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**Newsletter July 2020**

Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup,

Avonway Community Centre

36 Shaftsbury Street.

Hampshire. SP6 1JF

Tel: 01425 653517

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you are all keeping well and that you and your families have not been too adversely affected by all that is going on. It has been a strange year for us all and it feels sad to be ending this way. The summer term is usually a busy one for us all. We hope that you have all enjoyed some family time at home together during this time.

On a positive note, it has been nice having the children back in and we believe that they have enjoyed themselves, despite the changes that we have had to make. They have adapted well and it has certainly been lovely to hear them laughing and playing.

For those children who have not returned, we hope that you have felt you can come to us if you have needed support. It has been difficult to guage how much to send you in terms of resources and things to do.

**Children Starting School**

It is unfortunate that we have not had the usual settling in sessions that the school offers but we are sure that the school will do their best to make the transition as smooth as possible in the circumstances. We are sending out a ‘Ready, Steady, School’ leaflet out to those that will be going to school but if you have any concerns at all, please do talk to us. We will be sad to say goodbye to all our school leavers but wish you all the best at this exciting time. We know you will all do well and we look forward to seeing you in your ‘big school’ uniform. Sadly, we are unable to have our leavers assembly but we will still be celebrating your children’s time with us with a special Leavers Certificate. (We will deliver to those who are still at home.)

**Parent Questionnaires**

We will be asking parents of children who are leaving to complete a questionnaire on your families time at Stepping Stones. This feedback is really useful to us and we have made changes in the past based on your suggestions.

**Return in September**

As things stand, we are planning to resume our normal hours on our return to pre-school in September. This will be subject to demand and of course on any announcements that the Government might make. We will stay in touch during the school holidays and if you have any queries during this time, the best way to contact us will by email. **manager@steppingstonesfordingbridge.co.uk** Some of the changes that we have had to make this term will continue in September. For example, increased handwashing and cleaning, taking away the soft toys and furnishings and limiting the number of visitors where possible. We will continue to ask parents to drop off and pick up from the gate. If parents need to come in then we will make provisions to do this as safely as we can.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new faces in September and have a few siblings that will be joining us. Please be assured that we will work with you to ensure that they all settle well. The children returning may find it difficult to settle too after such a long absence but again, we will work with you to help them.

Our first day back in Pre-school will be **Monday 7th September.** (Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th will be inset days and pre-school will be closed)

**Your child’s hours for September**

If you have not done so already, please can you confirm what hours you would like your child to do. We are assuming our hours will be 9am to 3pm as before but will let you know if there are any changes.

30 hour funding

If you are eligible for 30 hour funding, please make sure you renew in order to continue claiming in September. If you think you may be eligible,please visit the government website: [www.childcarechoice.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoice.gov.uk) for more information or come and have a chat with a member of staff.

**Last day of term**

Our last day of term will be Wednesday 22nd July. However, you can contact us during the holidays with concerns by email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

**All that remains to say is that we wish you all a safe and happy summer. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.**

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