



Summer 2019



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Welcome back, we hope you had a fabulous half term holiday.

Not long to go now before the end of term and we will have to say a sad good bye to all the children leaving us to move on to exciting new things at 'big school'. We look forward to being sent lots of 'first day at school' photos.

Reminders....



Unwell Children: Hopefully the season of coughs and sneezes should be well behind us now but we never seem to be completely bug free so please remember our procedure for unwell children and infectious diseases. A copy of this can be found in our Policies and Procedures folder hanging outside Debbie's door or on our website <https://www.steppingstonestrowbridge.co.uk/Policies1504.html>.

In brief children should not be sent to Stepping Stones if they are unwell and not less than 48 hours after being sick or having diarrhea. Please let us know if your child will be absent via telephone, text or email and inform us if they have an infectious disease. We will notify parents if infectious disease has been reported.

Sun protection: We always try to use the outside play area and garden as much as possible. In these summer months especially when the sun is shining please ensure you send in a **named sunhat** for your child and **apply sunscreen** before arriving at Stepping Stones. For children in Bluebirds if you feel your child will need a further application of sun screen during the day, please send this in—**named**—we will require signed authorisation allowing us to apply it. **Speak to your keyworker to complete a permission slip.**

Drop off/Pick Up: Can we please remind all parents/carers that children must be collected promptly at the end of each session. Parents/Carers dropping off and collecting children by car, please note the 5mph speed limit for the safety of all children and adults. Please also remember that the car park has a one way system and you should enter the car park at the furthest gate away from our building. Please do not drive up and park along the side of the school in front of Little Shoots.

Moving Babies and Bumblebees

We are currently in the process of arranging dates for the moving from Butterflies to Bumblebees and from Bumblebee to Bluebird sessions for parents.

This is an opportunity for us to talk about the expectations within your child's new session and for you to ask any questions you may have.

Look out for a letter in your child's pigeonhole to confirm the dates for these information sessions.

Tapestry Online Learning Journal

Tapestry is a great way for us to share the progress of your child with you. It is very helpful for us to know you have seen the posts so please acknowledge this by 'liking' photos and observations. Parent/Carers are also able to upload observations and photographs from home to share with us. If you have any questions on using the Tapestry system please contact **Clair** in the office who will be happy to help.



A new Tapestry app which includes a push notification facility has now been launched. The new app is a separate one to the original, which means if you want to use it, you are not able to upgrade your current app to it, you will need to download it from the App store. You can find this by searching for Tapestry in your App store; the new app will be labelled 'Tapestry Journal' (Apple) or 'Tapestry Mobile' (Android) and will have a colourful logo, whereas the original one will be called 'Tapestry Classic' or and will have a grey logo.

For those of you who have children leaving us in July we will be downloading a completed version of your child's Learning Journal when we get back in September. You will be notified when this is available to download from your Tapestry Online Account. If you have any problems downloading this we are happy to transfer it for you, just bring in a USB memory stick to the office.

Management Committee – We Need You



Stepping Stones is a charity run by a Management Committee made up of parents/carers and voluntary professionals and friends of our organisation. To ensure Stepping Stones continues to reflect the views and needs of all the parents/carers who use our service we also need to recruit new members onto our management Committee.

So if you value the service Stepping Stones provides, want to understand better how the organisation is run, have ideas on how we can develop future services for children with special needs and their families, have time to attend meetings held once every 6-8 weeks, here at Stepping Stones and if you would like to find out more about joining the Committee, please speak to Debbie or Barbara. ***No previous experience is required.*** Minutes of our meetings are always available to view outside Debbie's office or in the Stepping Stones office.

Our current Treasurer, Mike Taylor is stepping down at the AGM this year after 11 years on the Committee. His role has been to oversee the finances and report to the Committee. The role does not involve working directly on the day to day finances which are done by Barbara in the Office. ***If you are interested in taking over this role Barbara or Mike would love to hear from you and would be happy to discuss what is involved.***

Calling all Green-Fingered Volunteers

Our garden / outdoor play area is a very important part of our children's learning /play experience but the area that our team find most difficult to maintain.

Would you or anyone you know be able to help us out by spending a couple of hours each month keeping our garden area neat and attractive?

Responsibilities would include, cutting the grass, plant care, weeding and general maintenance.

For further details please contact Debbie or Barbara at the office.



Why We Fundraise

You may or may not know that Stepping Stones is only partly funded by Wiltshire Council. Each year we have to raise in excess of £50,000 in order to continue to provide our service to the children. We DO NOT charge Parent/Carers for any of the sessions. We fundraise to pay for extra Speech and Language Therapy sessions as well as the support required for the children who attend Stepping Stones. We are a registered Charity, no. 1012556.



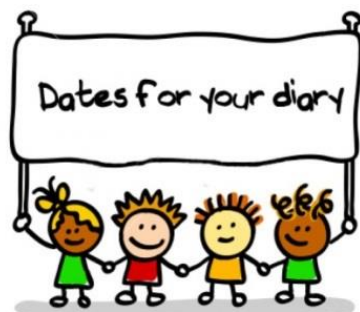
We appreciate that all of our Parent/Carers have extremely busy lives, however, we are ALWAYS looking for volunteers/helpers to attend/support our in-house fundraising events. Likewise, we are ALWAYS grateful for donations of unwanted gifts for raffle prizes!! The easiest way to support us is by joining our **100 Club** at just £1 per month with a cash prize to be won at every monthly draw. Or if you are feeling ambitious you could organise your own event, cake sale, sponsored walk; we are grateful for any contribution you can offer.

Do you, or someone in your family, work for an Organisation who provide Local Community Grants? Does that Organisation provide opportunities to match fund local fundraising projects or provide staff volunteer opportunities? Speak to **Sarah**, our Fundraising Co-ordinator for help with organising your event. Sarah works on Mon/Friday mornings.

Social Evening & Annual General Meeting

Our Social Evening followed by a short Annual General Meeting takes place on **Thursday 27th June**. This is a great opportunity to meet and chat with staff as well as committee members of Stepping Stones in an informal environment. Refreshments are available from 6.30pm. Find out what we've been up to at our AGM meeting which starts at 7pm. **Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.**

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



Kings Arms Quiz Nights: Monthly – next Quiz Sun 16th June, 7.30pm start £2 per person – max 8 per team.

Social Evening & AGM: Thursday 27th June from 6:30 pm

George's Marvellous Bike Ride: Sunday 1st September, Bradford on Avon

Barclays Curry & Quiz Night: Wednesday 20th November

The Female of the Species – Charity Concert: Saturday 30th November 2019

End of Term 6: Final children's session Friday 19th July *

Notes for Leavers

*We will be saying goodbye to our Bluebird Pre-schoolers on Wednesday 17th / Thursday 18th / Friday 19th July.

If you won't be here for this last week of term please let your Keyworker know so we can make sure we have everything ready for your child to take home on their last day with us.

We will be starting back for Term 1 of 2019/2020 on Tues 3rd September

Please find attached a copy of Wiltshire Council Term dates for 2018/2019. Please note however, Parents/Carers will be notified in advance of any dates the Setting will be closed for Staff Training. Dates for your Diaries are always regularly updated on our Website as well.

	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		

Bank and Public Holidays 2019/2020			
Christmas Day Holiday	25th December 2019	Term 1	38
Boxing Day Holiday	26th December 2019	Term 2	35
New Years Holiday	1st January 2020	Term 3	30
Good Friday	10th April 2020	Term 4	30
Easter Monday	13th April 2020	Term 5	24
May Day Holiday	4th May 2020	Term 6	38
Spring Bank Holiday	25th May 2020	TOTAL	195
Summer Bank Holiday	31st August 2020		

5 days are also available for professional training day closures during term time, set by the Headteacher and Governors of each school.

Dates are correct at time of publication.

Please don't forget to regularly check our on-site Notice Board, our Facebook page and our 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!!



Stepping-Stones-District-Specialist-Centre



@SteppingStone15

Website: www.steppingstonestrowbridge.co.uk

Tel: 01225 350004 / 3500015

Email: admin@steppingstonestrowbridge.co.uk