



AUTUMN TERM OPENING

1ST SEPTEMBER 2021



Values at Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is an accredited Enhanced Values Based education school. We promote life and moral values throughout every element of the curriculum.

Our core values are RESPECT, KINDNESS, TOLERANCE and TRUST

We continually teach the children these values and ask parents to promote the values within the home.

During the past academic year, we were faced with many challenges. Whilst the vast majority of parents/ carers were extremely supportive and respectful, we also had several parents who were rude and disrespectful towards staff.

This behaviour is not acceptable. We are moving into the next academic year 2021-2022 with the expectation that our parents and carers will also be respectful, kind, tolerant and put their trust in our staff. If a parent is unhappy with school then they can arrange a meeting with senior leaders. It is not ok for any staff to be on the receiving end of verbal aggression, especially when they are working so hard to educate and support the children.

We start the new academic year focusing on RESPECT. Please remember to send in nominations for how your child has shown this value at home.

School Day



We are increasing our school day to 3pm again – Monday to Thursday. Last year was extremely challenging with the school timetable across two pods and trying to organise the curriculum, breaks etc.

We will be sticking with a 1:30 closure on Fridays until further notice. This is because the teachers remain with their class all week and have reduced breaks, to minimise change which many children can not cope with. We continue to have reduced the time children are on breaks so no curriculum hours are missed.

Parent / Carer pick up at 3pm (Monday – Thursday and 1:30pm Friday) or agreed time with SLT. (if you are dropping off and picking up at other schools)

We have less children attending in the Autumn term, however, numbers are likely to increase quickly. So, we will aim to get the children out of school promptly and to minimise disruption on the car park

COVID and other illnesses



The COVID restrictions have significantly changed. The most up to date guidance states that:

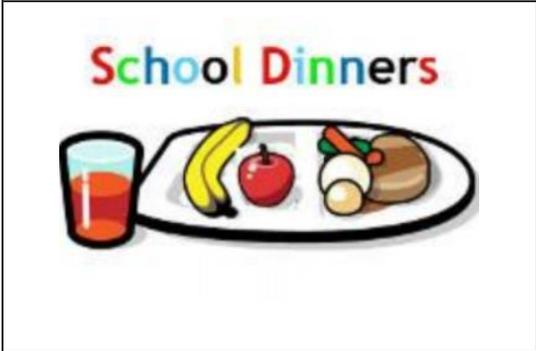
- We no longer have to run bubbles / pods.
- We can have assemblies and group meetings again, therefore we will be doing daily meeting as a school again.
- Staff that are double vaccinated will not have to isolate (unless) the rules change again. If they are a contact they will be asked to take a PCR test.

- Children will not have to isolate but if identified as a close contact of someone that does test positive then they will be encouraged to take a PCR test.

We may have to review things if we do have a COVID outbreak within the school community. Our risk assessment will be continually reviewed and we have devised a COVID outbreak plan. We will communicate with parents if we do have positive cases within school but will keep information anonymous.

If we have a high number of COVID cases then we will be told by Public Health England on the actions we must take. Remote education will continue to be in place, if required.

If your child has COVID symptoms such as high temperature, continuous cough, loss of sense of taste/ smell then they should remain at home and not come to school until they have received a PCR test and negative results. Please also be mindful of the other symptoms that can present in children.



We have had our mini lunch kitchen installed over the summer holiday. We are therefore designing our menu around our children's likes whilst still encouraging balanced healthy choices. The menu will be streamlined. E.g. pasta dishes, jacket potatoes, sandwiches, soup, toasties. We will continue with some of the favorites such as pizza, sausages and fish.

Fresh salad, fruit, a range of vegetables and yoghurts will be offered daily.

The menu will be simplified and published on Class Dojo each week.

Attendance

Attendance Matters

It is important for every child to be in school everyday unless they are ill.

We closely monitor children's attendance. Every school day matters and it is surprising how regular absences impact on your child's academic progress. By missing one day a week has a significant impact.

Registration is between 9am – 9:30. A child will be registered as late if they are arriving after this time. (Unless this is due to a traffic issue on pupil transport)

Children have Individual Target work set for 9am – 9:15 each morning, which is crucial to support their development and is bespoke to their provision.

9:15 is breakfast and setting the expectations of the day, going over targets and ensuring the children know the timetable for the day.

9:30 all children begin their first lesson.

We had a number of children arriving late in the previous term and this is impacting on their academic progress.

School Uniform



As we return to school, please can you ensure your child is in school uniform.

Grey / black – shorts, skirt, dress, trousers.

White T-shirt

Navy blue jumper / cardigan.

Or alternatively children can wear their mainstream uniform.

Black plain trainer shoes or school shoes.

Class teachers will let you know the PE day and children can wear their PE kit for their allocated PE day. (plain T-shirts (no logos) and shorts for PE kit also please)

Parent / Teacher consultations online

We will be organising an online opportunity for you to meet the class teacher and find out how your child has settled into the year.

This will be in week 4 of this half term.

Thank You for your continued support.

We hope you all a lovely summer break.

School re-opens on Thursday 2nd September 2021.

Please ensure your child is in school uniform, that they are ready for the transport and have a water bottle which is for **water only** – no juice unless this is for a child's packed lunch, and this should be separate to their water bottle. They do not need any other items in school and should not be bringing in other items without permission. This is because they can cause issues and challenges that the staff then have to deal with. If we keep the rule the same then this is fair, consistent and does not put additional challenges in the way for staff to deal with.

Mrs. Dodd and the team at Stepping Stones School