



## Newsletter - May 2014

### 1. Sainsbury's Active Kids

We currently have 4100 vouchers! We need 4800 to buy a mat stand to replace the piano which is used to prop up the mats. It needs replacing as it is very heavy to pull and push and we have to strategically place furniture to prevent heads from being banged! Please go on line to nominate us to win our "wish list". <https://activekids.sainsburys-live-well-for-less.co.uk/> click on find out who's collecting near you. Enter our post code ( BA2 1AG) then nominate us! Thanks!

### 2. Quiz Night Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who came to the quiz night and to Sue's husband Mark for reading the questions. By a complete coincidence Sue's team also won !! We all had great fun and are planning to use the £200 raised to replace our CD player which unfortunately will only play really quietly in the hall.

### 3. Fundraising

A big Thank you to Victoria Pub in Millmead Road for donating just over £300.00, and for our local councillor June Player for donating just over the same amount.

### 4. Staff news

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

Sara has continuing with her Story making training, our story this term is a pirate themed; "one-eyed Jim."

Two story making mentors came to observe a session with us and gave us good ideas as to how we can improve our story making.

Nicky started Bristol Standard training. We have been looking at different areas of it in our staff meeting, looking at our strengths and completing an

action plan to make improvements. So far we have looked at the environment, and partnership with parents.

Nicky also attended an interesting "Leaders and Managers" workshop where an Ofsted inspector ran through the new Ofsted inspection framework.

Sue is continuing with her Forest School training.

Paige has now started her level 3 childcare qualification with us and has started to have a few key children of her own to look after.

When we are closed for the polling day ( Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May ) we are going to visit a "Montessori" pre-school to see if we can use any of their ideas at Stepping Stones.

### **5. Sunshine!**

Please remember to put on sun cream before the children arrive at Stepping Stones and encourage the children to wear a hat. We do have spare sun cream in the kitchen if you have forgotten.

### **6. Questionnaire**

Thank you for those who completed the recent annual questionnaire, Sarah will be putting it on-line for us and paper copies are available at school. One of the comments was that arrivals and departures are feeling a little hectic. We would please ask if you could collect your child's belongings before you pick up your child, and then go and collect them from the hall. For safety reasons we ask the children to wait until their grown up arrives and then we will call their name and let them leave.

Another comment was that although staff are available at the beginning and end of day for a chat we are not able to talk privately. We do have to stay on the door for safety reasons. If you would like a private chat please let us know and we will make a convenient appointment for you.

It would really help us if you could be prompt arriving and departing, this will also help the children getting into a routine for school in September.

### **7. Summer Outing**

Advance warning that we are planning our summer trip on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to Dyrham Park. They are offering us free group entry and a guided toddler trail. Parents or carers are needed to attend. Siblings are welcome. Nearer the time we will put up a list to see who can offer car share lifts.

### **8. Summer craft Fair Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 3.30 - 5.30**

## **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**

**15<sup>th</sup> May - 10am Visit from our local Community Police officer Kim Tanner to talk to the children about "strangers"**

**15<sup>th</sup> May - 12.30 - 1.Committee meeting to start planning summer fair - please come if you would like to help.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May - Polling Day - Pre-School will be closed as the hall is used as a polling station.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May - One- eyed Jim dress up day.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May - End of term 5**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June - Start of term 6**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June - Summer outing to Dyrham Park**

**27<sup>th</sup> June - Open Day**

**Date tbc Parents stay and play session " Getting Ready to start School"** we will be asking parents who had children starting school this year to be on hand to answer any questions. Also useful for gaining information if you are choosing a school for 2015!

**4<sup>th</sup> July - Summer craft fair**