



21st June 2023

To Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for those who were able to come to the 'Starting School' meeting this morning ~ it was great to see so many of you.

Please read this additional information linked to some questions and queries that arose:

<p>Do the children have a taster session in school before September?</p>	<p>No ~ we have found that is it much more beneficial for the children to have quality time in their class with their teacher during the induction sessions in September and then they start school, rather than having such a long holiday in between.</p>
<p>Why won't my child start until 11th September?</p>	<p>The induction and transition to school is very important and we dedicate quality time to all of the 90 families that are starting school. The children have time to play in their environment and the families have time to talk to the teachers about their children.</p> <p>We apologise if this creates complications regarding childcare, but have found from organising inductions in many different ways over the years that this is definitely the best for arrangement for the children.</p>
<p>Can I change the date of my induction?</p>	<p>If you are unable to attend the day and time allocated, please let the admin team know with a time that works for you.</p>
<p>What is an enhanced induction?</p>	<p>Some children may benefit from having more sessions in the environment before they start school. This may be children with additional needs or children who are anxious. In this case, the children are welcome to come into school with a parent / family member over the induction week, in addition to their own session.</p> <p>This will be discussed and arranged during the week commencing 10th July – please email Infant Admin if you would like an enhanced induction.</p>

Will there be a home visit?	For most families, an induction and enhanced induction is enough. If you think a home visit would be beneficial for you and your child, please email Infant Admin on the email address below.
Will there be a staggered start?	No ~ feedback from families is that this is very disruptive for everyone, so we welcome all of the children on Monday 11 th .
Will my child attend full time?	Yes ~ we want to have all of the children in school where possible. Some children may have a staggered transition which will be discussed at induction.
Does my child have to have a school lunch?	Most children do have a school lunch. They are cooked in our school kitchen, delicious, nutritious and free! If your child is unsure, they could try a hot lunch and bring a small packed lunch as well to encourage them to have a try. If they prefer a packed lunch, that is totally fine. Fish and chips in a bag on Friday's are VERY popular indeed!
How will I know how much my child has eaten?	Over lunchtime, the children are supported by key adults that they know. If a child has not eaten very much, your class teacher will pop a note in their bag or chat with you at home time.
How are the classes organised?	We aim to create a balance of gender and ages in each class. We will also try and place children with another child that they know. We are aware that some children have good friends both inside and outside of school and sometimes this works well in a class scenario and other times not. The children always make friends and explore together so even if they are not in the same class, they will see each other.
How will I know if my child has had a good day?	Communication between home and school is key ~ a member of staff will chat to you at drop off or pick up if needed and if you have any concerns at all, please let your class teacher know. Your child's wellbeing and happiness is of utmost importance to us. Please also remember to look at your child's Tapestry account as there will be lots of photos to look at.

<p>What is Tapestry?</p>	<p>This is your child's online Learning Journal. Once you have an account, please log in to have a look at what your child has been doing and please add your own photos from home as we always share them in class.</p>
<p>Who should I contact if I have any questions or queries?</p>	<p>Please contact the admin team on 01392 258894 or infant.admin@stokehill.devon.sch.uk and they will pass your query onto Clare Farion, the Early Years Lead.</p>

Please continue to go to the Federation website for the most updated information – just click on the 'Starting in Reception' box on the home screen.

Welcome to Stoke Hill Federation and Nursery

The Stoke Hill Federation is made up of Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School and Stoke Hill Junior School. The Federation is lead by our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Hammerton-Jackson and the two Heads of School, Mrs McKimm at the Infant School and Mr Sullivan at the Junior School. We are a diverse federation, looking after and educating children and families from all around the world. The schools work together to achieve the best outcomes for all the children and families that are part of our community and our partnership with parents is of the utmost importance to us.

We promote tolerance and community cohesion within our diverse society and share these principles with children, families and staff. Our School Value is:

"We work together to make Stoke Hill a great place to learn, work and play"

Both schools have beautiful grounds, with well-established outdoor teaching areas, woodland and large playing fields. As much learning as possible happens outdoors, and the children are taught to love, care for and appreciate their environment and the world around them.







We are delighted that your child will be joining us in September and offer a warm welcome to all of our families, both old and new.

