

# Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School



## Key Information for New Families Starting in Reception 2023

We hope this information will help with settling into the many routines of school and enable you and your child to confidently negotiate the first few weeks.

## **Absence**

Absence from school for holiday or travel can be enjoyable but no absence can make up for the time lost in the classroom. At this age your child is being introduced to key concepts and skills for the very first time and absences can lead to big gaps in understanding. No holiday task or follow up work can replicate the skills of the teacher or the classroom environment.

Please note if you do request an absence which is not authorised by the headteacher and your child is above the statutory school age, you could be liable for a fine of up to £2,500 per parent. The school makes every effort to provide families with school term dates well in advance to enable forward planning so that holidays can be booked during the 13 weeks of school holiday time available.

## **Book Bags**

A Stoke Hill book bag will be provided to each child at their Stay and Play visit. This bag will be used to carry your child's reading books between home and school and should be brought to school everyday and stored in their tray. It is important that children do not transport water bottles in their book bag as they sometimes leak and cause damage to their books.

## **Communication**

Please download the School Gateway app to receive information from the school. You can also visit the website to access virtually everything about the school. Contact with the school office is the best first step if you are still not sure regarding school information and our office staff will answer your query or forward your message to the most appropriate person. Please contact your child's teacher about matters to do with learning and wellbeing. The Reception staff will communicate with you using Tapestry – this will be discussed at your child's induction.

## **Developing Independence**

Over the summer holiday, it is a good idea to practise some skills that will enable the children to be as independent as possible when they start school. This includes dressing and undressing (including doing up buttons and putting on socks and tights which are always tricky) putting their shoes on the correct feet, putting their coat on and fastening it, using a knife and fork and using the toilet. We find that laces are very difficult for young children and advise that an alternate shoe fastening is more appropriate.

## **Dogs**

We do not permit dogs anywhere at all on the school and nursery site (unless the dog is a registered 'Assistance Dog' supporting a disabled person). If you have a dog and walk the dog to school with your child, please do not leave them tied to our school gates where children and adults have no option but to walk past. Please tie your dog at a safe and quiet distance from the school ~ thank you.

## **Home Learning**

We ask that learning at home includes sharing stories together and making the most of any opportunities to count and look for numbers and shapes when you are out and about. When counting, make sure that you/your child touches or moves every item and says the number name at the same time.

## **Lunch Time**

We are fortunate at Stoke Hill to have freshly prepared, healthy lunches available each day. Lunches are provided at no charge to all infant school children through the government's Universal Free Infant School Meals scheme. The menu for the term is posted on the website and lunches can be ordered in advance via the School Gateway app.

We are happy to provide facilities for children to have packed lunches. We would ask that parents provide a nutritionally balanced meal that allows children to maintain good levels of energy and concentration to access the afternoon curriculum. Foods high in fat and sugar can have the opposite effect. Fizzy drinks, sweets and actual bars of chocolate such as Galaxy/Dairy Milk, chocolate buttons, chocolate coins etc. are not permitted. Chocolate icing on cakes and on biscuits such as a KitKat is fine. The children eat their lunch in the school hall and will then have their play in the Reception environment.

Please encourage and help your child to cut their food independently.

## **News**

Newsletters are sent out monthly and also posted on the Federation's website [www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk](http://www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk)

Follow us on also on Twitter @stokefed

## **Opening and closing times**

Your child's start time in Reception will be 8:50am and end of day collection time is 3.20pm. Children can be dropped off at class from 8:40am to allow for a settled start to the day.

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## **Outdoor learning**

An important part of our curriculum is outdoor learning. For this reason, we ask you to provide a pair of named wellies that will stay in school. Be warned... your child will participate in outdoor activities with or without wellies!

## **PE Kit**

For indoor PE the children need a white T shirt and shorts; for outdoor PE track suit trousers may be provided as well as plimsolls/trainers. Please ensure your child has both kits in school every day. Every item of clothing/footwear needs to be clearly named. In case of accidents, please provide a spare change of underwear.

## **Phonics**

At Stoke Hill we teach phonics using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme. There will be an information session on this in the first half term of the year. This will give you some insight into the way phonics is taught and explain how this links to reading books and practice at home.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

## **School Uniform**

School uniform gives the children a unique identity and a sense of belonging. The base colour for our school uniform e.g., pinafores, skirts and trousers is black or grey, worn with a white or jade polo shirt and a jade Stoke Hill sweatshirt or a cardigan. A full list of school uniform is on the Federation website <https://www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk/web/uniform/641425>

For reasons of health and safety, high heeled shoes, crocs, jelly or deck shoes and also jewellery are not suitable for wearing for school.

## **Sickness**

If your child is unwell, please ring the school office on 01392 258894 before 9.00am, or you can let us know through the School Gateway app. If your child is marked absent in the register with no reason given, we will call you to ascertain that all is well.

Please note that children should not be brought back to school until

- Sickness – 48 hours after the last episode
- Sickness and diarrhoea - 48 hours after the last episode

## **Snack Time**

Young children often benefit from a mid morning snack. The right snack can provide the necessary energy for optimum concentration in the pre-lunch

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session. For this good reason, the only break time snacks permitted are either fresh/dried fruit, fresh salad/vegetables or cheese.

Please note that grapes **MUST** be sliced lengthways, so that they are not a choking hazard. Please only pack your child one snack for the morning as we find that this is enough. Where possible, please use a reusable tub or something that can be recycled rather than plastic wrapping.

Please also note that: **We are a NO NUT school** - this includes any seeds, nut butters and houmous.

Cereal bars are not considered a healthy snack because of their generally high sugar content and are not permitted. Please ensure all snacks and drinks are clearly labelled.

In addition to the above, the Government currently provides every child with a free piece of fruit (apple, banana, orange, pear or sometimes strawberries) or vegetable (mostly tomato or carrot), which children usually have in the afternoon.

### **Water**

Please ensure that your child has a freshly filled water bottle in his/her classroom each day. The bottle needs to be one with a 'pull up' top to avoid children's work being damaged through accidental spillages. In the classroom water only is permitted as recommended by the Public Health Agency; this is because it carries oxygen, does not need to be digested nor leaves any sugar or other residue on teeth. At lunchtime children may enjoy a drink of your choice (but not fizzy). Please ensure the bottle is clearly labelled with your child's name.

***Beginning school brings with it the need for families and children to absorb lots of new information. We hope this document will help you see how our school runs.***

***Thank you ~ the Stoke Hill team***