

Autumn Newsletter



TERM DATES

Autumn Term 1 - Tuesday 6th September - Friday 21st October

Half Term - Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Autumn Term 2 - Monday 31st October - Friday 16th December

Spring Term 1 2023 - Monday 9th January - Friday 10th February

Half Term - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Spring Term 2 - Monday 20th February - Friday 31st March

Easter Holidays - Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April



A very warm welcome to all our new children starting this term and welcome back to our existing children. We are looking forward to a busy autumn term.

CELEBRATION DINNER DANCE

Stepping Stones will be holding our annual Dinner and Dance on **Friday 30th September** 18.30-12 midnight at: Wivenhoe House Hotel, Wivenhoe Park, Park Rd, Colchester, CO4 3FA.

Tickets have nearly sold out so if you would like to attend, please go to Eventbrite, and search Stepping Stones Celebration Dinner where you will be able to purchase your tickets.

We also have a wonderful Raffle that will be drawn on the evening. If you wish to purchase Raffle tickets, please let a member of staff know.

Please return your raffle tickets which were sent home recently with any monies, we also need unsold tickets returned too!



SCHOOL PHOTOS

We have a wonderful photographer coming into nursery on Friday 7th October. She has many years' experience of working with early years children and those with additional needs. Please feel free to bring siblings along but we ask everyone to be patient as it can be quite hectic, we always strive to get photos done as quickly as possible.

Carol will be here from 9.30am until about 11am, you should have received a leaflet about her visit, here's a link to her website - <http://www.riverphotography.co.uk/>

BAGS 2 SCHOOL CLOTHES COLLECTION – our next collection will be on **Monday 17th October** – please fill a clear recycling bag with clothes, hats, shoes and bags – sorry no linen please. Bring them in the week before – every bag equates to funds for our charity

DO YOU HAVE A SKILL OR JOB THAT WILL SUPPORT OUR CHARITY? If you feel you have a skill, trade or work for a company that will help us in any way, please let us know or speak to your child's key person.

TOPIC'S THIS TERM

Please keep a look out on the parent noticeboard located on the side of the nursery. Topic subjects will be posted on your child's Tapestry accounts along with photos etc for you to enjoy.

This is Me – Sharing our differences, learning about our families, lifestyles, facial features etc

The Colour Monster – Feelings and emotions and how we feel

Autumn – All things related to this colourful season

Halloween - All things Spooky!,

Fireworks – Pop, Bang, Fizz,

The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson story

Colours and of course.....

Christmas!

Please feel free to add photos of what your child has been up to at home on Tapestry too.



Appropriate clothing.



Can we please ask that you send your child into nursery in appropriate clothing i.e., coats/jackets, closed in shoes/wellies etc for the weather.

Please can we ask that **all** clothing and any other items coming into nursery **are clearly named**.



HEALTHY EATING

At Stepping Stones Play and Learn group we promote healthy eating with our children and families. At snack time the children will be offered milk or water alongside a healthy snack. This will help the children with their oral health as well as their wellbeing.

Please limit chocolate/ biscuit-based items and do have a look at the link below for ideas on what to put in your child's lunchbox.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Please cut up **grapes length ways** because they are a **choking hazard**. **Popcorn** is also a **choking hazard** so can we ask that this is **NOT** put in lunch boxes anymore.

SICKNESS/ILLNESS POLICY

Please could parents' **telephone before 9.30am** if their child is unable to come in due to sickness etc as this really helps us with arranging staffing.

Our telephone No: **01206 860467** has a 24-hour answer machine.

Please try **NOT** to leave messages on Facebook as we do not always get to these until much later.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest festival will take place on Friday 21st October at 11am, parents and families are welcome to join us and will be receiving an invitation nearer the time, please could you indicate how many will be attending so we can keep an eye on numbers.

Donations this year will go to Colchester Food Bank so please if your able to pop an extra item or two in your shopping basket, items such as tinned, packets, boxes etc and bring them in week commencing Monday 17th October 2022.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: (look for our page and like) – **Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group**

Instagram: **stepping_stones_play**

Twitter: **@SteppingPlay**

CAR PARK NEXT TO NURSERY

We would like to let you know that the car park located next to the nursery is for Wilson Marriage centre staff only with the exception of parents dropping off or collecting their children with physical difficulties only. All other parents are advised to park in the lower and other car parks and walk their children by the yellow walking path line for safety.

