

Little Stoke Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage
Handbook 2023-2024

Welcome to EYFS at Little Stoke Primary School

We hope this booklet 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. Our school values of aspiration, collaboration, inclusion and responsibility underpin all that we do at Little Stoke Primary school. 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.

Our priority is to make learning an enjoyable and stimulating experience. We carefully ensure that each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and a mixture of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Play is an essential part of children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, problem solve and build relationships with their peers. Learning is most effective when children lead their own play and they are facilitated and extended with sensitive adult interactions

Our Classroom

Our early years setting has ample room for your child to play and learn to the very best of their ability. We have a large indoor space that offers the children many opportunities to learn new skills whilst following their own interests.



We also have a large outdoor area where the children have access to lots of large scale play equipment and resources that are used for adult led and child-initiated activities.



Who will you meet?

Mrs H Taylor – Class Teacher

Mrs D Spencer – Teaching Assistant

Miss L Park – Teaching Assistant

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.monkhoe.com).

- **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 PE uniform. Children will be asked to wear their PE Uniform to school on the day they do PE. This will be timetabled in September; we will let you know the day at the start of term. This is a requirement under DfE regulations for Health & Safety. This will need to consist of:

- Plain white T-shirt (no logos please)
- Navy blue or black nylon sports shorts
- Navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms for colder weather
- Black or white trainers or plimsolls (daps)
- School jumper

Forest School Uniform

Children in EYFS will have a weekly forest school session led by Mrs Taylor. For these sessions a forest school uniform will be needed.

- Old jumper/t-shirt/trousers
- Wellies/Sturdy old trainers
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Seasonal: wooly hat, gloves, scarf, cap, suncream

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



Our 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
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunchtime
1.00pm	Afternoon registration
1.00pm – 2.30pm	Activity session
2.30pm	Snack time and story time
3.15pm	Home time



Our Learning

There are seven areas of learning that make up the EYFS curriculum. Each of the areas of learning are equally as important and interconnect with one another. They are bound together by the characteristics of effective learning. These are playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically. The children learn through planned, adult-led activities and through child-initiated learning. The seven areas of learning are:

Personal, social and emotional development



At Little Stoke Primary School we develop children's positive sense of themselves. We teach them about having respect for themselves and others, developing good social skills and a good attitude to learning. To help children develop positive relationships, adults in our setting form warm and caring relationships with all of the children. Adults model how to form positive relationships and how to manage feelings with actions and words. We also instil children with the confidence to become more independent in their own learning.

Physical development

We provide many opportunities for the children to be active and develop both their fine and gross motor-skills. The children are encouraged to be physically active at many different times of the day, with both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities. We have large indoor and outdoor areas that enable this. At Little Stoke, children are supported in their understanding of exercise, sleep and eating healthily. At snack times, children have the opportunity to independently choose a healthy snack.



Communication and language development



At our school, we understand the importance of children being able to communicate and use language in all of their development and learning. We provide children with high quality opportunities to improve and gain good speaking and listening skills. We know that the most successful way to do this is through the children's natural desire to play. Adults in our setting play alongside children, introducing new language and scaffolding children's play so that they regularly hear and use new words and phrases. Children are supported to develop their vocabulary and use more complex sentences in this context.

Literacy



At Little Stoke we understand the importance and impact of developing a love of reading from a young age. For that reason, reading, listening to and retelling stories is at the heart of our literacy learning. Children hear a wide range of stories and nursery rhymes that inform their development of narrative. They listen to stories and then use them to facilitate their play through re-enacting what they have heard through role play, or adapting the

stories to use in small world play. The children learn to treat books with respect and access them in all different areas of our learning environment. Books and stories are used to ignite imagination and to find out about the world in which we live. We ensure a strong start in Early Years through daily phonics sessions in which they play games, learn to link sounds to letters, and begin their journey in learning to read. We use Unlocking Letters and Sounds throughout the whole school which ensures consistency. To ensure no child is left behind at any point in the progression, children are regularly assessed and supported to keep up through bespoke 1-1 interventions.

The children are offered many opportunities to write. They learn to write through a balance of adult-led and child initiated activities. Adults seize every opportunity to ignite children's interest to write throughout all areas of the learning environment.



Mathematics



Children are taught maths in a balanced way that is both adult-led and child-initiated. In our setting, children start by exploring maths concepts in a concrete way using real-life situations and objects. Being able to touch, feel and manipulate the resources is an ideal way to help children develop an understanding of the underlying concepts. So that the children are able to do this, we provide them with a wide range of natural resources and toys that can be manipulated, counted and sorted.

Adults in our setting are very skilled at bringing maths into children's natural play; probing, prompting and questioning children to build upon their maths learning.

Understanding the world

At Little Stoke Primary School children are given opportunities to explore and observe the environment, living things and objects. We are guided by children's interests when they want to find out more or are curious about something. The adults in our environment use careful questioning to ensure children make the most of every learning opportunity. The children's learning is based on first-hand experiences to observe, predict, make decisions and discuss.



Expressive arts and design



Children's curiosity and play is of the highest importance. Expressive arts and design gives us so many opportunities to value this. Children are able to explore and share their thinking, ideas and feelings in music, in art, movement and dance, role play and technology. Children learn and are taught skills that they are able to apply in many contexts and situations, allowing them to then use these skills in their own creative way. Our children are taught to value their own unique ideas and those of others' by

celebrating what they have achieved.



Forest School



Facilitated through our fantastic outdoor spaces, outdoor learning, and in particular Forest School, are a regular feature of our curriculum that not only enhance the lessons developed by teachers but more importantly support and nurture children's social skills and self-confidence.

Our Forest School sessions develop risk taking, independence, resilience and self-awareness for all children. They foster curiosity and allow all children to thrive in a different setting whilst also providing them with vital knowledge and skills to become aware of sustainable living.



In EYFS, children will have a forest school session for half a day each week.

Seesaw Learning Diary



What is Seesaw?

Seesaw is a secure online learning journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. This system allows us to work with parents and carers to share information and record the children's play and learning in and outside of the classroom.

How does Seesaw work?

Seesaw provides each individual child with their own learning journal held online. Parents and carers can log-in using their email and password (we will send a link to your chosen email). All of our staff are given a secure log-in. Parents can then upload observations, photos or videos; recording children's achievements and assessing their learning in reference to the EYFS curriculum.

Parents can change their settings so that an email is then automatically generated informing them when an observation has been added so they can have a look and add any comments of their own.

How do you sign up for this?

We will ask you to sign a letter giving permission for us to save your child's photos on the Seesaw system. Please hand this letter to the school office.

Staying Healthy at LSPS

Snacks

Free school milk is supplied to all children under the age of 5 and those children who are entitled to the Pupil Premium funding. We also ask that your child brings a bottle of water to school every day – please ensure this is clearly labelled with their name. If your child is 5 and over, you may pay for milk or if entitled to Pupil Premium Free School Meals your child can continue to receive free milk after they are 5. Information is provided at the School Office

A piece of fruit is provided to our Reception children every day under a government initiative.

School Dinners

Children will be able to have either hot school dinners or packed lunch. All children in EYFS and KS1 are entitled to a free school meal daily. The September lunch menu will be available on our school website and a paper copy is available from the school office. If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will help you.

If your child chooses packed lunch, they will need a named lunch box. In the interest of encouraging healthy diets, no fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate please!

Travelling to school

As much as possible, we encourage children to travel to school in a healthy, sustainable way, so walking or cycling/scooting to school is ideal. The school has bicycle shelters for storing bicycles and scooters. We have a programme of workshops, supported by the Local Authority, which develops the children's understanding and provides practical advice and support on how the children can keep themselves safe when moving around in the community and local area.

Wrap-around childcare

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is available to all children at Little Stoke Primary School. It is open from 8am and last entry is 8:35am. There is a charge of £3.00 per day per child which includes a piece of toast and a drink. No booking necessary although children do need to be registered to use the breakfast club. Please see the office for a form.

After school club

To support working parents, we provide an After School Club which runs from Monday – Thursday from 3.20 pm – 6 pm. A registration form needs to be completed and children must have a place booked in advance for this service, the charge is £9.00 per pupil per day (there is a reduction available for siblings). Please see the office for a form.

Health and safety

Illness

If your child is ill, please phone our office on 01454 866522 or email on admin@littlestokeps.co.uk before 9am if possible and leave a message giving their name, class and reason for absence. It is important to keep us up-to-date with contact details in case your child becomes ill at school.

We do, from time to time, have 'little visitors' in the School! If you find any head lice in your child's hair, please treat immediately and then your child can return to school.

Allergies and Dietary needs

It is important to let us know if your child suffers from any particular allergy, illness or has a dietary need.

If your child suffers from asthma, a consent form will need to be completed before you can leave an inhaler in school. A form will also have to be completed if your child needs to take prescribed medication during the school day. This can only be administered if the medication is to be taken 4 times a day. Please talk to any member of staff if you have any concerns.

Staying safe

Your child's safety is of great importance to us - therefore we ask that you inform us beforehand if you have arranged for someone else to collect your child. We will not allow children to go home with anyone that you have not told us about in advance.

If you do need to collect your child at a time other than the end of the day, please make sure you report to the office first when coming into school.

Working Together

We recognise that you are your child's first educator and that children come into EYFS with a variety of experiences. We aim to build a partnership between home and school and for communication and information sharing to be a two way process. You can support us by:

- Attending parents meetings and parent workshops.
- Looking at your child's Seesaw learning diary regularly and contributing to the observations.
- Helping in school – please feel free to come in and spend a session, either regularly or now and again. You could help with reading, cooking, sewing or just as importantly, spending time with the children, supporting their learning. This will

need to be arranged in advance, ensuring compliance with our safeguarding protocols.

- Keeping up to date with what's going on by reading newsletters, visiting our website or following us on Facebook or Twitter.
- Coming in to talk to the children about your job or hobby – we want the children to feel part of the wider community.

Helping Your Child at Home

The following ideas are things you can start doing now.

- Teach your child to get themselves dressed and manage their own personal hygiene.
- Teach your child to use a knife and fork.
- Talk to your child about what they have done at pre-school/school, their interests and about everyday activities.
- Encourage your child to pick up a pen and make marks/write - shopping lists, birthday cards, notes in notebooks. Help them to write their name, but please do not use capital letters when you are writing (except the initial letter!).
- Use every day experiences as opportunities for counting - climbing the stairs, laying the table, shopping etc. - make counting purposeful.
- Share stories with your child and once they start to bring reading books home from school, listen to your child read and talk about what they have read.
- Get a good bedtime routine in place - children who are tired find it difficult to learn.

Helping Your Child at School

- Let us know of any concerns or important information about your child.
- Bring your child to school on time - they find it hard to settle and will miss valuable learning time if they are late. Please collect your child on time - it can be upsetting to be left at school when all of your friends have gone home. The day finishes at 3.15 in EYFS.
- Provide your child with comfortable shoes - no laces please (unless they are able to do them up!) We are encouraging independence and Velcro or buckles are easier for small hands.

- Please ensure your child has a school book bag. Your child will need to bring this in every day. Further into the year, they will also bring home reading books to read to you. Please support us by writing a comment in their reading record book, saying how your child enjoyed the book or how they got on with reading them.
- We do not allow home toys in school so please ask your child to leave toys and precious belongings at home - it can be very upsetting when things get lost or broken.
- Please ensure all of your children's belongings are named.

Positive behaviour approach

Education is a human right. It is therefore the responsibility of every member of the school community to allow others to learn in a safe, happy environment. It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. The school behaviour policy is, therefore, designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure and where pupils, staff and parents uphold high expectations of personal conduct. Our behaviour policy is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn. Like any skill, positive behaviour has to be taught and children need to learn a range of skills to enable them to behave well and regulate their own emotions whether they are being watched or not. These beliefs link directly with our school values and aims.

At Little Stoke we have three behaviour rules:

- Be Safe
- Be Kind
- Be Useful

We actively celebrate positive behaviour choices verbally and also using house points, stickers and certificates.

The whole school Behaviour Policy and other key policies are available on our school website: <https://littlestokeps.co.uk/parentscarers/policies/>

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are very important and make a huge difference to your child's progress. Absences for birthdays, shopping or long weekends are not permitted. Holidays in term time are not authorised by the school except in exceptional circumstances; this is in line with our Attendance Policy and current legislation. All requests for absence must be made to the Head Teacher in writing by emailing the School Office on admin@littlestokeps.co.uk.