



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM

WWW.STEPPINGSTONES-PRESCHOOL.ORG.UK

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Preschool Leavers – Bracken Leas Induction

A number of parents have enquired about the school induction period and Stepping Stones offering childcare to cover these for those children who will be leaving us and starting school in September at Bracken Leas. Whilst we do our utmost to help working parents, parents should be reminded that this is NOT part of our ongoing offer in Preschool. Each year, we have to organise our existing children moving up and new children starting, and we are governed by strict child to staff ratios as well as room capacity. This has to be our priority. In saying this, we do and will try to do everything we can to support the Stepping Stones community, and once our September 2015 intake has been agreed (still in progress), we will look at room capacity and staffing and make a decision - this will also necessitate negotiating with Bracken Leas for a room should we be at full capacity with our new intake in Sept. This does take time and like parents we will not be privy to any information from the school regarding timings and dates of birth splits for morning or afternoon sessions until parents are, which will be around the end of May. We appreciate that parents are trying to get organised but this can be quite a complex process and does take time to sort and manage. Your patience whilst we are looking at this would be appreciated and a decision will be made at the beginning of June and communicated at that time.

EYPP – Early Years Pupil Premium

From January 2015, children who are currently claiming the Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in Northamptonshire, who meet certain eligibility criteria, could be eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). Letters from the County Council were issued in drawers at the beginning of January.

The Early Years Pupil Premium is additional funding available for investment in improving outcomes for children.

Eligibility criteria

Children will be eligible if they are 3 or 4 years old and receiving Government funded Free Entitlement in any OFSTED registered childcare provider and their parents are in receipt of one or more of the benefits used to access eligibility for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (**provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190**)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

or if they have been looked after by Northamptonshire County Council for at least one day; have been adopted from care in Northamptonshire; have left care through special guardianship; and subject to a child arrangement order setting out with whom the child is to live (formerly known as residence orders) in Northamptonshire.

What is the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)?

The EYPP is a premium available to the childcare provider your child attends for their Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. The premium will be used to improve the facilities, equipment and learning experiences to benefit the growth and development of your child.

How do I check if I am eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium?

You will need to check your eligibility by visiting the EYPP Online Eligibility Checker at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk. You will need to complete questions and submit your check.

You will be given a decision immediately along with a reference number. You will need to give this reference number to your childcare provider for them to make the claim for the funding.

How do I receive the EYPP?

The EYPP is paid directly to your childcare provider as part of their normal funding claim.

What type of childcare provider is eligible to receive the EYPP?

Any OFSTED registered childcare provider can claim the EYPP if the parents/carers using their service for the Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds are eligible and give the childcare provider their EP reference number.

ICAN – Speech and Language Development

It has recently been reported that 1 in 8 children in schools do not have communication skills to support them in education and everyday life, which eventually affects adulthood and working life. Stepping Stones is part of a new government initiative in supporting the development of communication skills in children from birth. We have a Communication Champion (Kim Martin) now in the setting and staff have undergone some additional training to support Kim in this role. We have been awarded some funding to support this training and for resources to develop the children's learning in this area. You will have started to see "Communication Bear's coming home with the children as a first step in this process. More details will follow shortly about how parents can become involved.

Safeguarding Reminders

Please do remember NEVER to let another person in to the building even if you know them, this includes another child. Only members of staff are allowed to give access to the building. This is important at ALL times including Breakfast Club, Afterschool and Holiday Club.

Invoicing

Invoices are normally issued within the first two weeks of term and payment within 14 days. If you have any payment concerns please email or discuss with the Management Team. Invoices issue date will be

communicated on our Facebook page and will be noted in Reception on the Parent Notice Board.

Summer Sun

Don't forget your child's sun hat and sensible shoes for outside play. They should also have sun cream applied BEFORE school. Thank you.

Funding

If your child is entitled to 2 or 3-4 year old funding they will need to complete their parental contracts again for this Summer Term. Teresa and Kim will be available during next week for these to be completed. Please make sure that the forms are signed by the end of the week otherwise we will not be able to make a claim for your child. If your child is newly funded this term, you will need to ensure that you provide a birth certificate or passport to confirm the identity of your child as well as a utility bill or similar with your address on which is less than 3 months old.

Parents Evening – Preschool (Wed 1 July from 6.30pm)

This will be a formal Parent's Evening, where you will need to book a timed slot with your child's key worker. This meeting will also give you the opportunity to go through your child's Transition document which will be forwarded to your child's Primary School. If you are unable to make the date please see your child's key worker to organise an alternative.

Preschool Leavers Picnic – Mon 20 July 1.00-2.30pm

Preschool Parents are invited to attend our Preschool leavers picnic where we will sit in the garden and enjoy a picnic on the last Monday of the school year. Siblings are welcome. More details will follow and timings are always subject to change dependent on the weather.

Preschool Prom – Tue 21 Jul 11.00am

Preschool Parents are invited to our Graduation Prom. Numbers are limited to two persons per child, as if the weather is not kind to us we will have to hold inside and will not have the capacity for more than 2 adults per child. Siblings are welcome. More details will follow and timings are always subject to change dependent on the weather.

Spring Hop

Many thanks to those of you that supported our Spring Hop. We raised a fantastic **£256.45!** Thanks to the FOSPP for organising and running the event.

Labelling of Clothes

A number of parents have brought to our attention that their children have lost hats and clothing. It is vital that everything your child brings into school is named/labelled. This also includes lunch bags and school bags as many children have the same ones – in one room we have 8 children with the same bags! The names should be easily seen. We also have a lost property area in the hallway where there is an abundance of clothing and items – parents are welcome to check this for any lost items.

Preschool Open Session – Fri 3 July 2.00pm

Preschool will be opening its doors for an open session for parents to join in with the activities and story time. All welcome.

DIARY DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Bank Holiday	Closed: Mon 4 May
Last Day of Term 5	Friday 22 May
First Day of Term 6	Monday 1 June
Last Day of Term 6	Tuesday 21 July
Bank Holiday	Closed: Monday 25 May
Bank Holiday	Closed: Monday 31 Aug
Deep Clean	Closed: Tue 1 Sept and Wed 2 Sept
Holiday Club Dates	Tue 26 May- Friday 29 May Wed 22 Jul – Fri 28 Aug
Start of New Sept Term 1	Thu 3 Sept
Parents Evening Preschool	Wed 1 Jul 6.30pm – timed slots (formal)
Preschool Open Session	Fri 3 Jul 2.00-3.00pm
Red Room Induction Evening	Wed 24 Jun 6.30pm
Playgroup Induction Evening	Tue 23 Jun 6.30pm
Playgroup Picnic/Party	Fri 17 Jul
Preschool Leavers Picnic	Mon 20 Jul 1.00-2.30pm
Preschool Prom	Tue 21 Jul 11.00am