

Spring Newsletter



SPRING TERM DATES

**Wednesday 5th January to
Friday 11th February**

*** PLEASE NOTE –**

NON-PUPIL DAY –

**Wednesday 19th January –
staff safeguarding training level 2**

February Half Term

Mon 14th Feb – Friday 18th Feb

Back on

**Monday 21st February
to Friday 1st April**

Easter Holidays

Mon 4th April – Mon 18th April

Back on Tuesday 19th April

COVID NEWS

We hope you are all managing to keep safe and well during these unusual times. Please can we ask that all children attending the nursery still abide by the covid rules. Please keep your child at home if they are unwell and do a lateral flow test on them.

Please ensure you are up to date with government advice and tell your key person if any family members test positive for covid. We have vulnerable children in the setting, and it is a priority to keep everyone safe and well including staff.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

TOPIC'S THIS SPRING TERM

1st half term: 10th Jan - 11th Feb

“This is Me”

In this topic we will be talking about our differences in areas such as age, girl/boy, facial features, families, height and celebrating our individuality. We will also be celebrating the **Chinese New Year – 1st February 2022 – the year of the Tiger.**

2nd half term: Feb 21st – 1st Apr

“Messy Play”

In this topic we will be exploring different textures and materials and enjoying sensory activities.



Severe Weather Warning

In the event of severe weather, our premises come under the guidance of Essex County Council. ECC will only close the **Wilson Marriage Centre** for safety reasons. Usually this is because there is ice on the slopes leading to the car parks and on paths. In this event the centre will be closed and we will **also** be closed. For further information please go to:

Essex County Council –
www.essex.gov.uk/education-schools/dates/pages/emergency-school-closures.

Essex Heart Radio – 96.1fm
www.heart.co.uk/colchester
Dream100 – 100.2fm
www.dream100.com
BBC Radio Essex – 95.3fm
www.bbc.co.uk/bbc Essex

Appropriate clothing.

Can we please ask that you send your child into nursery in appropriate clothing i.e., coats, hats, gloves, 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 sweets/chocolates to one item in their lunch box and try to limit the numbers of items in the box as too many can be overwhelming!

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.

Thank you.



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Our lovely fundraising coordinator Tia will be sending out a separate fundraising newsletter soon which will be full of future fundraising events as well as fundraising sites we are part off such as Amazon Smile, eBay and One Lottery – keep your eyes peeled as it's a good read with a cuppa!

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact Tia via her email –

tia.steppingstonesfundraising@gmail.com



Our next fundraising clothes collection will be on **Monday 7th February** in the morning, this is a great way to de-clutter your wardrobes and drawers of all those clothes that either don't fit you or you'll never wear again. Please note the collection will only take the following items – clothes in good condition (no holes), pairs of shoes, boots etc, hats, bags etc.

NO LINEN OR DUVETS!

Just fill a clear recycling bag and pop it in the shed at the front of the nursery – please can we ask that all bags left contain **DRY** items as they will not collect bags that have been left out in the rain or contain wet clothes.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Instagram: **stepping_stones_play**

Twitter: **@SteppingPlay**

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** please try **NOT** to leave messages on Facebook as we do not always get to these until much later. If your child experiences any form of sickness or diarrhoea it is essential you keep them at **home for a full 48 hours after the last episode** to prevent infections spreading to other children and families.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.