



SPRING TERM

4TH January 2022

Values at Stepping Stones

The Value of the Week is Respect

“Respect is a Stepping Stones a Stepping Stones to me. I respect you and you respect me.”

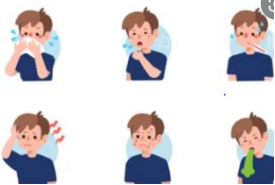
These are the lyrics of a song that some of our children wrote several years ago. I am sure you agree that they are very true and something we aspire to do and show to all of our children, parents, carers and wider community.

Respect is one of the school's core values and is promoted through every aspect of the school day. It is a value that is expected within every environment from shops, communities, schools, doctors etc. It is expected towards other people from all backgrounds. This includes the way we speak, what we say, how we say it.

Showing respect to the school building and resources and towards our peers and other children.

We hope that you can promote this value at home. Ms Sheron will be providing a separate Value's newsletter this term as we are going to be focusing on Parental Engagement and Support in promoting school values, in school and at home.

Please remember you can send in positive comments to the class teachers (within school hours) via Class Dojo giving examples of how your child has shown the value at home. Your child will be recognised for their achievements.



COVID Updates

As you may be aware the DFE are keen to ensure that all schools stay open for all children, which as a school we absolutely agree with. We have seen the impact first hand on children's emotional well being, academic progress and their behaviour. We are keen to ensure routines and school provision is in place. However, as I have previously outlined, the key issue we face is staff absences and that we can not use supply staff without intense training. Prior to Christmas, I tried for several weeks to secure additional staffing and was unsuccessful. Stepping Stones is a very bespoke environment and the staff who work at the school work extremely hard. It isn't easy to replace their skills and expertise with supply staff.

We will endeavor to keep school open unless we are faced with a high level of absences or if advised to close on health and safety grounds.

TESTING AND CLOSE CONTACTS

All staff are taking regular Lateral Flow Tests and we are asking families to do the same. Lateral Flow Tests are for Asymptomatic Testing and the advice is that if you / your child have symptoms e.g. Runny Nose, aching, headaches, excessive sneezing, high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste / smell then you should seek a PCR test and isolate until you receive the results.

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive then you will be asked to use LFD testing daily for a period of 7 days after contact on your child. (This is now advised for all children over the age of 5)

Reduction in Isolation Period

If a child / adult does test positive and has self isolated: They can stop isolation on day 8 **IF ONLY they have had a negative LFD on day 6 and day 7 that are 24 hours apart and they do not have a temperature.** If it hasn't been possible to test on these days then the person should isolate until the end of day 10.

If you're unsure, please contact the school office. DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS.

If your child has had COVID over the Christmas break can you please ensure they are out of their isolation period before you send them back to school. You can inform the office via phone or email. office@steppingstones.lancs.sch.uk

School Rules and Expectations

Some of the children's behaviour responses to simple school rules and work expectations prior to Christmas put staff at risk. Whilst we understand that the behaviour is a response to a trigger we had a number of children responding to work expectations and simple adult requests with violence towards staff and damage towards school property.

All the staff are highly skilled and experienced in ensuring that work is differentiated, pitched at the appropriate level and are fair with their requests. As I have outlined we are a values based school with high levels of nurture, structure, routines and fair boundaries.

We work with other professionals to look at all the support, strategies and provision adaptations in order to provide a personalised approach.

We ask that parents remind their children of the key rules.

To be Safe.

To be Respectful

To complete Learning to a high standard.

We ask parents to support school and respect what the teachers say in their messages / telephone conversations.

If a child persistently displays the behaviour outlined we will call a review of the risk assessment and provision to discuss supportive measures between home, school and with the child.

It is not acceptable for staff to come to work to be hurt or spat at, despite the type of school we all have agreed to work in.

Operation Encompass



Our school is part of Operation Encompass which works in conjunction between schools and Lancashire Constabulary.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced any domestic abuse, or where the police have attended a home for different reasons and children from our school are present.

We have three Designated Safeguarding Leads – Alison Dodd, Micaela Armstrong and Jane Meacham. The DSL's receive information from other agencies such as the Police in order to ensure children have the best support in place following any incidents.

We continue to ask parents / carers to inform school of any incidents, changes etc. that may cause your child distress and impact on their school day. Micaela Armstrong will be office-based tomorrow and available to take your calls and update us on any key issues from over the Christmas Period.

Curriculum Updates

Over the next few weeks you will receive updates on our curriculum plans. We are focusing on reading and application of phonics and spelling for writing. We will be sending out a curriculum news update for all.

Diary Dates

School Opens on Wednesday 5th January 2022

School Closes for February Half Term on Friday 11th February 2022.

Thank You for your continued support and Happy New Year. Mrs Dodd and the team at Stepping Stones