



Starting in Reception Class  
at  
Little Stoke Primary School in  
September 2021



# 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.

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.

We are very hopeful that we will be able to arrange an information session for you and are currently planning to do this on the evening of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June when we believe we may be able to have more people on site. The evening will probably involve a visit to the classroom, a tour of the school and a short talk. It is highly likely that we will only be able to allow one adult (and no children) from each family to attend and we may need to stagger attendance over the evening.

We would then like to invite you and your child to a teddy bears picnic on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. We will send out more information about this near the time.

Our school website contains lots of information about the school, please free to have a look. The website is regularly updated and this will included information about starting school in September. <http://www.littlestokeys.co.uk/>



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!

Below are some key times during the school day.

8.45am	Doors open
8.55am	Registration
9.00am – 9.30am	Carpet time
9.30am – 11.10am	Free flow / activity time
11.10am – 11.45am	Phonics
11.45am – 1.00pm	Lunchtime
1.00pm	Afternoon registration
1.00pm – 2.30pm	Activity session
2.30pm	Snack time and story time
3.05pm	Home time



School provides a piece of fresh fruit daily. 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 Monkhouse, Unit 1 Simmonds View, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8HR, tel: 011179620011 ([www.monkhoue.com](http://www.monkhoue.com)).

Please find details regarding purchase on the school uniform leaflet with this pack.

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

**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 this is kept in school every day and we will send it home at the end of each term. 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 or plimsolls (daps)
- School jumper

**Please ensure each item of uniform, including PE kit, is labelled with your child's name. Sewn labels are best these can be purchased from a number of suppliers.**

## Dates for your Diary

In order to allow our Year 1 and Year 2 children to settle back into school after the Summer Holidays, and for home visits to take place, the Reception children will start a week later. Pupils begin Reception on a part-time basis, gradually building up to full time education.

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

During these days your child will not attend school but 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.

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Your child will attend part-time for mornings or afternoons only according to their surname. Surnames A – L will attend in the morning. They should arrive at 9.00am at the reception door and be collected at 11.30. Surnames M-Z will attend in the afternoon. They should arrive at 12.30pm at the Reception door and are collected at 3.00pm.

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

All the Reception children will be in together on these days but for shorter days, 10am – 2pm. Please drop off your child and collect from the reception classroom.

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 onwards

Children will be starting full time, 8.45am – 3.05pm. We 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, 2021**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – School Training Inset Days

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** - Term start for Y1 –Y6 Pupils.

Home visits will be during this week

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September** - Term start for EYFS Pupils (am and pm sessions)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** – EYFS 10am – 2.00pm

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**- EYFS children start full time

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – End of term 1

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Term starts for all pupils

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – End of term 2

### **Spring Term, 2022**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Term 3 starts

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February** – End of term 3

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February** – Term 4 starts

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April** – End of term 4

### **Summer Term, 2022**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – Start Term 5

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – End of term 5

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June** – Start Term 6

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – End of Term 6

### **Inset Days, 2021-2022**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

## Reception Curriculum

Little Stoke Primary School is Ofsted graded as 'Good' with some excellent practice. 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 develop 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



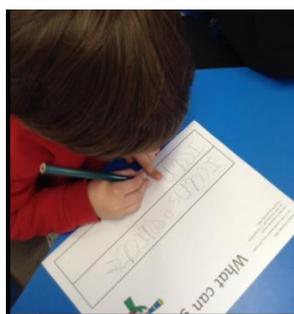
plan for the children to access the outdoors as much as possible and therefore ask that your child is always suitably dressed when they come to school and always has a waterproof coat. In addition, the children have access to our large Forest Schools site, fully supervised with extensive opportunities 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.



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

### The Prime Areas

- **Communication and Language**



*Children’s language skills underpins all of their learning and development. This area of learning helps to develop this. The children will be taught how to actively listen and respond to what they hear with relevant questions and comments. They will be taught how to ask question to clarify their understanding and how questions can be used to develop conversations.*

*Developing children’s vocabulary is key and we strive to do this on a daily basis in many different ways. We plan opportunities for the children to participate in discussions, in small groups, 1:1 or whole class. Through these the children are encouraged to offer their own ideas and to use the new vocabulary they have been taught. Stories and books play a crucial part in developing children’s language skills; they introduce new words and concepts, develop children’s imaginations and offer lots of opportunities for talk. The children will be encourage to talk about the text, retelling the story, predicting what might happen next and offering explanations for why things might happen. We encourage all children to speak in full, grammatically correct sentences offering support when needed.*



- **Physical Development**

*Physical activity is vital in developing the whole child. It enables them to pursue happy, healthy, active lives. At Little Stoke we provide numerous carefully planned activities to develop both their gross motor and fine motor skills. Children’s gross motor skills are developed during PE session, outdoor learning and when using the bikes and scooter. During outdoor learning children have the opportunity to develop their big muscles through activities such as using the loose*



*part play, digging in the digging patch and painting using large paint brushes and water. Amongst other things these help to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Children need to develop these skills in order to develop their fine motor skills.*



*Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination which is linked to early literacy. Activities such as small world play, threading, playdough, puzzles and arts and crafts all help to develop these muscles. Developing these muscles and with the help and support of the adults children will then gain good pencil control and in time will learn to form their letters correctly which will help*

*them to become fluent writers.*

- **Personal, social and emotional development**



*Like communication and language children’s personal, social and emotional development is fundamental for their cognitive development and plays a huge part in them leading happy, healthy lives. We pride ourselves in getting to know your child as an individual and build strong, warm, supportive relationships with each individual. These relationships enable*

*the children understand their own emotions and those of other people. We strive to develop independent learners, who are confident in their own abilities, are willing to give things ago and show resilience when faced with a challenge.*

*The children will be supported to manage their emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, learn how to take turns and negotiate and how to develop and maintain good, healthy friendships. These friendships and being able to co-operate and solve conflicts peacefully are all attributes that provide a secure foundation from which children can achieve at school and in later life.*



## **The Specific Areas:**

- **Literacy**



At Little Stoke school our aim is to develop the love of reading for each individual and we do this in many different ways. Reading in the early years consists of two different areas, language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension encompasses talking about a story or text, retelling stories, making predictions, and exploring and using new vocabulary. We share stories all the time in Early years and each day ends with a story time.

The book trust website says “Sharing a book with a child is fun! Its’ a time for closeness, laughing and talking together – and it can also give children a flying start in life and help

them become lifelong readers”. 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.



Word reading consists of the children learning to read words themselves. During our daily phonic sessions, the children will be taught to listen carefully, to identify sounds they can hear in words, and will be taught to recognise the sounds used in English. We learn to blend sounds together to read words (c-a-t cat) and how to segment words to help us write them. Over time they will be taught how to read sentences and will become fluent confident readers. As the children’s phonic knowledge develops they will be taught how to first write simple words and then how to build sentences. We ensure that children are taught how to form letters correctly as this helps them to become fluent confident writers



- **Mathematics**



Children encounter mathematical concepts constantly in their daily life. Through the Early years maths curriculum the children will be taught how to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of numbers to 10 including looking at the relationships between the numbers, patterns within those numbers and the relating numbers facts.

Through their play they will also learn about other mathematical concepts such as looking at different shapes, exploring different forms of measurements. We provide activities and opportunities for the children to explore these concepts and encourage them to ‘have a go’. Language underpins the mathematics curriculum and through talk and skilful question we aim to develop confident, fluent mathematicians that have the knowledge and skills to move forward in their learning.

- **Understanding the world**

At Little Stoke we are fortunate enough to have fantastic school grounds, including a woodland and wildlife area and pond which we use to help children learn about the natural world. Throughout the year the children observe seasonal changes, plants and wildlife. Our planned themes open opportunities for pupils to ask questions, investigate and test ideas, as well as learn about different cultures and communities. 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, design, music and dance are all opportunities for children to express themselves and be creative. At Little Stoke we encourage the children to be expressive and value their individual achievements. We ensure that the children have access to a range of different materials and media such



as paints, play dough, craft resources and junk modelling. We regularly use the musical instruments too and enjoy dancing together. Role play plays an important part in the Early Years curriculum. We encourage the children to take on many different roles whether it's being a doctor curing their patient or a pirate looking for treasure! The children are also encouraged to develop their imaginations when using the small world resources.



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

We complete an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile for each child at the end of their reception year. 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.

We use a secure online learning diary called Tapestry to capture and record learning and achievements. You will receive notifications when observations have been added and we encourage parents/carers to add observations too as we believe we all play an important part in the children's learning and achievements. We love to see them learning to ride their bikes, achieve an award at their swimming lessons, fun family times and other achievements that happen throughout the year.



## Other Useful Information

### Newsletter

We use newsletters to keep the school community updated with events and updates. This will be sent by email.

### Assembly

Every Friday, the school celebrates the children's achievements in school. In this assembly certificates are given out to children for embodying our behaviour rules, values and learning characteristics. We hope to be able to include parents in these assemblies again in the next academic year.

### A Healthy School

Little Stoke School is a 'Healthy School' and therefore if you decided for your child to have a packed lunch we ask that they are healthy. 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. **Please only provide water in their water bottle, not cordial or fruit juice.**

### 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 £1320 per year – even though your child will receive free school meals 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 Book Bag every day. In this bag will be your child's reading books and diary.

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; pack away toys/equipment and wipe their nose with a tissue. 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.

EYFS Staff

Reception Teacher – Miss Roche

Reception Teaching Assistant- Mrs Spencer

Reception Teaching Assistant – Miss Park





School Address

Little Stoke Primary School  
Little Stoke Lane,  
Bristol,  
BS346HY

Tel: 01454 866522

Email: [admin@littlestokeps.co.uk](mailto:admin@littlestokeps.co.uk)

Twitter @LittleStokePS

School Website [www.littlestokeps.co.uk](http://www.littlestokeps.co.uk)

*'Ofsted 2018'*

- Pupils thoroughly enjoy their learning and appreciate the school's varied and interesting curriculum, both within and beyond the school day.
- One pupil's comment that the school is 'positive and interesting, we learn a lot of new things', was typical of pupils' views.
- Parents are mostly extremely happy with the provision and appreciate leaders' work to involve them in school life.
- Leaders' actions to improve the quality of teaching and raise expectations in the early years class and in key stage 1 have improved the levels of challenge and support that pupils receive.
- The work to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils is a strength of the school.

The full Ofsted report is available on the school website.

