

# Little Stoke Primary School



**Starting Reception at  
Little Stoke Primary School in  
September 2015**





# Welcome to Little Stoke Primary School!

We hope this book helps to provide you with the information you need about your child starting school. There will be questions that you might still like to ask and we hope you feel at ease to do so. We hold an Information Evening and a Parents Evening early in the first half term so you will have the opportunity to meet with staff and other parents and become familiar with our school.

At Little Stoke Primary School we value each child as an individual and encourage their self-esteem, positive attitudes and independence. We help children to develop good social skills and respect each other. We provide them with plenty of opportunities to develop and express their imagination and creativity. Activities and lessons are planned to meet the individual needs of each child in our school.

Most of the children starting school in September will become familiar with their classroom during their preliminary Visit Day - we call this our Strawberry Day - during the Summer Term before they start. We realise that starting school can be a big step for some children, and so we try to make the transition as smooth and happy as possible. More details regarding your child starting school can be found later in this book.

We are always happy and willing to discuss any problems or concerns you have, so please don't hesitate to pop in or give us a call. Meanwhile we look forward to welcoming you and your child to Little Stoke Primary School!



## Our School Day!

This is timetable for a typical school day but this may vary every year.

8.45am	Doors open
8.55am	Registration
9.05am	Phonics Time
9.25am	Morning Lesson
10.20am	Snack Time
10.40am	Morning Play
11.00am	Morning Lesson
11.45am	Story Time
11.55am	Lunchtime
1.00pm	Registration
1.10pm	Afternoon Lesson & Reading Time
2.15pm	Afternoon Play
2.30pm	Afternoon Lesson
3.10pm	Story Time
3.25pm	End of school day

School provides a Healthy Snack daily, which Reception children prepare for themselves and the rest of the class. This may consist of fresh fruit, or crackers. Milk is provided free for children under five. If you wish your child to continue having milk when they are over five, you need to pay for this prior to each new term. Details of this will be sent home in advance. *Water is provided at all times in school although we encourage parents to send in water bottles for children to have easy access to water during learning sessions.*



## Our School Uniform

The following is a list of our compulsory school uniform, which can be purchased from Initially Yours. Please find details regarding purchase on the school uniform leaflet with this pack.

- Royal blue jumper/cardigan
- Blue or white polo-shirt
- Royal blue checked summer dress
- Grey school skirt/pinafore
- Grey school trousers or school shorts
- Black shoes or black trainers (shoes should not have a heel)
- Black, grey, navy or white socks/tights (plain, block colours)
- Royal blue fleece
- Navy reversible waterproof/fleece coat
- Royal blue book bag

At Little Stoke we expect all children to wear their school uniform each day. Occasionally we have non-uniform days, but we will always let you know. Infant children go outside in all weathers, so please ensure your child comes to school with a suitable coat and sensible footwear, including wellies!

Children also need to have a full change of clothing for PE. This is a requirement under DfE regulations for Health & Safety. We ask that they bring this to school on a Monday morning in a suitable bag and take it home at the end of the week. This will need to consist of:

- Royal blue or white T-shirt
- Navy blue or black nylon sports shorts
- Navy, black or grey tracksuit for colder weather
- Black or white trainers for PE lessons outside
- Black plimsolls for PE lessons indoors

Please ensure each item of uniform, including PE kit, is labelled with your child's name. Sewn labels are best and you can order these from 'Initially Yours'.



## Dates for your Diary

In order to allow our Year 1 and Year 2 children to settle back into school after the Summer Holidays we wait until the second week of term before Reception children start. Pupils begin Reception on a part-time basis, gradually building up to full time education. Pupils are split in to 3 groups Autumn born (1<sup>st</sup> September - 31<sup>st</sup> December), Spring born (1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>st</sup> March) and Summer born (1<sup>st</sup> April - August 31<sup>st</sup>)

### Week commencing Tuesday 1st September, 2015

During this week, while Year 1 and 2 settle back to school we hope to come and visit you and your child at home. The class teacher will come along with one of the class Teaching Assistants for a short, informal meeting to give you the opportunity to help us get to know your child and begin the process of welcoming them to our school.

### Week commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

Your child will attend for mornings or afternoons only during this week according to whether they are Autumn, Spring or Summer born. Those attending in the morning should arrive at 9am at the Reception door and pick up is at 11.45am. Those attending in the afternoon arrive at 1pm at the Reception door and are collected at 3.15pm. You will be reminded which of these sessions your child is attending at the Strawberry Day during July.

	<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Afternoon Session</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Autumn born pupils only	Summer born pupils only
<b>Tuesday</b>	Autumn & Spring born pupils	Summer born pupils only
<b>Wednesday</b>	Autumn & Spring born pupils	Summer born pupils only
<b>Thursday</b>	Autumn & Spring born pupils	Summer born pupils only
<b>Friday</b>	Autumn & Spring born pupils	Summer born pupils only

On the Friday of this week pupils are invited to stay for lunch. Morning session pupils should arrive at 9am and be picked up after lunch at 1pm. Afternoon session pupils should arrive at 11.45am and be picked up at 3.15pm.



Week commencing Monday 14th September, 2015

Reception children to start full time on this day. However, we are flexible and understand that children sometimes become tired. If you have any concerns regarding this please come and talk to any of the EYFS staff.

## Term Dates

### Autumn Term, 2015

Tuesday 1st September - Friday 18th December  
Half Term Holiday is Thursday 22nd October - Friday 30th October

### Spring Term, 2016

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Half Term Holiday is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 12th February

### Summer Term, 2016

Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd July  
Half Term Holiday is Monday 30th May - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

You will be informed of any inset days through the school newsletters and website.



## Reception Curriculum

In January 2015, Ofsted graded Little Stoke Primary School as 'Good' and complemented the Reception curriculum and teaching. The Reception Curriculum involves a structured, play-based approach and therefore we provide a variety of activities and resources to address this. All children learn best from experiences that are suitable for their stage of development. 'Play' is a key part of the way young people learn. Through play children can develop, for example: the confidence needed for learning; the social skills needed for personal development and the freedom of expression needed for reading and writing. We encourage independence from an early age and allow children to approach learning in a way that suits them in order to develop self-esteem and problem solving. We plan for the children to access the outdoors as much as possible and therefore ask that your child is always suitably dressed when they come to school and always has a waterproof coat. The children always have access to our large Forest Schools site, fully supervised with extensive opportunities to enhance social and environmental understanding.

At Little Stoke we value each child as an individual and believe in developing their independence. We encourage positive social skills and good behaviour. We have a range of class based reward systems for good behaviour and work closely with all children to develop the ability to consider others and develop within a group.



In Reception, lessons and activities are planned through the Early Years Foundation Stage Document (EYFS). We support and encourage all children in their development towards achieving the 'Early Learning Goals' in the Prime and Specific Areas. More information on the Early Years Foundation Stage will be shared with you in the Induction Evening and during the Parents Information Evening in September. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to ask!



The Curriculum is split in to **Prime** and **Specific** Areas.

### The Prime Areas

- **Communication and Language** - this relates to speaking, expression and forming ideas and opinions as well as listening to others.
- **Physical Development** - this involves self-awareness, balance, coordination, fine and gross motor control.
- **Personal, social and emotional development** - we support all children to be aware of other people's feelings, how to play together, how to resolve disagreements and develop friendships.

### The Specific Areas

- **Literacy**

At Little Stoke we plan our Literacy within Topics and children will experience a range of texts, including story books, information books and poetry. Children are encouraged to talk about the pictures, talk about what has already happened in the story and predict what might happen next. As soon as children start school they are encouraged to take books home to share. **It is a well-researched and accepted fact that children make the best progress when they are read to regularly at home by a parent.** Each child receives a Reading Diary which is a useful link between home and school. We value your comments and ask that you write a small comment each time you listen to your child read or share a book with them. We do the same at school. During school time your child will share books individually and within a small group. More information on helping your child learn to read will be shared with you during the *Parents Information Evening* towards the end of September this year.



At Little Stoke we plan daily Phonics lessons'. These involve a multi-sensory approach to learning which has been successful in helping children to learn the sounds and names of letters as well as how to form them correctly. It helps children develop both their early reading and writing skills. More information on Phonics will be shared with you during the *Parents Information Evening* in September.

- ***Mathematics***

Early Maths involves a variety of practical activities that build over time with a focus spent on mental maths, where children have the opportunity to talk about ideas, solve problems, look at shapes, space & measures and counting.

- ***Understanding the world***

At Little Stoke we are fortunate enough to have fantastic school grounds, including woodland & wildlife area and pond which we use to help children learn about the world around them. Throughout the year the children observe seasonal changes, plants and wildlife. During each term we have a different topic and we create opportunities for the children to contribute to class displays that are linked to these topics. As a class we go on a number of educational visits and we invite visitors to school, both of which help the children to learn more about their world.

- ***Expressive arts and design***

Art, craft, ICT, music and dance are all opportunities for children to be creative. We encourage our children to be expressive and value their individual achievements. They have access to lots of resources including paints, play dough, musical instruments, junk modelling resources, CDs and computers. We have recently invested in mini-ipads for the children to use as learning tools.





### ***Early Years Foundation Stage Profile***

We complete an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile for each child by the end of each academic year (when Reception children have reached the age of five). This profile sums up and describes each child's development and learning achievements at the end of the EYFS. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in the Prime and Specific areas. We use photographs, individual observations, comments made by the children, and whole group observation records, as well as more formal assessments including phonic/word lists and Maths activities.

We then use these observations and assessments to plan for each individual's interests, needs and next steps. As Parents/Carers who know their child far better than we do, we encourage you to contribute to and participate in completing the EYFS Profile. More information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile will be shared with you during the Parents Induction Evening in the Summer Term and the *Parents Information Evening* during September.





## Other Useful Information

### Newsletter

Every term we send home a newsletter. This will contain information about the forthcoming terms events and any other relevant information you may need. So expect this letter in your child's book bag or sent by email.

### Assembly

Every other Friday morning at 9.10am we hold a 'Celebration Assembly' in our school hall. This is a time when each class teacher gives out certificates to deserving children. Reception class start to attend these when they are ready as the large number of children can be daunting. Parents will be informed of this and are welcome to attend all assemblies and we are always glad to see you.

### A Healthy School

Little Stoke School is a 'Healthy School' and therefore we ask each child brings a healthy lunch to school. Children cannot bring sweets or bars of chocolate, although a biscuit is fine. A juice box can be included for lunch but children cannot bring fizzy pop. During class time children will have access to water only.

### Free School Meals

The school meals at Little Stoke are of high quality. In accordance with government policy all Reception and Key Stage One/EYFS children receive a free school meal every day, this can save you up to £350 per year. **In order to support our school further we would ask all of you to complete the Free School Meal application form so that we can send the information to the Local Authority. If your application meets certain criteria Little Stoke Primary School will receive additional funding of up to £1300 per year - even though your child will receive free school meal anyway. The funds enable us to employ adult support and new learning resources for your children. If you have any questions regarding this, please ask.**

### Book Bags

Each child should come to school with a School Bag. These can be purchased from 'Initially Yours' if you wish. In this bag will be your child's reading books and diary, as well as any permission slips and any information letters or newsletter. We ask that children bring this bag everyday as it is a means of communication between home and school.



### Can your child....?

Before your child starts school it will help if they are able to do these things; Dress and undress themselves/put on and do up their coat/change their shoes/use the toilet and flush it/wash their hands/use a knife and fork/use good eating manners/tidy up/wipe their nose with a hanky. Please let us know if you have any questions.

### Infant Classroom

On arriving at school each morning the children come in through the EYFS entrance. Here they will find their peg, hang up their coat and bag. They will be welcomed by the staff. You are welcome to come in and settle them to school.

### EYFS Staff

Reception Teacher - Mrs Burness

Reception Teaching Assistant - Mrs Rowen

Reception Teaching Assistant - Mrs Spencer



School Address

Little Stoke Primary School  
Little Stoke Lane,  
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*'Ofsted 2015'*

- *The quality of teaching in all areas of the school is good and is leading to rising pupil achievement.*
- *Pupils' strong social and moral development enables them to respect others and understand the consequences of their actions.*
- *Pupils report that they feel safe.*
- *Children benefit from a stimulating learning environment which supports and extends their imagination*
- *The leadership and management of the early year's provision are good. Relationships are good between staff and children, and parents are confident that their children are well cared for.*
- *Teaching is good so that children learn rapidly. Teachers and well-trained teaching assistants work well together as a team and use frequent assessments to plan activities that meet the needs of all individuals.*
- *Children benefit from a stimulating learning environment which supports and extends their imagination and well-being. The outside area is being developed to extend this positive environment further.*