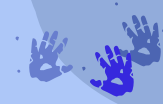


Stoke Prior Primary School



Pre-school Handbook



Welcome to Stoke Prior Pre- School

Welcome

We are delighted to announce the opening of our brand-new preschool, which will form an integral part of our Early Years class here at Stoke Prior Primary School. This exciting addition will provide a nurturing and stimulating environment for our youngest learners, helping them take their first steps into education with confidence and joy.

Our preschool is available for children starting their pre-school year,, ensuring a smooth transition into school life. With caring staff, engaging activities, and a strong focus on early development, we aim to create a foundation for lifelong learning.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our school community and working together to support their growth and happiness.

Our Approach: Play-Based Learning

In our early years class, Monkey Puzzle Class, we believe that play is the foundation of learning in the early years. Through play, children explore, experiment, and make sense of the world around them. Our curriculum is designed to provide rich, stimulating experiences that encourage curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving.

Play-based learning allows children to develop essential skills such as communication, social interaction, and emotional resilience.

Whether building towers, role-playing, or engaging in outdoor exploration, every activity is carefully planned to support the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) areas of learning.

Our staff observe and interact with children during play to extend their thinking, introduce new ideas, and nurture individual interests.

This approach ensures that learning is child-led, meaningful, and enjoyable—helping each child grow in confidence and independence.

Our preschool is part of our Early Years provision, known as Monkey Puzzle Class. The class is led by Mrs. Holder, our experienced Early Years Teacher, EYFS Lead, and SENCO. She brings many years of expertise to the role and is supported by Mrs. Lane, our dedicated Early Years Teaching Assistant, and our enthusiastic Early Years Apprentice—a wonderful new recruit eager to develop their skills in early childhood education.

All members of our team are fully trained and hold paediatric first aid qualifications. While every staff member spends time with the children, those based in the Monkey Puzzle classroom will play a key role in supporting your child's learning, development, and overall well-being. They will help your child reach their full potential and attend to their physical needs with care and attention.

To keep you connected with your child's learning journey, we use Tapestry as our communication platform. This allows you to stay engaged with the exciting experiences and progress your child makes at school.

Session Times & Costs

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| AM Session | 8:50 – 11:50 Arrival at school from 08:40 | £12.50 |
| PM Session | 12:00 – 15:00 | £12.50 |
| Additional Hours | 1 hour | £5.00 |
| Afterschool Provision (must be prebooked term in advance) | 15:00 – 17:00 | Cost dependent on length of session |

Sessions can be booked termly using our [Booking Form](#)

Our preschoolers may wear their own clothing to school, but should you prefer, they can wear school uniform – details below.

Uniform

Grey trousers or shorts

Navy or grey skirt

Blue checked dress (summer)

Blue or school polo shirt

Navy jumper/school sweatshirt/Navy cardigan

Suitable school shoes



PE

Sky blue school or white t-shirt

Navy blue shorts or skirt, navy jogging bottoms or leggings can be worn in winter.

Trainers / pumps (summer term only)

PE kit will be required regularly. We suggest all children leave their kit in school. Trainers may be worn outdoors. Bare feet indoors.

Navy sweatshirts and royal blue polo-shirts with embroidered school logo, and the PE t-shirt are available to order from

www.myclothing.com

<https://uniformsales.co.uk/school/stoke-prior-primary-school/>

Labelling Uniform and Personal Items

To help us return lost property promptly, please ensure that all items of your child's uniform and personal belongings are clearly labelled with their full name. This includes clothing, footwear, water bottles, lunchboxes, and bags. Named items are far more likely to be returned quickly and reduce the risk of loss.

- PE sessions are on a Thursday afternoon – if your child is in school for this session they will need a PE kit

Our Preschool – The setting



Our Approach & Environment

At Monkey Puzzle Class, we believe that children learn best through play and exploration, and our rural setting provides the perfect backdrop for this. Play-based learning is at the heart of everything we do—encouraging curiosity, creativity, and confidence through hands-on experiences both indoors and outdoors.

Our school benefits from extensive outdoor spaces, including:

- A large playing field for active games and sports
- An adventure playground and separate playground for varied physical play
- A secure, fenced pond area for nature exploration
- A dedicated Forest School area on-site
- A garden for planting and growing activities

Monkey Puzzle Class also has its own outdoor area, featuring a mud kitchen, sand pit, and a storytelling space, designed to spark imagination and support sensory play.

We are proud to offer access to a fantastic off-site Forest School site, where children can immerse themselves in nature and develop resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. With four Forest School-trained teachers in school, we ensure that outdoor learning is safe, structured, and inspiring.

Indoors, our spacious school hall is used for PE lessons and games sessions, providing opportunities for physical development in all weather conditions.

Through this rich environment and our play-based approach, we aim to nurture every child's love of learning and help them reach their full potential.

Food & Drink



Allergy Awareness & Food Safety

- Parents must inform the school of any food allergies during enrollment.
- EpiPens & Emergency Medication must be provided if the child has a severe food allergy.
- Staff members are trained in allergy response and emergency medical procedures.

School Lunches

We offer a full hot lunch service, which can be purchased through School Food United.

Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch and drink in a suitable container.

If you believe your child qualifies for benefits-related free school meals, please contact the school office.

Snacks and Water

As a Healthy School, we encourage nutritious snacks during morning break. We ask that children bring a healthy snack. A piece of fruit will be provided. Cool, filtered water is available throughout the day, and we ask children to bring a small water bottle.

School Milk

At school we provide milk through the Cool Milk Scheme. Children in pre-school will receive free milk. The school will register our under 5s.

Boost their

HYDRATION & DEVELOPMENT

Our school works with Cool Milk to provide fresh school milk

FREE FOR UNDER 5S | SUBSIDISED FOR OVER 5S*

- **Calcium** for strong bones and teeth
- **Protein** for muscle repair and growth
- **Vitamin B12** to boost the immune system
- **Vitamin B2** to aid energy release
- **Potassium** to regulate fluid and blood pressure
- **Phosphorus** to strengthen bones and generate energy in the cells
- **Iodine** to support healthy cells and metabolism

Cool Milk



Don't let your child miss out!
Register online today at www.coolmilk.com

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.
*Over 5s in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk.
Please speak to the school for details.



A new online ordering system called School Food United is now available!

Access **School Food United** to

- ❖ Choose what your child has for lunch
- ❖ Pay in advance online to remove the need for cash.

Please note - it is important that **all** meals are ordered on line, including a nursery free meal / UIFSM (Reception Yr.1 & Yr.2) as **no other order system** is available - it only takes a few minutes to register - please read carefully and follow the instructions. 😊

Steps - how to register for the first time

- ❖ Visit <https://parents.schoolfoodunited.com/login> & select the 'register' button at the top of the page. Problems logging on? Improve your browser performance by going to settings and clear your history/cache.
- ❖ Complete the relevant fields (please ensure you add your child's full first /last name, - class year/ class name, phone, email & password (please check password criteria)).
- ❖ Don't miss out - click 'yes' to opt in to receive information about special events, fun theme days, and parent invites to taster days etc.
- ❖ You will then receive a **confirmation** email and will need to activate the link contained within it before the account will work - please check your **junk** folder.
- ❖ Only **when you have received** your confirmation email can you log in using your email address and your selected password.
- ❖ Add your child's details (first name, last name, school year and class) by selecting the 'add a child' button. You can add passport style picture to personalize.
- ❖ Repeat this process for additional children.



Our Daily Schedule

Owl Time = Own Learning Time

08:40 - 09:00

Arrival

- Fine motor skill activities, Dough disco, "Squiggle whilst you Wiggle"

09:00 - 09:20

- Welcome song, register, talk about the day, weather, and calendar.

Rhyme & Story Time

09:20 - 10:30

Child-Initiated Play - Owl Time

- Indoor and outdoor play areas open (role play, construction, creative, sensory).

10:30 - 10:45

Snack Time

- Healthy snack and drink, milk or water, toilet.

10:45 - 11:00

Group Time

- Phonics, Maths, etc.

11:00 - 12:00

Owl Time

- Physical development, exploration, nature activities.

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch

- Hot meal or packed lunch, followed by outdoor play with KS1 children

13:00 - 13:30

Group Time - Phonics, Maths, etc.

- Adult-led activities linked to EYFS area

13:30 - 14:30

Topic Activities / Owl time

14:30 - 14:45

Tidy up time

14:45 - 15:00

Carpet time

- Story, reflection on the day, prepare for home.

15:00

Parents collect children.

This is a general sample of the daily schedule. It will vary and during each week will include Forest school sessions and music amongst other activities.



Information on our curriculum and school policies

- Our school follows the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum
 - Information on our curriculum and class plans can all be found on our website:
<https://www.stokeprior.hereford.sch.uk/learning/curriculum>
- Stoke Prior is part of the Three Counties Academy Trust
- Our policies & key documents can all be found on our website:
<https://www.stokeprior.hereford.sch.uk/key-information/policies>

www.stokeprior.hereford.sch.uk

Our school website is a vital hub of information and communication for parents, pupils, and the wider community. It provides up-to-date news, term dates, curriculum details, and key policies, as well as celebrating the achievements and activities of our pupils. Parents can access newsletters, event calendars, and important announcements, helping them stay connected with school life. The website also offers resources to support learning at home and links to useful external services. We encourage all families to visit the site regularly to stay informed and engaged with our school community



Communication Between School & Parents

We prioritize open and transparent communication with families. Below are the ways we keep parents informed:

Weekly Updates

- **Weekly Newsletters**

Sent via email, summarizing highlights from the week past and upcoming events.

- **Website Calendar**

The calendar on our website can be subscribed to, and you can have all the school dates on your device.

Direct Communication

- **Tapestry**

Regular communication throughout the week in school, enabling engagement with your child's learning.

- **Updates via MCAS App**

Parents are kept informed via email of upcoming events and trips.

- **Email & Phone Support**

The office is staffed during the school day for any messages or enquiries.

What your child will need at Pre-School

- Small drinks bottle that can be refilled
- Coats and appropriate clothing for the season - hats, gloves for cold weather, sunhats for summer. We have wellies and waterproofs in school.
- Change of clothes - sometimes accidents do happen, so it's always great to have spare clothes
- Nappies or pullups & wipes(if required) - please bring in a pack to be left in school.
- PE Kit - shorts and t-shirt if in school on a Thursday afternoon. This can be kept in school on their peg.

Little Owls Playgroup

You will find us in Stoke Prior Primary School hall, every Friday morning 9:30-11:30. All 0-4 year olds and their parents are welcome to come and 'stay and play' and explore the activities we have in our wonderful outdoor area and large indoor space. Tea, coffee, cake, healthy snacks and crafts will be provided. £2:50 for parent and child, £1 for every extra child.



Printable Checklist

Essentials

- Named backpack or bag
- Water bottle (clearly labelled)
- Healthy snack
- Packed lunch (if not having hot meals)
- Comfortable clothing (easy for toileting)
- Spare clothes (tops, bottoms, underwear, socks)

Weather-Appropriate Items

- Coat or jacket
- Hat and gloves (winter)
- Sun hat (summer)

Optional

- Nappies and wipes (if not toilet trained)
- Comfort item (small teddy or blanket, if allowed)
- Sun cream (for warmer months)
- Book bag

Important Tips

- Label everything with your child's name.
- Avoid toys from home.



Stoke Prior Primary School

Successful and Proud



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01568760207
www.stokeprior.hereford.sch.uk
admin@stockprior.hererord.sch.uk

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