

Stepping Stones Pre-  
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Dear Parents/Carers,

## Christmas Newsletter 2023

We are in full **Christmas** mode here at Stepping Stones! We have been glittering, jingling and singing along to our favourite Christmas songs, (you should all have received a copy of our song sheet). The children are enjoying lots of **sparkly Christmas fun**, and we are making some lovely Christmas crafts which the children will be bringing home.



### Activities

#### Zoo Lab

We are very excited to have a special visit from Zoo Lab, this Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Zoo Lab provide an animal handling experience for children which promotes their 'understanding of the world' and increases their 'cultural capital'. They will be bringing along some unusual and exotic animals for the children to see and learn about. There will be a Christmas theme and they will be telling the story of 'The Last Present'.

#### Tree Decorating

We have a Christmas tree that we put up each day which the children enjoy decorating with tinsel and baubles. This activity helps to support their social development, negotiating and communication skills as they work together; it also promotes gross and fine motor skills.

#### Santa's Grotto

One of the children's favourite activities is 'wrapping' presents. We have made a 'Grotto' where the children can practise wrapping presents and writing cards. Please could you bring in any small boxes/cartons you may have that we can wrap (teabag/tissue box size) and if you have any spare Christmas wrapping paper, we would be very grateful 😊 This activity also supports motor skills, along with spatial reasoning and problem-solving / thinking skills. Thank you!

#### Christmas Post



We will be taking a **winter walk** to the post box at the back of the school so the children can post their Christmas cards. **Please can you send a 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamp** in with your child (by **6th December at the latest**) so that all children can join in with posting their cards. Please write your child's name on the back. If you don't have a stamp, please send £1

#### Open Ended / Adult Guided

We have a wide variety of craft and Christmas activities planned for the children, some of which are entirely 'open ended' (no result / end product expected) and some are 'adult guided' where staff support children to achieve a result.

#### Christmas Bazaar

The school Christmas Bazaar is on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – a big thank you to everyone who has donated a prize so far - we have been given quite a few but we still need more donations!! Small gifts such as a bar of chocolate would be great as we need people to keep buying tickets on the night! This is one of our major fundraising events in the year and last year we raised over £200!

We also need **volunteers** to help run the stall on the night. If you think you can help, please let a member of staff know.

## Christmas Party

This year our Christmas party will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. **ALL children** are welcome *whether or not* it is their usual day. Pick up is at 12.00 and we will provide a party snack for the children. Please let us know if your child is attending or not, and if they have any allergies or food preferences.

This will be the last day at Stepping Stones for 2023 as we break up for Christmas. We would like to thank everyone for your valued support during this past year.

### IMPORTANT INFO

#### Warm Clothes

Please also remember **warm** clothes and a coat, hat and gloves or **mittens** now that the weather is getting chillier (if children have gloves, please practice putting them on with your children – if we have 20 children that is 200 fingers we have to fit into gloves every time we go out to play!!) Also, if it is wet, please send wellies and spare trousers /socks. It is a good idea keep a change of clothes in your children's bags just in case it is needed. We have the windows open for ventilation and we go outside in all weathers so children do need warm clothes.

**PLEASE** can you label your children's belongings, this particularly applies to **coats, bags, lunchboxes, drinks** and other items. Thank you.



#### **Things to Remember:**

- Stamps / £1
- Donations for our Prize Board
- Volunteers needed to help on the stall (8<sup>th</sup> Dec) – please let a member of staff know if you can help
- Small boxes for children to wrap
- Spare wrapping paper



#### **Dates for your Diary:**

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Last day for stamps to post Christmas cards
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	-	School Christmas Bazaar
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas Party & <b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	-	Spring Term - return to Stepping Stones

We would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout 2023 and wish you a very Merry Christmas

**Allison, Chanelle, Rosie & Miranda**



#### **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

# Merry Christmas from Stepping Stones

## Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, had a very shiny  
And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows  
All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him  
names



They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games  
Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say  
Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?  
And how the reindeer loved him, how they shouted out with glee  
Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history



## When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney

When Santa got stuck up the chimney, he began to shout  
You girls and boys won't get any toys if you don't pull me  
out  
My beard's all black, there's soot in my sack, My nose is tickly  
too When Santa got stuck up the chimney Achoo, Achoo,

Achoo

## Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open  
sleigh

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh

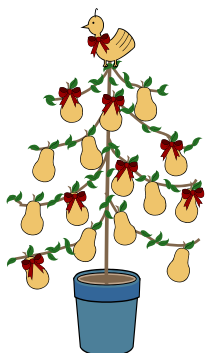


## We wish you a Merry



## Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Glad tidings we bring, to you and your kin,  
we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## The Twelve (5) Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree

On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me

*Three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree*

*On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree*

*On the fifth day of Christmas my true loves sent to me  
4 calling birds, 3 French hens, **5 gold rings** and a partridge in a pear tree*



## **Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Lights**

*Twinkle, twinkle Christmas lights  
Father Christmas came last night  
Down the chimney with the toys  
Woke me up with all the NOISE  
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas lights  
Father Christmas came last night*

## **Little Donkey**

*Little donkey, little donkey, on a dusty road  
Got to keep on plodding onwards, with the precious load  
Been a long time little donkey, through the winter's night  
Don't give up now little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight  
Ring out those bells tonight; Bethlehem, Bethlehem  
Follow the star tonight; Bethlehem, Bethlehem*



## **Away in a Manger**

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay*



## Here we go round the Christmas Tree

Here we go round the Christmas tree  
the Christmas tree, the Christmas tree  
Here we go round the Christmas tree  
on a cold Christmas morning.



This is the way we decorate the tree, decorate the  
decorate the tree

This is the way we decorate the tree on a cold Christmas morning

Here we go round..

This is the way we put on our clothes, put on our clothes, put on our clothes  
This is the way we put on our clothes on a cold Christmas morning

Here we go round..

This is the way we go downstairs..

This is the way we open our presents..

## Snowman Song

(tune of Head shoulders, knees and toes)

Head and body made of snow, made of snow

Head and body made of snow, made of snow

And hat and scarf and carrot for a nose

Head and body, made of snow made of snow



## Father Christmas...

Father Christmas, Father Christmas

He got stuck, he got stuck

Coming down the chimney, coming down the chimney

What bad luck, what bad luck



## Christmas Pudding...

Christmas pudding, Christmas pudding

Steaming hot, steaming hot

Pouring on the custard, pouring on the custard

Eat the lot, eat the lot





### Ring the Bells

Ring, ring, ring the bells,  
Ring them loud and clear  
To say to people everywhere  
That Christmas time is here

### Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star

Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star  
Way up high is where you are  
Shining bright for all to see  
On the tip top of our tree  
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star  
Way up high is where you are

