





Stepping Stones

Information when starting at Pre School 2023



Staff	General information		Health and safety	Education/assessment	
EYFS Lead Foundation Teacher Mrs Chantal Churchill chantal.churchill@horizonmat.com Pre School Teacher and Pre School SENDCo Mrs Taffeta Sammels taffeta.sammels@horizonmat.com Preschool Room Leader Ms Leslie Mansfield leslie.mansfield@horizonmat.com Preschool Admin Mrs Jo Oak joanne.oak@horizonmat.com Early Years Practitioners Naomi Opie SENDCo assistant Karen Cassidy Denise Artherton Wild Tribe Leader Mrs Denise Artherton MTA for Preschool Mrs Marianne Miller	<u>Sessions</u> AM 8.30 – 11.30 Lunch club 11.30 – 12.30 PM 12.30 – 3.30 Please enter through the main entrance where you will be greeted by a member of staff.	<u>Independence</u> We love to foster independence in your children so we encourage them to hang up their own coats and put their belongings away. Due to the location of the pegs, please leave your child at the door – an adult will help them put their things away.	<u>Collection</u> Please inform us who will be collecting your child at the end of their session. If there is any change, please inform the preschool office on (01752) 404489. The end of the pm session is 3:30pm. We would politely remind you that the children are learning and early pick ups can be disruptive to their learning and cause distress to others. Please keep this to a minimum. There is a late collection fee that will be enforced.	<u>Parent's Consultations</u> You will be invited to meet with the Pre School staff at various times throughout the year. Initial assessment: Children will complete some simple activities so we know how best to progress with their learning.	<u>Early Years Foundation Stage Framework</u> We prioritise the Prime areas of learning: Physical Development Personal, Social and Emotional Development Communication and Language We also record their development in the specific areas of learning, which are: Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts & Design
	<u>Breakfast Club</u> Preschool children can attend The Den for Breakfast club. This runs from 7:30am. Please contact Mrs Yabsley, The Den manager on theden@horizonmat.com for further information	<u>Drop-In</u> You will be regularly invited into events throughout the school year that include joining your child for activities. These may include walks in the local area, trips, stay and play sessions and Sports Day.	<u>Forest School</u> We will hold regular Wild Tribe sessions at our Forest School site in Elburton Primary School. Sessions rotate termly so that all children get to experience the joy of learning outside. 	<u>Self Regulation</u> We encourage the children at Stepping Stones to begin to recognise their emotions and regulate their behaviour using stories and our characters; Sammy Stop and Charlie Choice.	<u>Oracy</u> Oracy is a focus at preschool. Oracy is the skill to be an effective communicator. We will encourage your child to be a 'successful language learner'. Please make the most of your conversations, tell each other about your day, listen and talk to each other. We know that life is busy but communicating is of the greatest importance. If your child needs a pacifier, please speak to your child's Amazing Adult
Key Workers Your child will be allocated an Amazing Adult We work as a team to look after the needs of the children. Your child will work individually and in small groups with their 'Amazing Adult'.	<u>What does my child need to bring?</u> Book bag Waterbottle Spare change of clothing in bookbag Lunch box (if applicable) Please ensure that EVERYTHING is named.	<u>Personal belongings</u> We ask that children leave their own toys at home. We can not guarantee that the toys will come back to you in the same condition as you send them.	<u>Birth Certificate</u> Please supply a copy of your child's birth certificate for Government Funding Purposes. Please take this to the School Office where we can take a copy for you if you require us to.	<u>Letters</u> The majority of the communication is sent home electronically via Parentpay. You will also receive our newsletter, also emailed out to all parents via ParentPay.	<u>Spare clothing</u> Please provide spare clothes in case your child has an accident. It can be brought into school in their bookbag along with any pull ups, nappies or wet wipes that they need. Please avoid sending in additional rucksacks as we don't have room on their pgs.

Home/school links	Uniform and clothing	Money matters
<p><u>Learning Journey</u></p> <p>Tapestry is an online learning journal that you can access through a downloadable app. You can share the learning of your child in Stepping Stones and also add your memorable moments from home.</p> 	<p><u>Uniform/clothing</u></p> <p>Please ensure that your child is dressed in clothes where they can move freely. Your child will be discovering the world around them and exploring whilst at Stepping Stones. There will be a range of different experiences. Please ensure that your child is in clothing that can be easily washed.</p> <p><u>School jumpers and cardigans</u></p> <p>Stepping Stones Sweatshirts and T Shirts with the school logo on are available to buy online from www.plymouth.trutex.com or telephone them on 01752 491353 if you wish to purchase them.</p> <p><u>Coats</u></p> <p>Children must bring a coat every day.</p> <p><u>Shoes</u></p> <p>Closed shoes must be worn at all times. Strappy sandals are not suitable. Shoes should have Velcro fastenings (no laces) so children can take their shoes off and put them on independently.</p> <p><u>Wellie Boots and waterproofs</u></p> <p>We have a supply of Wellie Boots and waterproofs at Pre School. We aim to go outside in all weathers. If you have any that you'd like to donate we would always be grateful.</p> <p><u>Name clothing:</u></p> <p>Please ensure that all clothing, including shoes, lunch boxes, and water bottles are clearly marked with your child's name to encourage their independence.</p> <p><u>Book bags</u></p> <p>Every child must have a book bag so that your child can bring their learning home from Preschool.</p> <p>Bookbags are available to purchase from the Plymouth Trutex shop 01752 491353.</p>	<p><u>Important Nursery Grant Funding:</u></p> <p>Early Years declaration forms are completed each term. Children are automatically eligible for 15 hours of funding the term after they are 3 years old.</p> <p>If you wish to access 30 hours funding (15 hours more than the automatic 15hours) your application must be done online the previous term before you want the funding to start.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare There is criteria to meet. If eligible, you will be given a unique code, which must be re-confirmed online every 3 months from when you first applied. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure your child's funding status is kept up to date. We will need to know your child's unique code so that we can process your funding.</p> <p>Any additional hours are charged at £4.78 per hour (this is subject to change). Contact Jo Oak joanne.oak@horizonmat.com</p> <p>for more information or guidance.</p>
<p><u>Illness</u></p> <p>Please phone the office (01752 404489) if your child is absent from preschool. Children should not attend if they are ill and must be away for 48 hours following sickness/diarrhoea. If your child is still absent from Preschool you will still be charged for their missed session.</p>		<p><u>Hot Meals at lunchtime</u></p> <p>Lunchtime in is the School Hall. If your child would like a school dinner, they are available a cost of £1.60.</p>
<p><u>Holidays</u></p> <p>If you wish to take a holiday during term time, please contact the office.</p>		<p><u>Healthy Living Fee</u></p> <p>We ask for a voluntary £10 contribution each term (3 terms) towards snacks, food tasting, cooking activities, forest school snacks and other initiatives for promoting healthy living. This is payable at the start of each term and will be added to your ParentPay account.</p>
<p><u>Open door policy</u></p> <p>We have an open door policy, if you have any questions, comments or concerns please let us know and we will arrange a time for a chat.</p>		<p><u>Bills/Extra Paid for Sessions</u></p> <p>Any additional sessions your child does not usually attend will be, added to your next monthly bill. Bills come out at the beginning of the month.</p>

Information can be found on the school's website www.elburtonschool.com and there are regular updates on the school's Facebook page.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us 01752 404489 or email steppingstones@horizonmat.com

