

UPDATES

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear All,
Just a few updates for you!

- **Please make sure children have WARM clothes and layers** - some children were finding it a bit chilly today.

Activities:

- We had a thrilling visit from our friends at Zoo Lab today. The children had a fantastic time getting up close and personal with a few new friends.... See our Facebook page and Tapestry for more details and pics
- We are beginning our 12 Stories for Christmas today; each day the children will have a new Christmas story to enjoy and maybe a treat from our Advent Calendar too. This will take us right up to our Christmas Party
- Our mischievous elf made his first appearance and the children loved playing 'hot and cold' to find him...
- **We had a very productive committee meeting** last night and we would like to thank everyone who came along.
- **We will be liaising with DOOSC** over the possibility of erecting a canopy to keep you dry on rainy days at drop off and collection time, as we are aware parents have a longer wait now that school has changed its hours.
- **Fee increase** - Due to the significant increase in costs we have had over the past year and the financial increases we still have pending, it was agreed that from January 2024 we need to increase our fees to £30 per day, with a morning session (9-12) costing £20. We have not had a fee increase for a number of years and we do hope you understand. This does not apply to children who use their funded hours only. If you have any concerns or queries, please speak to Allison.
- **Thank you to everyone who has donated** prizes or wrapping paper, or who has helped out in any way - we couldn't do it without you.
- **A particular thank you** to the parents who cleared up the leaves in the playground this morning on this very chilly and frosty morning.
- If you are entitled to 30 hours funding, remember to renew your funding codes before December 31st.
- Please remember to send your stamps (or £1) by Wednesday 6th so that your children can post their Christmas cards.
- Please email or let a member of staff know if your son or daughter is NOT coming to our Christmas Party on Wednesday 20th December (9-12). ALL children are welcome even if it is not their usual day. We will provide a party snack. This is also our last day for 2023! We return to Stepping Stones on Monday 8th January 2024.

Have a lovely weekend, see you next week!

From the Stepping Stones Team

Safeguarding & Child Protection - If you have concerns for a child's safety, you can call Children and Families Front Door Service on 01452 426565 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm). If you need to speak to a social worker outside of these hours, then you can call the Emergency Duty Team on 01452 614194. If it is an emergency or a child is in immediate danger call 999.

Domestic Abuse: For help & support call Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service on 01452 726 570 Mon-Fri, 9-5pm, or call 24 Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247