

Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School



Key Information for New Families Starting in Reception

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.

inspire ~ discover ~ succeed

Absence

Any requests for absence must be completed via an S2 form, available on the website or from the school office; as a Federation, we do not authorise holiday during term time. 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.

Information regarding sickness absence can be found below.

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

Communication is essential in schools. We are moving to ParentPay, which you will be able to access via the app. We will be sending out a communication sheet to all families to allow you to register. 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. Contact your child's teacher about matters to do with learning and wellbeing.

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 reading practice with books sent home, as well as sharing stories together. We encourage families to make the most of daily opportunities to learn at home by counting and describing shapes. 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.

Should you prefer your child to have a packed lunch, we ask that you provide a nutritionally balanced meal that allows them 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. We are a NO NUT school which includes all nut butters.

The children eat their lunch in the school hall and will then have their play in the Early Years environment.

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

Opening and closing times

Your child's start time in Reception will be 8.50am, with doors opening at 8.40am. End of day collection time is 3.20pm. Please drop off and collect your child promptly from their classroom, accessed through the Early Years garden.

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 must be left at 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.

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. A full list of school uniform is on the Federation website go to www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk > About Us > Uniform. We would like to remind parents that for reasons of health and safety high-heeled shoes, crocs, jelly or deck shoes and also jewellery is not suitable for wearing for school.

Sickness

If your child is unwell, please ring the school office on 01392 258894 before 9.00am, on each day they are absent. 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 session.

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

Please note that:

grapes and cherry tomatoes **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 re-usable tub or a fruit bag / something that can be recycled rather than plastic wrapping.

Please also note that we are a **NO NUT** and **NO SESAME SEED** school – this includes all nut butters.

Please ensure all snacks and drinks are clearly labelled.

We will be asking for a small contribution to help towards the cost of shared snacks and other cooking activities.

In addition to the above, the Government currently provides every child with free piece of fruit or vegetable which the children 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. As part of a packed lunch, 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 in booklet form you can read and check details that will help you see how our school runs.

You can also find the booklet on the 'Starting School – Reception' page of the website.

Thank you ~ the Reception team