

Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School



Key Information for New Families starting at Stoke Hill Nursery School

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

Coronavirus Update **Summer 2021**
*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 Nursery holiday form and pass it to your child's key worker.

Book Bags

Your child will have a book bag so that they can choose a book to share with you at home. Please return each book before choosing a new one.

Covid 19

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

Our 5 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. 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 wears clothes that are practical and can get messy or dirty (not too precious or expensive). We have a Stoke Hill Nursery School T-shirt that can be purchased from Thomas Moore for £4.99 (please note that this is not compulsory).



We encourage independence at all times – please support your child with this by ensuring they are wearing shoes and coats that they can put on and take off by themselves (laces are very tricky for 3 and 4 year olds!). It is very helpful if your child tries to dress and undress themselves at home including putting their shoes on the correct feet.

Some families have found stickers or arrows useful for helping their child do this independently.

1. Shoe stickers where the picture needs to come together.



2. Drawing arrows that need to point towards each other.



Your child will need two or three full changes of clothes in a named bag each time they come to the Nursery. This can stay on their peg. Please ensure that ALL clothes are clearly named, including pants, socks and shoes.

If your child wears nappies or pull-ups, we will need to have a supply to use when they are in the Nursery as well as nappy bags and wipes. Please pass these onto your child's key worker in a named bag and they will be kept in the changing area.

In the Nursery we wear socks or slipper socks inside (no slippers please). The children take their shoes off when they come in and pop them in a large basket (you don't need to take your shoes off when you drop your child off and pick them up). We find that this makes the children feel more comfortable and creates a more homely feel.

Please can your child have a pair of named wellington boots that can be kept at the Nursery.

Daily Routines

The Nursery opens from 8.45am and we ask that you arrive by 9.15am. Your child will have a peg with their name and photograph on for their coat and bag. If staying for lunch, lunch bags or boxes are placed in the trugs.

At the end of your child's session (12pm or 3pm) they will be waiting for you in the Nursery or a member of the Nursery team will bring them to you.

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 School. 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 central to 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 dedicated key person, you can talk to any member of staff about them. 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 time

If your child is staying for lunch, they will need to bring a packed lunch in a clearly named box or bag. Some children who prefer a warm lunch such as soup or pasta bring a thermos as we are unable to heat food in the Nursery.

You can also buy a hot school lunch for £2.00 which follows the menu in the school and if your child is entitled to a free school meal – they are also able to have hot lunch from the school. To find out if your child is eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium funding, please ask at the main school office or check on Early Years Pupil Premium – parents webpage www.devon.gov.uk

We are working hard in the Nursery to be environmentally aware by dramatically reducing the amount of single use plastic we use and re-using materials where possible. One way you can help with this important mission is to try and use reusable Tupperware boxes and beeswax wraps / fabric wraps rather than foil or clingfilm where possible.

News

Nursery news will be shared with you in a variety of ways such as Learning Letters and there is 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 9am – 3pm for a full day, 9am – 12pm or 12.30pm – 3pm for a half 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 Nursery from 8.45am and we ask that your child is there by 9.15am so that we can start the day together.

On a Wednesday, some children stay for lunch and go home at 1pm.

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 questions or queries about hours – please speak to the admin team in the main school.

Nursery School

Stoke Hill is a maintained Nursery School, which is different from a pre-school. Stoke Hill Nursery 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 committee of parents whose children attend the setting run the group. A pre-school does not have to have a qualified early years teacher, but a Nursery School does.

The ratio of adults to children in a maintained Nursery as a pre-school are different. At Stoke Hill Nursery School, we have a ratio of 1 adult to 10 children whereas a pre-school has a ratio of 1 adult to 8 children.

We refer to ourselves as Stoke Hill Nursery School to avoid any confusion.

Outdoor Learning

The value of outdoor learning 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 outdoor spaces in the school. We have waterproof trousers and coats, but most children bring their own coats. They will also need their own wellies that will stay in at the Nursery. Please can both be clearly named.

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 flourish.

Safety

The main door in the Nursery is always locked and can only be opened by a member of the Nursery team. This is to keep the children safe, so please do not open this door. The large gate to the Nursery woodlands is also locked at all times.

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, tomatoes and olives etc must be sliced in half and we are a ‘no nuts’ school and Nursey which includes nut butters.

We are a NO NUT school

Where possible, we will share a snack together once a week that will be prepared by the Nursery children. We will ask for a small contribution to help towards the cost of this and we will let you know in advance of the dates. 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). Inside the Nursery we have the Beech room (named after the Beech tree in the woodlands), the Oak room (named after the Oak tree in the woodlands) and the Studio. There is always an outdoor space available for exploration and play.

Staffing

The Nursery has a dedicated and passionate team of experiences, professional, nurturing adults with a broad knowledge and understanding of the early years. The maximum number of children we can have in any session is 30, which is a ration of 1 adult to 10 children.

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 a changing bag with spare nappies, wipes and nappy sacks that will stay in the Nursery changing area.

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 we will pop it safely into their bag when they are settled.

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 May 2021