



Newsletter - January 2014

A belated "Happy New Year" to you all and a special welcome to the children starting this term. Thank you for our lovely Christmas gifts they were most appreciated.

1. Open day Tuesday 4th March - Spaces available now!

We are having an open day for prospective new families on this day. Please take a flyer to pass on to any groups that you attend or families you know with young children.

2. Christmas Craft Fayre

Thank you for all your support at the Christmas Craft Fayre. It was a successful afternoon and we raised £310. This money has gone towards buying a Leapfrog tablet for the Pre-School and will soon be set up with educational games for the children. The money also bought Stepping Stones Logoed Hi-Vis Jackets which will be very useful for local trips we have planned this year. We have also spent a little on books for our new lending library, some new sand, paper, glue etc.

We would also like to say a big thank you for the donations we received for the Raffle from the shops on Moorland Road Busy Bees, Bath Bakery, Planet Beauty, Harry's, My Sweet Cupcakery and Banables Butchers.

3. Sainsbury's Active Kids

Active kids are back at Sainsbury's and we would like to try and collect enough to get some new mats and a mat stand. Please can everyone collect, ask family and friends to donate if they can. Spread the word, if everyone collects we feel this goal is achievable.

4. Quiz Night Fundraiser

Everyone is invited to our quiz night on Friday 21st March, which will be held in the Church Hall 7.30pm - 11.00pm. We are looking for 8 teams of 6, either make up your own teams or arrive on the night with pens at the ready and make up a team with others. Tickets will be £3.50 each and will be available shortly.

There will be a bar and a raffle during the evening.

We will need help with set up and tidy up so let Nicky know if you can help.

5. Raffle Prizes

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts please donate for the quiz raffle. We will be putting a box out for any donations. All would be greatly appreciated and helpful to raise money for running costs.

6. Staff news

We have been busy as normal with lots of us attending training:

Paige and Sara are continuing with their Story making training, I am sure lots of children have been sharing our "3 slimy aliens" story with you, Next term they are planning "Handa's Surprise"

Paige and Sara have attended Letters and Sounds and Observation training.

Nicky has attended an information session on the Bristol Standard, which is a 14 month quality control programme which we have signed up to.

Nicky has also attended Early Literacy training, and Using pictures to support communication.

Sue is attending Forest School training on Friday afternoons and continues as our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator) to attend SENCO sessions, the next being on transfer to school.

Paige has been busy completing her level 2 qualification, she will pass that in the next couple of months and we are pleased that she has agreed to be our apprentice with us while she completes her level 3 childcare qualification.

7. Parent Rota

It would be lovely to see some parent helpers, for part of a session like snack time or activity in the garden or for specific activities like cooking or crafts. The rota can be found on the folding noticeboard and staff will highlight on notices when there is specific help required.

8. Garden

You will have noticed we are trying to spend a little less time in the garden. Because of the prolonged wet weather the grass is really slippery and muddy and we want to minimise the damage we are causing. We will use the park at Lymore Gardens and walk in the community as well as indoor active play to continue with active play everyday while the grass has a chance to recover. It is great that so many children are coming in wellies, but a pair of shoes to change into are really useful. Thanks.

9. Reminders

Mondays' small group time is "Show and Tell" please send your child in with an item to talk about, this really help the children sit in a small group, take turns, listen and builds their confidence to talk in front of a group.

Family Photo - could we please have a family photo to put on our notice board.

10. Wows

Each child at Stepping Stones will have a learning journal for you to keep when they leave the setting, Please don't forget to send in any "Wows" from home which we read out at register and stick in their journals. Blanks are available in the entrance hall and I will attach one to this newsletter.

Dates for your diary

Half Term dates are 17 - 21 February.

4th March - Stepping Stones Open Day

6th March - Book at bedtime - please bring teddies and blankets - volunteers for story reading from 1 - 1.30 would be welcome!

11th March - In service day Stepping stones will be closed

21st March - Quiz night

27th March - Parent stay and play session - Encouraging early writing focus!

4th April - Last Day of term