



SPRING TERM (1)

8TH JANUARY 2024

WEEK 1



Welcome back to the new Spring Term.

We are looking forward to the busy weeks ahead as we settle back into the school routine after the Christmas break.

Here is a reminder of the staff changes at Stepping Stones for the next 2 terms, until we have a new headteacher appointed, for September 2024. Please do not hesitate as always to get in touch with school if you have any concerns or worries concerning your child.

Miss Meacham is stepping down as Acting Head and the school welcomes **Ms Ceri Hamer**, who will be joining the school team for the next 2 terms as Acting Head. She will be supported by Miss Meacham who returns to her post as Deputy Headteacher.

Values at Stepping Stones



The Importance of Respect (for others and for yourself)

The Values of the Week are TRUST and RESPECT

This first week back, our focused values will be **trust** and **respect**. They are two of our core school values and we will be discussing what these can both look and feel like to each of us, daily.

During our Circle Time, we will be carrying out an activity which requires the children to work closely as a team, trusting and respecting each other's decisions. At home, ask your child about how they managed this task – "Don't wake the dragon!"

Please do take the time to discuss these values with your child at home and let us know when they have been able to show trust and respect within the family; or when they have worked well as team with either yourselves or their brothers and sisters. We love to be able to celebrate home nominations for our Values' Board in school each week.



Can-do Colin will be resuming his weekends at home with the children in the New Year. Please do encourage your child to involve him in your weekend activities and to pop a photo/picture/sentence in the diary ready for his return to school each Monday.

Key Reminders

Class dojo



Our main way of communication is Class Dojo. Please ensure you are signed up to this App so that you do not miss any key reminders or information regarding your child's school day and events. It is upsetting for the children if they are not prepared for any changes or events when they get to school.

Also make sure that all phone numbers and key contacts are up to date. In case of an emergency, we must have up to date numbers.

Parents/Carers can also ring the school office from 8:00am if required.



School Taxi's

Firstly, just a gentle reminder for the new year, please have your child ready at the earliest possible time of arrival in the mornings. We are being told, taxi's are having to wait up to 10 minutes for some children to be ready. This has a knock-on effect for the other pick-ups for a taxi in the morning. LCC policy is to wait for just 3 minutes.

Secondly, the policy states that parents/carers must take their child out to the taxi please.

Thank you so much for your help and support in this matter. 😊

Behaviour and Safety



Our three school rules are

- Be respectful
- Be Safe
- Complete your learning / tasks to a good standard

The children worked hard last term to follow the school rules and use their strategies, values and growth mindset to help them manage the more tricky parts to their day.

Thank you for all your support at home, we are seeing many of our children, including our new friends over the past few weeks, trying very hard to make good choices and follow our school rules, especially around keeping themselves and others safe. The children's nominations for each other are thoughtful and meaningful! 😊

95%	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days

Attendance and Booking Holidays during Term Time

Attendance matters! Attendance data is carefully monitored and we have noticed a few key children with growing absences. All children need to be in school unless they are unwell.

If you are booking holidays during term time, please be mindful that these will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. Any child on a dual placement e.g. still on roll at mainstream school should have the holiday request authorised by their mainstream school.



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 four Designated Safeguarding Leads for the next 2 terms – Ms Hamer, Miss Meacham, Miss Hunter and Mrs Armstrong. 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.

School Uniform – just as children do in mainstream schools, all our children at Stepping Stones are also expected to wear our school uniform please.



Our school uniform is navy blue jumper / cardigan. White polo / shirt/ t shirt.

Grey or black trousers/ leggings, skirt / shorts or jogging bottoms.

Children should be wearing black school shoes or black trainers.

Children who are with us for short periods of time may choose to wear their mainstream school uniform.

We do have uniform available to purchase if you wish your child to have a jumper with a logo / t shirt with a logo.

On PE days children may wear their PE kit. Again, this should be plain **non-branded** joggers / shorts and **plain PE T-shirts** (White, blue, black). NO FOOTBALL shirts or hoodies. They can wear their navy jumper over the top.

Please read the class newsletter / information on Class Dojo to find your child's PE day.

Things from home A reminder for the new Spring Term:

Your child does not need to bring anything other than a water bottle to school. All equipment is provided.

If it has been agreed for the child to have a comforter e.g. teddy, this needs to be agreed with the class teacher and the teacher will set rules around where this stays during learning times.

We don't encourage children to bring things for the following reasons....

- It causes problems / difficulties and can cause further upset for your child when we have rules about objects.
- It may go missing, lost, misplaced etc.
- It could get damaged.

We encourage children to take responsibility for their bags, clothing etc. It is also really helpful if school jumpers/cardigans are named.

Please do not send your child with objects from home. We cannot accept responsibility for lost or damaged items. Please do not send your child with expensive clothing / objects. Jewelry is not to be worn in school. If a child's ears are pierced then the expectation is for studs only to be worn, for safety reasons. Thank you.

Finally a letter of introduction from Ms Hamer:

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to introduce myself as the new Acting Head for Stepping Stones. After visiting the school in December I am very much looking forward to working with you and your children. I have worked within the district as a local leader for over 20 years and have lots of experience in leading schools. I also come from a strong pastoral and nurturing background in education.

My main role will be to manage and lead the school until a replacement is found for the previous head Mrs Dodd. I would like to thank Miss Meacham in leading the school over the last three terms and I look forward to working alongside her as she returns to her role of Deputy Head.

I understand that change can often worry some, but please be assured I will also have a child's best interests at heart.

Regards

Ceri Hamer

Acting Headteacher



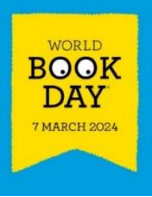
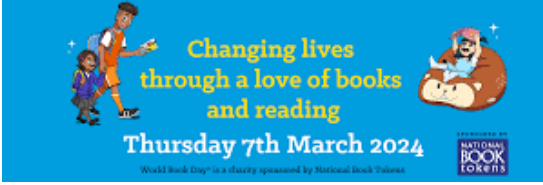


Thank you for your continued support. The children continue to build positive relationships in class teams; and are busy making our new pupils feel welcome! Thank you so much for mirroring our school ethos and school values at home.

Please remember that we are here to support you and you can contact Mrs Armstrong (Family Support – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday).

Ms Hamer and the whole staff team at Stepping Stones School



Spring Term 2024 Diary of Events - to cut off and keep

	<p align="center">Friday 2nd February NSPCC Number Day</p> <p align="center"><i>The children will be busy in the morning with a range of exciting maths activities. There will be further information on our theme nearer the time.</i></p>
 <p>Safer Internet Day</p>	<p align="center">Tuesday 6th February Safer Internet Day</p> <p align="center"><i>The children will spend the day on a range of themed activities.</i></p>
	<p align="center">Thursday 7th March World Book Day</p> <p align="center"><i>We will be celebrating this day in school with a range of book themed tasks and activities.</i></p> 
	<p align="center">Friday 15th March Red Nose Day</p> <p align="center"><i>The children can come to school dressed in red if they wish. (with the usual reminder for no football shirts please). We will be raising money for a local charity – more information nearer the time, thank you.</i></p>
 <p>Neurodiversity Celebration Week</p>	<p align="center">18th – 24th March Neurodiversity Celebration Week</p> <p align="center"><i>We will be celebrating with a range of activities throughout the week in school. We will be having a cake sale to raise money to support activities for our children in school, here at Stepping Stones. Further information nearer the time.</i></p>