

October NEWS



Stepping Stones

A Bambini's Day Nursery & Pre-School

Proud to be part of the **STEPLEARNING** family of nurseries



Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Monday 28th September - Friday 1st November Half Term. No funding will be available for families in receipt of 15/30 hours.
- Thursday 31st - Halloween

Other:

Hayley celebrates her 12th year at Stepping Stones.

April celebrates her 10th year at Stepping Stones.

Happy 18th Birthday Keeley!

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

 [/bambinossteppingstones](https://www.facebook.com/bambinossteppingstones)

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our open day! It was lovely to show you the wonderful things your child gets up to. If you missed it, don't worry you'll have another chance at our Christmas open day, so please keep an eye out for the date as we get closer to the time.

October means Okehampton Carnival! The children will be decorating the window of Ellis Bakery on the High Street. They have entered the decorated window competition, so be sure to take a look and see if your child can spot their decoration!

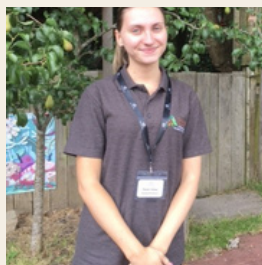
If your child is due for their Two-Year Progress Check, please let us know if you have received your appointment, so we can finalise your child's report for you to take along to the appointment.

Lastly, we would like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we transition to EYlog.

Hayley and Laura

Colleague Spotlight

We would just like to thank Ellie for her hard work as she has settled into the Nest and her apprenticeship. Ellie has made some fantastic relationships with the children, staff and parents and has had some lovely compliments from parents and her assessor. Keep up the good work Ellie!



Recent Training

Hannah has completed her Baby Massage course and is excited to implement this into her routine with the babies.





The Nest

The children have enjoyed exploring the autumnal tray, noticing the textures and sounds of the leaves and logs as they rustled them between their fingers. It's been wonderful to see their curiosity in action!

They have also been showing their caring side in the role-play area, where they take care of babies by feeding, playing with, and putting them to sleep. This imaginative play helps develop their empathy and nurturing skills.

Recently, the children embarked on a sunny autumn walk, collecting leaves and logs along the way. These treasures were then transformed into stunning autumnal collages and beautiful window displays, bringing the essence of the season into our nursery. They also spotted some ducks whilst they were out on their walk which was so exciting!

Continue at home

To keep the autumn spirit alive, why not collect autumnal treasures and objects together? You can create sensory shakers or bottles, which are perfect for sparking curiosity and exploration in your little ones. Enjoy the fun of crafting these sensory items at home!



The Nook

The children have been having a fantastic time exploring the outdoor areas while wearing wetsuits and wellies as the days get colder and wetter. They've loved splashing in muddy puddles and have noticed the beautiful changes in leaf colours, collecting them and discussing the transformation from green to orange.

To help the children become used to wearing wellies, we've incorporated them into our art projects. They've enjoyed painting the bottoms of their wellies and walking on paper, creating their own autumnal footprints.

As we continue to explore the stunning colours of autumn and the shapes in our environment, we're excited to use our new magnet board in the room. The children have enjoyed making different groupings and patterns on the board, and as we move further into autumn, we can't wait to see what other shapes and colours we'll discover together!

Continue at home

On a rainy day, let your child wear their wellies and jump in muddy puddles at home. Encourage them to splash around and explore the sensations of the water and mud, discussing how it feels and what they see.



The Atelier

The Atelier room has been fully embracing autumn and the changes it brings. As the children explored the beautiful autumn sunshine, they discussed the colours of the leaves and how they would soon start to fall. Some children had the opportunity to venture outside to grassy areas near the nursery, where they collected leaves to add to the Autumn Investigation Tray and used them to develop fine motor skills at the threading table.

The children have also had the chance to explore size and numerals 1-3 while reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In our home corner, they have been filling and emptying small, medium, and large containers using rice, pasta, and oats, enhancing their understanding of measurement and capacity.

Continue at home

Why not find some big and small objects around the house? Encourage your child to categorise them by size and colour.

For example, can your child find a big spoon and a little spoon while setting the table for tea? This activity will help reinforce their understanding of size differences in a fun and practical way!



The Studio

The Studio has fully embraced pirate life, practising their mark-making skills as they collaborated to create a treasure map. Using pens, they marked their paths before staining the paper with tea bags for an authentic look.

Alongside creating treasure maps, they have enjoyed going on treasure hunts, which led them to hidden treasures in the sand. This activity provided an excellent opportunity to count how many treasures they found, discuss colours, and introduce the language of size.

In the garden, the children have been developing their balancing skills as they "walk the plank," carefully making their way across a balance beam.

In the water, we have been using various resources to build boats and see how long they can float.

Continue at home

Organise a treasure hunt at home or in the garden. Hide small toys or treats and provide clues for your child to follow. As they find each item, encourage them to count how many they've collected. You could also encourage your child to think of their own clues, helping them with their descriptive and positional language.



APPLE AND PARSNIP SOUP

Ingredients

1 tbsp butter
75ml whole milk
300g apples, peeled and cubed
1 clove garlic, finely diced
1 large onion, chopped
300g parsnips, chopped into 2cm pieces
500ml salt free vegetable stock
Ground pepper

Instructions

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan, over a medium heat.
2. Gently fry the parsnips and onion for 15 minutes until the onions are softened.
3. Add the garlic and apples, and cook for a further 2 minutes, stirring frequently.
4. Pour over the stock and bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer.
5. Simmer for about 20 minutes, until the parsnips are very soft.
6. Remove from the heat and add the milk, then blend in a food processor (or with a stick blender) until smooth.
7. Season with black pepper to taste.

BOOKS TO READ IN OCTOBER

Here are some delightful books that are perfect for sharing in October.

We're Going on a Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger

Room on The Broom by Julia Donaldson

Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

Guess How Much I Love You in the Autumn by Sam McBratney