

Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School



Key Information for New Families starting at the Nursery School

**We hope this information will help you and your
child with settling into the Nursery.**

Coronavirus update - Summer 2020

Key information has been reviewed and updated to reflect our practice regarding Covid 19. We will share any further updates with you in September.

inspire ~ discover ~ succeed

Absence

If your child is going to be absent from the Nursery for any reason, please phone the main school office to let them know. If your child will be away on holiday, please fill in a holiday form and pass it to your child's key worker.

Book Bags

Your child will typically have a book bag so that they can choose a book to share each time they are at Nursery. We won't be having book bags at the moment in order to reduce the number of items travelling from home to school and back again.

Covid 19

We are currently adhering to government and Public Health England guidelines regarding the health and safety of our pupils and staff.

Our 6 step plan to keep 'SAFE' is summarised simply as

1. Maintaining a social distance
2. Catch it – bin it - kill it to using a tissue
3. Cough/sneeze to the elbow if you don' have a tissue
4. Sing 'Happy Birthday' whilst handwashing for 20 seconds
5. No sharing of resources
6. Limiting access to places and spaces to small numbers of people

Our whole school Covid 19 Risk Assessment can be found on the schools website www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk go to the website>Our School> Covid 19. Updates re Covid 19 in this booklet are highlighted in grey.

Clothes

Please ensure that your child wear clothes that can get messy and not too precious or expensive as they may get dirty when playing outside or painting for example. We have a Stoke Hill Nursery t-shirt that can be purchased from Thomas Moore for £4.99 (please note that this is not compulsory).

We encourage independence, so please support your child with this by ensuring the shoes they wear are easy to put on and take off (laces are very tricky for 3 and 4 year olds) and that they try to dress and undress themselves at home, including putting on and fastening their shoes and coats.

Usually your child will need three changes of clothes in a named bag each time they come to Nursery which can stay on their peg.

To reduce the possibility of transmission of germs at this time, the Nursery will provide a change of clothes for your child if needed. Please can you ensure that they are washed at 60C before returning them to the Nursery. They will then be stored for three days before being used again.

Please can you ensure that ALL clothes are clearly named, including shoes.

In the Nursery we wear socks or slipper socks (no slippers please). The children take off their shoes when they come into the Beech room and pop them into the large basket (you don't need to take your shoes off when you drop your child off and pick them up). We have found that this makes the

children more comfortable, keeps the Nursery free from dirt that may be on shoes and creates a more homely feel.

Daily Routines

When you come into the Nursery building, please find your child's name with them in the cloakroom and they can then choose any free peg for their coat and change of clothes. If staying for lunch the lunch bags or lunch boxes are placed into the blue trugs in the cloakroom.

If your child is going home for lunch they will be waiting for you in the Beech room at 12.00pm with a member of the Nursery team.

If your child is going home at 3pm, they will be sat in the Oak room and Studio – we kindly ask that you come and get your child and then walk out together rather than them running to you or running out of the door.

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.

Exploring and Learning

Stoke Hill is a teacher led exploratory Nursery. Our aim is for all children to feel happy, safe and secure so that they can make friends, become fully engaged in their play, communicate their thoughts, ideas and needs and be open to new experiences. Building relationships is a crucial part of our provision. We take time to really get to know the children through co-learning, observations and making time to engage in conversations.

Key person

Although your child will have a key person, you can talk to any member of staff about your child. The key person will meet with you to talk about your child's development and will collate all of the observations, photographs and documentation in their Learning Journey book – a celebration of their time in the Nursery.

Lunch

If your child is staying for lunch, they will need to bring a packed lunch in a clearly named lunch box or bag. Some children who prefer a warm lunch bring a thermos instead as we are unable to heat food in the Nursery. If your child is entitled to a free meal, the school kitchen will prepare them a packed lunch – please speak to our admin team to find out more about this.

We are working hard to be environmentally aware and respectful by dramatically reducing the amount of single use plastic we use and trying to re-use materials wherever

possible. One way that you can help us with this important mission is to try and reduce how much single use plastic is used in your child's packed lunch and snack, by using reusable Tupperware boxes for example.

News

Nursery news will be shared in the cloakroom, so please take time to have a look. There is also a Nursery page on the school website. The Federation publishes a newsletter each half term that includes a range of current and information. The newsletter is on the Federation's website



news
posted

www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk

Follow us on also on Twitter @stokefed

Nursery Hours

The Nursery hours are from 8.45am-3pm for the full day, 8.45am – 12pm / 12.30pm – 3pm for half a day and run in line with the school term. Breakfast club and after school provision is available and is based at the Junior School - details can be found on the main school website.

We open the door at 8.45am and most children arrive between 8.45am and 9.15am. We ask that all children arrive by 9.30am so that we can start the day together. On a Wednesday, some children stay for lunch and go home at 1pm.

We will discuss opening and closing times with you at your induction so that we can maintain social distancing.

You will be given an opportunity to increase or change your hours at specified points in the term, subject to availability. If you have any queries or questions about hours, please speak to our admin team in the main school.

Nursery School

Stoke Hill Nursery is a maintained Nursery School, which is different from a pre-school. Stoke Hill Nursery School is led by a qualified early years teacher and at least one early years practitioner with a relevant Level 3 qualification.

A pre-school is usually a voluntary sector, committee run group that may have charitable status and a committee of parents whose children attend the setting run the group. A preschool does not have to have a qualified teacher, but a maintained Nursery does.

The ratio of adults to children in a maintained nursery and a preschool are different. At Stoke Hill Nursery School we have a ratio of 1 adult to 10 children whereas a preschool has a ratio of 1 adult to 8 children.

The terminology can be a bit confusing, so we refer to ourselves as Stoke Hill Nursery School – please can you do this too.

Outdoor learning

The value of playing outside is vast – it engages imagination, curiosity and fosters health and wellbeing. An outside space is available to the children whatever the weather and we frequently visit the adventure playground in the school and

water city. We have waterproof coats and trousers but as the weather gets colder and wetter your child will need their own coat. This should be named and will stay on their peg.

If you feel that your child is unable to play outside, we suggest that they may not be well enough to come to Nursery as they are unable to explore all of the learning opportunities that are available to them. We don't stop the children from playing outside, just as we wouldn't restrict them from painting or drawing.

Parental Help

At Stoke Hill we are always delighted to receive offers from parents and carers who are trained volunteers. There are a number of ways that you could be involved; general classroom help, one to one sharing stories or running an after school club and many, many more. We do also need parents to accompany children on educational visits. This would involve attending a 'Federation Volunteer Training' session run by the school, and completing a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) for the school setting. If you are interested in any of the above please talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office. Dates for Volunteer Training Sessions are to be found on the Annual School Calendar.

Partnership

We would like to emphasise the importance of building our relationship with you. The positive partnership which we

develop will enable your child to be happy, successful and to flourish.

Safety

The main door into the Nursery is always locked and can only be opened by a member of the Nursery team. This is to keep our children safe, so please do not open this door.

Settling in at the Nursery

The settling in period will look different for each child and family and we will talk this through with you at your child's induction. Most importantly, we want all of our children to feel safe, secure and happy so that they can become engaged in their play and build relationships with children and adults. We know from experience that it can sometimes take time for children to feel totally relaxed in a new environment with new people. If your child is finding it hard to settle, we will talk to you about creating a plan that will make the separation as successful as possible.

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 ParentMail 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

- Visit the website *Parents Tab>Health and Nutritional Guidelines* for more details of common childhood illnesses and their exclusion periods

Snack Time

Your child will need to bring a water bottle to access throughout the day and a healthy morning snack which will go into a basket in the Oak room – clearly named please. All grapes and small tomatoes must be sliced in half and we are a ‘no nuts’ Nursery, which includes nut butters.

<p>We are a NO NUT school</p>

One day a week your child will enjoy a morning snack prepared in the Nursery. On this day they do not need to bring a snack from home. We will be asking for a small contribution to help towards the cost of this and other cooking activities and will let you know the dates of shared snack in advance. If you have any recipes that you like to use at home, please share them with us.

Spaces to explore in the Nursery

The Nursery is split into three indoor spaces for exploration and two outdoor spaces (the garden and the woodlands). The Beech room (the first room that you come into, named after the Beech tree in the woodlands), the Oak room (a quiet space where the children have their snack and lunch, named after the Oak tree in the woodlands) and the Studio (a space for shared inquiry where the children can explore materials and find out about them).

The Beech room is the space that we meet for stories, singing and saying hello and there is always an outdoor space available for exploration and play.

Staffing

The Nursery has a dedicated and passionate team of experienced, professional, nurturing adults with a broad knowledge and understanding of the early years. The Nursery operates a ratio of 1:10 and is led by an early years teacher. The maximum number of children we can have in any session is 30.

Toileting

We encourage the children to be independent when using the toilet, providing help and assistance when needed and giving lots of reminders! If your child is in the process of toilet training, we will support you with this in any way we can. If your child is wearing a nappy, please make sure that they have spares with them each time they come.

Toys

Please encourage your child to leave their toys etc. at home as they can be a distraction and get lost. If your child is very attached to a toy or blanket or is having a 'wobbly' day, they can bring something in and then we will pop it safely in their pigeon hole or bag when they are settled.

Wellington Boots

We have boots for the children to wear so they do not need to bring their own pair.



We hope that this booklet provides you with some essential information about the Nursery which you can keep at home and refer to when necessary.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to the Nursery School and to the Federation.

Thank you ~ the Nursery Team

Updated July 2020