



You, Your Child
and
Chew Stoke Church
School
September 2026



Miss Vicki Hennessy



Miss Sophie Pritchard

INDUCTION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WELCOME TO CHEW STOKE CHURCH SCHOOL

We look forward to working *with* you to give your child a happy and exciting start to school life. Always remember, we are here to help! We hope this booklet will be both helpful and reassuring.



INDUCTION PROGRAMME

We have sent you information about the events that make up our induction programme for your child, and you are invited to the evening induction meeting to meet the wider school community. We look forward to visiting you at home in early September to meet you and your child and to answer any last-minute questions.



You have been your child's first teacher and will continue to be the greatest influence on your child. We therefore appreciate you sharing your knowledge with us and from the beginning aim to develop a working partnership with you.

Children are admitted to school gradually so that every child has the maximum opportunity to make friends with other children and become accustomed to the school day. It also allows us to get to know your child as an individual, and to spend extra time talking one to one.

THE FIRST DAY

Your child's start date will be notified to you by email. Their first day will be from 8.50 am until 12.10 pm. Gates will open at 8.40am for a prompt 8.50am start.

After the first day, your child will attend school full time. If you have any concerns, please talk to Miss Hennessy, the class teacher.



THE SCHOOL DAY

The school year is divided into 6 terms - Autumn Terms 1 & 2, Spring Terms 3 & 4 and Summer Terms 5 & 6. The school day runs from 8.50 am. until 12.10 pm. and from 1.15 pm. until 3.20 pm. Gates open at 8.40am for register at 8.50am. This is a good opportunity for you to speak to staff and share any concerns you may have; children will change books to take home and get ready for the day ahead.

At the end of school your child will come to meet you at the gate at 3.20 pm. We do not allow any child to leave the premises until we see you or the person we know is responsible for collecting them. If you are unavoidably delayed please do not worry, we will keep your child safely with us until you arrive. Please phone if you are able to do so.

If your child is going home with another child for a play date please let us know at morning drop-off as 'if we don't know, we don't let them go'!

If your child is attending Out of School Club we will ensure that they are safely taken to the school hall. If they are attending a sports club, please let us know so we can get them ready!



THE CURRICULUM

At Chew Stoke Church School children will be learning through 'doing'; many activities are play-based; some will be adult led, others child initiated. The children will be developing the key skills they need to prepare them for life; most importantly of all, getting on with other people and sharing. We follow the EYFS curriculum and collate the children's experiences in the form of a learning log. We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey with you.

READING

Children love stories - read to your child as often as possible; a bedtime story is ideal. Do not be too eager for your child to be the reader, instead talk about what is happening in the pictures or what might happen next. Talk about the parts you like best. Sharing stories should be a happy time. Read to your child and enjoy stories together.



READING IN SCHOOL

Your child will bring home books for you to share from the first morning in school. We call these books 'Reading for Pleasure' books. In Hedgehog Class we use 'Pageticker', a digital reading diary. Passwords and logins will be distributed as children start. Parents are able to log and comment on books shared at home, allowing us to review children's progress, give feedback directly to you, the parent, and see the types of books your child enjoys.

Later in Term 1 children will be given phonics books to read to you. A meeting in Term 1 will explain this further. There will also be a meeting explaining the curriculum in more depth and giving you an insight into a day in Hedgehog Class.

Later in the year, your child will have a reading partner from an older class. The children become very attached to their reading partners and enjoy this special time together.

WRITING

Writing and drawing should be fun. Remember what may look like scribble or random marks to you may be a valuable piece of writing to your child. Children are, too soon, afraid of being wrong! They need to experiment with crayons and pencils. Have plenty of scrap paper ready.

When your child is ready to write, please use lower case letters. The alphabet used in school is as follows:



LUNCH

Children may choose either a cooked school lunch or they may bring a packed lunch from home. Our caterers, Edwards & Ward, are promoting healthy eating with their exciting new menus, a copy of which is available on our website. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 classes are entitled to a free school meal.

It is helpful if children are able to use a knife and fork.

We ask that packed lunches do **not** include sweets or bars of chocolate, in order to be fair to all children and to encourage healthy eating patterns. Children may bring a drink, but **no** glass bottles or cans please. **Please also note that we are a nut-free school!**



LUNCHTIMES

At lunchtimes the children are supervised by buddies and play leaders and a senior member of staff is also always on duty. Someone is always on hand to help cut up food or open packets or cartons. In addition, Miss Hennessy stays in the lunch hall at the beginning of Term 1 to ensure that the children are settled and happy.



MILK

Milk is provided free each day for children under five. Parents may purchase milk for the over fives by arrangement with School Milk Services - 01934 510950.

Children should bring a drink of water every day (in a named container please), preferably not a carton, and are allowed to drink whenever they are thirsty throughout the day. 'Water helps the brain work' - NO squash or juice please.

PLAYTIME



The children have a morning playtime from 10.30 until 10.50 when they can eat a snack brought from home. These should be healthy snacks - fruit such as apples, oranges, bananas, kiwi, strawberries, tomatoes and cucumber are popular.

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 classes receive free fruit each day, which we distribute during the afternoon. This fruit includes apples, satsumas, bananas, pears, carrots.

SICKNESS

Please contact us on the first day of your child's absence from school and each subsequent day, unless you know your child is going to be absent for a longer period, e.g. for chicken pox. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, he/she needs to stay at home for 48 hours. A telephone call or email is acceptable.

HOLIDAY

Taking holidays during term time is not permitted except in exceptional circumstances. Parents of pupils who are persistently absent will be liable for a penalty notice issued by the local authority.

P.E.

All children take part in physical activity twice a week and need a PE Kit kept in school in a named drawstring bag. School shorts and a t-shirt may be bought from the school uniform suppliers. All pupils are allocated a 'House' team for sports and other activities and each House wears a different coloured t-shirt. The name of your child's House will be notified to you by email. Children also need a pair of elasticated plimsolls. Please encourage your child to undress and dress independently. It is **essential** that articles of clothing are named.



THANK YOU!

To close our induction booklet, we wish you again a very warm welcome. Chew Stoke Church School is a special place. You have made an excellent choice for your child to start their 'school career' with us. The home-school partnership we will be able to develop with you and will enable many successes to be enjoyed. We look forward to your family's future with us.



Ben Hewett
Headteacher