



AUTUMN TERM

6TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Respect

1. Treating others the way you want to be treated
2. Showing kindness and consideration
3. Liking yourself enough to be yourself
4. Accepting others for who they are

Values at Stepping Stones

The Value of the Week is RESPECT

We continue with the value of Respect this week. We had a wonderful first few days where already over 50% of the school received a nomination for showing this value.

You can promote this value at home and message the class teacher via Class Dojo for a home nomination which will be read out and celebrated at Daily Meeting.

Our Questions to explore this week are...

Are there different types of respect?

How is respect shown in the wider world?

Letters Home



We will be sending out our annual pack of information this week. In the pack there will be forms that need completing and returning to school ASAP.

During the summer term we found it really hard to get information back to school.

Some of the forms are really important as we are updating our records and databases.

We need to ensure emergency contacts are up to date. It is expected that we have a minimum of 2 emergency contacts, however three is preferable. There have been many occasions where we have failed to contact parents because they have not answered etc. Please answer your phone or call school back.

In your pack of information, you will have the updated COVID Return to School plan.

We have also put in place a risk assessment and COVID outbreak plan which will be published on the website by the end of next week.

COVID Updates

COVID-19 UPDATES

Over the weekend we have had one staff test positive on a Lateral Flow test and this has been confirmed now with a PCR result. Several staff are close contacts and are undertaking daily testing and are going for a PCR test. At this stage we are continuing as normal.

We no longer have to close bubbles or ask anyone to self-isolate.

We are continuing to have regular handwashing, cleaning. Some of the staff that are direct contacts will be in work but putting in other measures such as wearing face coverings in communal areas.

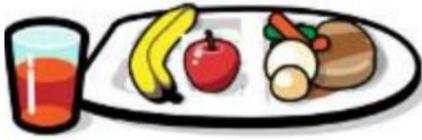
Children do not need to be tested unless they are classed as direct contacts. We do ask that you remain vigilant with childhood illnesses.

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell - be cautious and seek a PCR test.

As we know the most common symptoms are

- A high temperature (hot to touch)
- Loss of smell / taste
- A new continuous cough.

School Dinners



We had a very successful start to our school lunch menu and service last week. The reasons behind us going independent were to plan a menu around our children's food likes, whilst also trying to encourage a healthier, balanced plate of food. We were astonished at how the fresh cherry tomatoes, cucumber, mixed peppers, strawberries, grapes and oranges went last week! There were lots of children trying something new. This is also backed up by our new family lunch service. The children are expected to sit in group tables with a staff member and take part in a family dinner style service. The aim is to ensure lunch times are teachable moments e.g. table manners, socialisation, turn taking, good eating habits etc.

If a child really does not like anything on the daily menu, they will always be offered a sandwich, wrap or alternative simple option, however we are encouraging all of the children to try something new.

Swimming in Oak and Orchard Class



Oak and Orchard class children will be expected to go swimming every Monday during the Autumn term. This is due to begin on the 13th September. This is part of our PE curriculum. Many of our children have missed out on this in their mainstream school and due to COVID. In the past we always have issues with children forgetting kit on the day, so we are proposing the following.

- Please can parents / carers source a swimming kit for their child that can remain in school.
- This needs to be fitted swim shorts / trunks for boys – not baggy shorts. A swimming costume for girls. Swim hat for girls.
- Towel.
- Children do not need goggles! We will check the guidance from the pool on this but in the past additional forms need to be completed around the wearing of goggles.

Can all of this be labelled and in a bag please.

If the children start bringing this in next week we can make sure kits are in and ready. We can always wash the kits in school to ensure your child does not miss out on sessions because of no kit.

Miss Meacham will be in touch with parents next week ensuring appropriate risk assessments are in place and paperwork is completed.

New Exercise Equipment



We are really pleased with our new exercise equipment and outdoor gym. This has been purchased using our Sports funding. Our goal is to get the children more active and increase their physical activity levels.

The equipment will be used at playtimes, as part of sensory movement breaks and during PE sessions.

Mrs Rossall will be undertaking two qualifications this year. She will be undertaking training to be an outdoor education leader and a children's fitness coach so she can lead fitness sessions for the children.

Thank You for your continued support.

Mrs. Dodd and the team at Stepping Stones School