



Little Stoke Primary School

September 2023

Key Dates:

Monday 25th September – INSET, school closed to all pupils.

Tuesday 26th September – European Day of Languages (children will do activities in school to highlight this event)

Thursday 5th October – Try a school meal day – Dolce will provide a special menu for this day – please encourage your child to try a school meal on this day. A menu will be sent out before the day.

Tuesday 17th October – Harvest Assembly:
KS1 – 9:15am
KS2 – 10am

Friday 20th October – End of term 1

Monday 30th October – Start of term 2

Tuesday 7th November 3:30 – 7pm – parents' evening

Wednesday 8th November 3:30 – 5:30pm – parents' evening

13th – 17th November – National anti-bullying week

Tuesday 14th November – individual photo day

Friday 17th November – Children in Need day

Thursday 7th December 2pm and 5:30pm – EYFS and KS1 Christmas performance.

Friday 8th December – Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day

Thursday 14th December, 5:30pm – KS2 Choir – Christmas Carols.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely welcoming our new reception cohort who have settled in so well to LSPS. A very warm welcome to the children and their families.

Please find key dates on the left and school updates below:

Staffing update

We are pleased to share that Mrs Taylor, our EYFS lead and reception teacher, and husband are expecting their first child – huge congratulations to them both. Mrs Taylor intends to begin her maternity at the end of term 3; we will begin recruitment for maternity cover after the October half term to give plenty of hand over time.

Attendance

Further on in the newsletter are some reminders from the attendance policy about authorised and unauthorised absences. The updated school attendance policy has some small changes in light of the 2022 DfE guidance, which is likely to be adopted into law later this academic year. It can be found on the policies page of the website:

<https://littlestokeps.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/LSPS-Attendance-Policy-September-2023.pdf>

Building works

We are very pleased with the shelter, which was completed over the summer break; it is lovely to see the children able to access the outside provision this week, despite the heavy rain! You will have seen that there is now a concrete base opposite the bike shelter. This is ready for a new scooter shelter to be installed providing more storage for children bringing bikes and scooters to school. It is lovely to see the commitment to travelling to school in a healthy sustainable way.

Best wishes,
Mr Dan Ross – Headteacher
Twitter: @LittleStokePS
Facebook: @littlestokeprimary
www.littlestokeps.co.uk



TERM DATES FOR 2023-2024

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Friday 1 st September 2023	Friday 20 th October 2023
Term 2	Monday 30 th October 2023	Friday 15 th December 2023
Term 3	Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	Friday 9 th February 2024
Term 4	Monday 19 th February 2024	Thursday 28 th March 2024
Term 5	Monday 15 th April 2024	Friday 24 th May 2024
Term 6	Monday 3 rd June 2024	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024

School closed for Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

INSET DAYS 2023-2024

Friday 1st September 2023
Monday 25th September 2023
Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th June 2024

Do you have a child, or know a parent with a child, starting school in September 2024?

Please join one of our open events. See details below:



LITTLE STOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

EYFS SEPTEMBER 2024 STARTERS OPEN DAYS:

Wednesday 4th October 2023 - 9:30am
Thursday 5th October 2023 - 5:30pm
Thursday 2nd November 2023 - 9:30am
Thursday 2nd November 2023 - 5:30pm
Tuesday 9th January 2024 - 9:30am
Tuesday 9th January 2024 - 2pm

Scan the QR code to book a space:



Attendance

(Taken from the updated policy section 5 <https://littlestokeps.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/LSPS-Attendance-Policy-September-2023.pdf>)

There are only two categories of absence from school:

Authorised – approved

Unauthorised – not approved

Only the Headteacher or Deputy Head (as delegate) can approve an absence from school. That is the law.

Absence will be recorded using the code recommended by the Department for Education Guidance on School Attendance.

Authorised (approved) absence – types of authorised absence that may be approved:-

- Leave of absence – requests must be put in writing to the Head Teacher via e-mail and will be considered on a case by case basis. The school does not provide forms for completion in these circumstances.
- Medical absence for appointments – at Hospital or Orthodontic appointments. (Non urgent, routine check-up appointments should be made for after 3.30pm or during the 12 weeks of school holidays over the year.) Students are expected to be absent for the minimal amount of time and not absent for the whole day.
- Illness – Parents can use the NHS toolkit if they are unsure about whether their child is well enough to attend school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. Parents/carers to contact office via phone/e-mail on each day of absence. If your child is absent due to illness for a sustained period of 4 or more days during term time, medical evidence should be provided in order that this absence be authorised (appointment letters, doctor note etc.)
- Religious observance – the Headteacher must be informed of this in advance.
- If a student is excluded from school for a behaviour related incident, this is an authorised absence.

Unauthorised (not approved) absence – types of absence that will not be approved

- Absence due to birthday, shopping for uniform, looking after family members.
- Holiday in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed to by the Headteacher – in line with changes to the law implemented in 2013.
- Late arrival to school after the register has closed at 9.15 am has to be recorded as an unauthorised absence.
- Sustained period of illness (4 or more days) without medical evidence.

This is not an exhaustive list but just gives examples of unauthorised absences. Only the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher (as delegate) can authorise an absence from school. That is the law.

All absence – authorised and unauthorised (including lateness) – will be analysed and subject to challenge to ensure that any concern regarding frequency, pattern or validity is acted upon swiftly.

Meet Your Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)...

Daria

Hi I'm Daria (she/her) from the Mental Health Support Team. I'll be working at your school each week, say hello next time you see me!



Starting from this term I will be working at Little Stoke Primary every Tuesday. I am going to be supporting students with anxiety, low mood, and other struggles with wellbeing. I will be using a type of therapy called low-intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). The support I will be offering will include:

- Working with students on a 1-1 basis to show them ways that they can take care of their mental health.
- Working with parents to give them new ideas for supporting their child's mental health.
- Supporting a 'whole-school approach' to Mental Health, supporting student wellbeing by delivering group workshops, creating resources and lots more!

If you think your child could benefit from some support please speak to a member of staff in school, they will reach out to me and we can discuss how we can best help you. If we can help, we will arrange a 'meet and greet' session, where I can tell you a little bit more about the support I can offer.