. The staff team will be on hand to answer any questions. We will send you a separate 'Doodle' poll to fill in to let us know if you are able to attend.

**Doodle**

## Thank you/reminders & requests

### Sunny Weather...

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...

### Going to school ceremony...

I am sending out a 'Doodle' poll to coordinate a date for the children who are starting Reception Class in September. A separate note will be sent out to families involved.



### Wednesday 12th July: Fire Station visit

All parents and children are invited to Surbiton Fire Station on Ewell Road.

**If Wednesday AM is your child's usual session & you or another adult will not be accompanying your child on the outing, please let the member of staff on the gate know, so that we can assign your child to a designated member of staff who will look after your child.**

If you are coming with us to the Fire Station, please ensure you are here by **9.30am**. Please wait in the annexe or outside until we have all the children registered & can organise them into their groups, we will then bring the children out to you when we are ready to go. If Wednesday AM is not your child's usual session and you would like to attend, please meet us at Surbiton Fire Station, on Ewell Rd at 10.00am.

We will all leave the Fire Station at 11.00am in the AM session, if Wednesday is your usual day you can walk back with us to Stepping Stones & collection will be as usual. If Wednesday is not your usual day, then you do not need to come back to Stepping Stones with us.

**Mobile phones- we have a no mobile phone and no camera policy, this is to safeguard the identity of children attending the Pre-School. We ask all parents when they start at Stepping Stones whether they are happy for their child's photograph to be taken, not all parents give their consent for this. In addition, some children who attend Stepping Stones have their identity protected, and their safety may be compromised if the photograph gets posted on social media, or is inadvertently shared. We know that this is disappointing for some, but we take the safeguarding of children very seriously and we ask for your support in this matter.**



### End of Summer term...

Our last day of term is Friday 14th July. Term dates for next academic year are attached to the newsletter email.

### End of term fun...

See the attached invitation to our party on Friday 14th July, 10.45-11.30am.



## A focus on child development at home... September



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!



A book we have based some of our learning on this half term:



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

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Communication & Language
<p>We have been working on supporting the children's feelings in light of the recent (very sad) events that have taken place in Manchester and London. Although it's not directly related...The children have taken a real interest in superheroes and we have been talking to the children about what it means to be a 'hero'.</p> <p> Help children to learn what it means to be a superhero in our society (Fire fighter, Police etc.)</p>	<p>To teach the children new vocabulary and encourage them to speak, we are using their special books to talk about events and people who are special to us.</p> <p>Put some photos in your child's special book to help us with this. </p>
Physical development	Literacy
<p>We are working on children's fine motor skills with our making mini 'Supertato's' using googly eyes, and pipe cleaners.</p> <p>Allow children to do up their own buttons or shoes to support fine motor skills.</p>	<p>We have been practicing reading and writing our names in our 'writing area'.</p> <p>Point out the names on the address labels of letters you receive through the post. </p>
Mathematics	Understanding the world
<p>We have been using potatoes in our 'superhero' theme to count the Supertato's!</p> <p> What items can be counted on your dinner plate?</p>	<p>We have been learning about life cycles watching caterpillars change into butterflies.</p> <p>Talk to children about changes in the environment and try and spot Summer flowers on your way to pre-school! </p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p> = Ideas for learning you can extend at home</p>
<p>We have been extending our superhero theme by dressing up in Superhero outfits and using props to support play.</p> <p> Talk about what it means to be 'super' at home and give your child jobs to help them be a superhero!!</p>	

Best wishes, Sarah & the Stepping Stones Team