**STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL GROUP**

**STAY SAFE, KEEP HEALTHY, ENCOURAGE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR,**

**THEREFORE ENJOY, ACHIEVE AND BE HAPPY**

“Big journeys begin with small Stepping Stones”

20th May 2020

Dear parents,

It is beyond belief that we have come to the end of another half term. We hope that this letter finds you safe and well, and will continue to do so.

We must congratulate our parents on becoming educators as well as all of the hundreds of other duties that you have to do, and thank you for embracing some of the ideas and activities that we have supplied in our on line learning. We have included all of the comments and photos that you have sent to us, in your child’s Learning Journey, this information will all add to the summative assessment that we make for all children, especially those who will be leaving our setting at the end of July. Our online learning will continue in the way that we have been managing it, via Facebook, as this seems to be the most popular method, with all of the lovely, cuddly, sensory and sociable resources to use that you have at home, many of which we will sadly not be able to provide at Stepping Stones for a while, but we will have to ‘make up’ for this when the horrific virus allows us to return our provision to normal.

\*\*Please note that if Facebook is “not your thing” we could email our planning out, if you prefer and you could return anything to us that you would like us to add to your child’s journal.

***Next week is half term! Stay safe with your children, and have fun!***

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Our plans for provision at Stepping Stones from the beginning of June onwards, change along with Government Guidance on a regular basis!! **WE UNDERSTAND THAT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE ON 28THMAY** guidance may be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Our provision may look a little different for a while, but our thoughts at the moment, for the offer we may make are as follows:

Some staff will return on the first day of June, to make the environment as safe as we can, under the circumstances, whilst assessing the risks for children, parents and staff. This will take a few days, thus we are **aiming** to open for

***Up to 5 mornings per week from Thursday 4th June, with children returning home before lunch each day.***

**These sessions will need to be pre-booked** either by email whenever you like, or by phone. We will need at least **two days notice**, so that arrangements for provision can be made for your child; **we will not be able to make provision without prior notice.**

At present we have six children whose parents have expressed an interest and may attend. (One child is from the group due to begin school in September and five children are three years old.)

**Social distancing** with young children is not really an option!, thus we cannot adhere to this, all that we can do is attempt to minimise the risk of infection. Thankfully, you have had several weeks to deal with toilet training, as we can’t quite imagine how nappies can be changed at a two metre arm’s length!!, however, this is something that you will need to consider, and if this is an issue, maybe ‘pull-ups’ would give a child more independence in taking care of his or her own needs*. We also suggest that children wear light clothing to cover all limbs for added protection, minimising the need for first aid due to trips and falls, and the risk of exposure to the sun, as we will be playing outside as much as possible.* ***Please also administer sunscreen before you leave home in the morning. We have enough hats to cover needs.***

Soft furnishings and many toys will be stored away, so that cleaning can be maintained more easily; with play space maximised so that children can keep apart from each other as much as is physically possible. PTO

**Access** will also be different for the time being. Newlyn School has requested that our families will walk up the lane to the left of the school grounds or down Creeping Lane, and through the back, blue door. I’m sorry but ***we cannot have access via the school playground at present.***

**Times** will be allocated for the arrival of each child so that adults can keep their distance from each other, with only one parent per child. You will have already ‘pre-booked’ the session for your child, during which we will give you a time for a staff member to greet you near the decking at the back of our building, and accompany your child into Stepping Stones. A similar plan will be made for the collection of your child before lunch. Staff will then deep clean the premises, plan activities for the next day and continue to make online provision for those remaining at home.

We ask that children **do not bring their own toys to school.** They will need a coat, wellies and a change of clothes as usual. We will provide drinks and a healthy snack, safely, at the setting.

**Hygiene measures** eg regular hand washing whilst singing twinkle twinkle little star, twice!!

Adequate supplies of antibac wipes and sanitisers will be used in the setting along with the use of our ‘tissue station’ to ‘catch, kill and bin’ any unwanted germs.

**If your child shows any signs of illness, please keep them at home.**

A plan will be made in the nightmare event that a child or member of staff shows symptoms of Covid 19, following the Government protocol on <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

As with any sickness, we will contact you immediately and ask you to collect your child, from the back of the building and return home for isolation and care.

**Please always ensure that we have your up-to-date contact numbers.**

Nurture is the very essence of our provision. It is what we are most proud about, so we will need to find ways to keep the social aspects of our learning, on-going and comforting. Plans will also be reviewed regularly in line with the ever changing circumstances. All that we can promise is to continue to take care of your most precious child to the best of our ability, whilst keeping risks to the minimum. Your child and your family are our main concern and safety is paramount for you and our staff. We will continue to serve you in the best and ‘outstanding’ way that we can.

***Please help us by talking with your child about the need to stop touching/kissing/hugging their friends at the moment, so that we have a consistent approach. This is so sad, but necessary!***

*Dare we say: Stay alert and stay safe!*

Have a great weekend!

Sue and Co.

*This letter is a lot to read! If you have any questions, or need help with understanding the changes, please phone, email or make a private message on Facebook, to make your enquiry.*

*Thank you.*