



Summer term newsletter 2026

Hello Everyone!

As we approach the second half of the summer term here are some updates to carry you through the weeks ahead.

Sun Protection

With (hopefully) a wonderful summer ahead of us, could you please ensure that your child starts the day with **sun cream already applied**. We are happy to top-up sun protection cream in the afternoon for those staying all day, so please provide sun cream labelled with your child's name for this purpose. Please also remember to provide sun hats and a cool, long sleeved top for added protection.

Remember
the sun cream!



Sunburn hurts! Apply
sun cream often to
stay safe in the sun.

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



Summer footwear

With the warmer months upon us we try to access our large, walk-in sand pit as much as possible. Please could you provide your child with a pair of Crocs or sandals, which will allow them to access the sand pit but independently and quickly put their footwear back on when they need to go inside for the toilet or at lunchtime. (When nature calls, young children often fail to hold on long enough to put shoes on and get to the toilet in time, which- worst case scenario- can result in accidents in the sandpit!!!)

Feel free to also provide trainers for walks to Castle Meadow, etc.



Early starts and changes to sessions

If you need your child to attend early in the day, switch sessions or do an extra session, etc, please assume that it is **absolutely fine to do so** for the duration of this term. We are not at capacity this term and we are fully staffed, so you do not need to wait for a reply as often we don't have access to emails / texts etc first thing in the morning.

Water bottles

Please provide your child with a water bottle, which we will take to the play area or on walks to Castle Meadow. Fresh drinking water is always available but children often prefer to access their own bottles from the carrier.

School readiness

With primary school on the horizon for several of our children, we are currently in the process of compiling transition reports and arranging appointments for the reception teachers to visit us at pre-school, to observe the children in their current setting. Concerns regarding children being 'school ready' is a subject talked about a lot at the moment in the media, however at Stepping Stones, we have absolutely no concerns regarding the school readiness of the children leaving us this year. We pride ourselves on encouraging children's independence, a virtue that didn't go unnoticed during our last Ofsted inspection, where the report states "*Independence is highly fostered at the pre-school. Staff have high expectations of children and provide many opportunities for them to be independent within daily tasks*".

At preschool we support your child from the day they join us to be independent and resourceful in many fun and varied ways through the routines of the session, such as 'flipping' on their coat, toileting and washing their hands independently and recognising their name or initial letter. We encourage them to communicate their needs effectively and appropriately and also be confident to request help and support when they need it.

Children are **not** required or expected to be able to write their name when starting Primary school. However, when we gauge that your child is ready to begin forming their initial letter, we will support them accordingly. Before attempting to write letters, it is important that your child is able to hold a pencil in the correct grip (between the thumb and two fore fingers in a 'tripod' grip). To encourage this, we find that the 'Pinchy Parrot' method works well. Please see the video link below.

[Pinchy Parrot Pencil Grip video tutorial](#)

When children learn to write their names and form letters, we teach them the correct letter starting points and direction, which provides a basis for cursive (joined up) writing later on, and use a capital for the initial letter and lower case for the rest of their name. We cannot underestimate the importance of teaching children correctly at this stage, as once bad habits become established they are much more difficult to correct. When referring to letters, at pre-school we tend to concentrate on the phonic sounds as opposed to letter names, for example, "buh" instead of "bee" for B, "ck" instead of "cee" for C, etc. This enables children to blend letter sounds together when they begin to read.

Please feel free to speak to Anna or Craig if you have any questions on this subject.

30 hour funding for 2,3 and 4 year olds from September

You will need to apply before August 31st if you think you may qualify for 30 hours funding in the Autumn term. Please follow the link to check your eligibility and to apply.



[Childcare & Early Years Education - Best Start in Life](#)

Last day picnic and sports afternoon

The Summer term finishes on Friday 17th July. We will be celebrating the end of the summer term with a picnic and sports afternoon at Castle Meadow starting at 12.15pm (Weather permitting).



Preschool session in the morning as normal for children who attend that day.

All children / families will require a packed lunch for the picnic and all preschool children and extended family are welcome to join us.

Please meet us at preschool and we will walk up together.

Enjoy the rest of the summer term! Anna, Craig and Eryka

P.S. if you know of any families who are interested in joining us in September, please get in touch with Craig or Anna.