



# Autumn 2019



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of term 1 and what a busy term we've had. We welcomed several new children this September and said goodbye to all the Bluebirds who left in July and should now be settled into their new schools. We have had photos sent in by Parent/Carers of some of these children in their new school uniforms looking all grown up! Please take a look at our 'First Day at School Board' in the corridor outside the Ladybird playroom.

## Bluebird Topics

Children at Stepping Stones are encouraged to engage in a wide range of play experiences and activities so that they can access all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Within our Bluebird (Pre-school) sessions each term we provide a focus to support each child's growing independence in language and communication, physical development and personal social and emotional development.

The themes for this year's Topics are:

Term 1 – All About Me

Term 2 – Healthy Me

Term 3 – Animals I May See

Term 4 – Me Out and About

Term 5 – Me Joining In

Term 6 – Independent Me

Please look at the white boards outside the Playrooms to see the activities available for each session.

## Reminders....

We all know how easy it is for things to be lost; in order to ensure that your child's possessions always find their way home please label them **all** clearly.



Outdoor play is an important part of your child's experience here at Stepping Stones which is enjoyed all year round. Please ensure that your child arrives at Stepping Stones with appropriate labelled clothing for the weather each day.

'Tis the season of coughs and sneezes, along with all manner of other nasty little bugs and germs. If your child is sick and can't attend their session please contact the office to let us know as soon as possible. Also if your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please ensure they stay away for at least **48 hours** after their symptoms have gone.

If your child requires medication whilst in session this must have been agreed with the keyworkers or Judy. All medication must have the pharmacy label on the bottle or container/canister. Please ask your pharmacist to do this when they dispense the medication.

## Head Injuries in Children

Accidents can often happen at home, out and about, or in a childcare setting. For your information, please note the following useful information from the NHS Choices website:



If your child experiences a knock, bump or blow to the head, sit them down, comfort them, and make sure they rest. You can hold a cold compress to their head – try a bag of ice or frozen peas wrapped in a tea towel.

The symptoms of a minor head injury are usually mild and short-lived. They may include:

- a mild headache
- nausea (feeling sick)
- mild dizziness
- mild blurred vision

If your child's symptoms get significantly worse, take them straight to the accident and emergency (A&E) department of your nearest hospital or call 999 for an ambulance.

### What to look out for

Signs of a brain injury after a head injury include:

- **unconsciousness** – either brief (concussion) or for a longer period of time
- **fits or seizures**
- **problems with the senses** – such as hearing loss or double vision
- **repeated vomiting**
- **blood or clear fluid coming from the ears or nose**
- **memory loss** (amnesia)

If any of these symptoms occur after a head injury, immediately go to your nearest A&E department or call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

## Volunteers Needed



Here at Stepping Stones we really do rely on the kindness of those willing to give up their time in order to help out in various roles within the nursery. If you have any skills you would like to share with us please speak to **Barbara** in the office. We are currently looking for:

- A green fingered individual to tend to our garden / outdoor play area
- A Treasurer for our Management Committee

Or if you would like to fundraise for us please speak to **Sarah** for help and advice.

## Female of the Species Charity Concert 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Melksham Assembly Hall

The Female of the Species are a band of 10 local musicians who all have their own popular bands and play extensively in the Wiltshire Area. Once a year they get together as 'Female of the Species' to raise money for a Wiltshire based charity and we are so excited that we have been chosen as their charity for 2019, for their 5th birthday.



They will also be joined by 3 stunning support acts Jamie R Hawkins, Becky Lawrence & The Blue Rose Band.

**Avoid disappointment – BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW – only £10 for what promises to be a truly incredible night. Available from the office**

### Duty of Care Statement

All the team here at Stepping Stones receive regular training on safeguarding procedures to ensure a high quality of care at our setting.

As a provider of day care registered with Ofsted we are required to follow the child care /safeguarding procedures agreed with the local area Safeguarding Children's board. We will try at all times to share with you any concerns we may have, however we have a duty to refer to the Local Authority Multi Agency Safeguarding hub (MASH) if we suspect that abuse may be an issue. Our first concern will always be the welfare of the child.

*Please check our regularly updated safeguarding policy, available outside Debbie's office and on our website, for further information.*

### Christmas Table Top Sale

We will be having our annual Christmas table top sale in the hallway again this year. If you have any good quality gifts you would be willing to donate they will be gratefully received in the first week of December.



**Dates for Your Diary** Further details for all events below can be found on our website and social media.



**Barclays Quiz and Curry Night:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. 6:30 pm Trowbridge RFC. Teams of 4. Email Kelly Burge to book your place [kelly.burge1@barclays.com](mailto:kelly.burge1@barclays.com)

**Kings Arms Quiz Nights:** Monthly – 7.30pm start £2 per person – max 8 per team.

- next Quiz Sun 17<sup>th</sup> November,
- Christmas Quiz Night: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Female of the Species Charity Concert:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Doors open 7.00 pm. Melksham Assembly Hall.

School Term and Holiday Dates 2019/20

Revised June 2019 – Early May bank holiday change

August/September		October		November	
Monday	2 9 16 23	30 7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25		
Tuesday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26		
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27		
Thursday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28		
Friday	30 6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29		
Saturday	31 7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30		
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24		

December		January		February	
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24		
Tuesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25		
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26		
Thursday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27		
Friday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28		
Saturday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29		
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23		

March		April		May	
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25		
Tuesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26		
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27		
Thursday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28		
Friday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29		
Saturday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30		
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31		

June		July		August/September	
Monday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31		
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25 1		
Wednesday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26 2		
Thursday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27		
Friday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28		
Saturday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29		
Sunday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30		

**End of Term 1:** Last session Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October


**Start of Term 2:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – afternoon session only – we will be closed for the morning stay and play session due to staff training

**End of Term 2, Christmas Holiday:** Final children’s session Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Start of Term 3:** Sessions will resume on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Please note, parents/carers will be notified in advance of any dates the setting will be closed for staff training. You can also check our on-site Notice Board, Facebook page and Website for regular News/Events... Please also remember to check above your child’s peg for letters going home so you don’t miss anything!!**

 [www.facebook.com/pages/Stepping-Stones-District-Specialist-Centre](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stepping-Stones-District-Specialist-Centre)

 @SteppingStone15

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