



Nursery Booklet 2021-2022

*We look forward to
welcoming you.*



Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School

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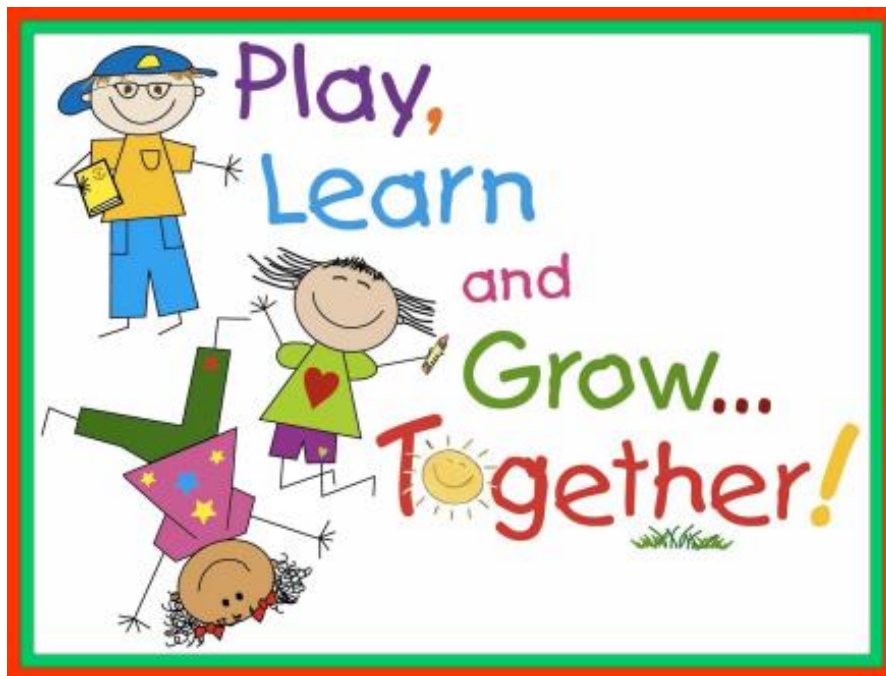
How to find Nursery

Our Nursery entrance is situated to the side of school on Alpine Road, opposite the car park entrance for Alpine Lodge. Our school council ask that you please park carefully and respectfully.

Welcome to Stocksbridge Nursery

We would like to welcome you to Nursery where our youngest children play and learn as part of Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School.

We are very much looking forward to working with you so that your child is happy and that together, we help them to have the most positive of starts to their early years of learning.



It is through learning and playing together that your child will discover more about the world in which we live. Play allows children to be creative, physical, co-operative and imaginative as well as thoughtful problem-solvers.

We want children to ask questions, we want children to talk and share what they know so that we can then move them forwards.

But most of all, we want to put in those early foundations on which children can build and grow a lifelong desire to learn.

The Team

Hi, I am Miss Rogers and I will be your teacher in Nursery for most of the week. I especially love learning outside and can't wait to have lots of fun with you all.



Hello. I am Mrs Taylor and I will teach in Nursery on Wednesdays. I thoroughly enjoy baking so I am hoping we will be able to make some delicious treats when I see you.



Hello there. My name is Miss Spencer and I will be the teaching assistant in Nursery. I love playing games and we are going to enjoy playing lots of them when you come to join us soon.



I can't wait to welcome you all to Nursery. I am Mrs Schofield and I will also be the teaching assistant next year. I like helping children to learn new things and love seeing your big smiles when you are proud of yourselves.



Also working closely with us are:



Mrs Townsend
Headteacher



Miss Redgate
*Safeguarding
Officer*



Mr Barker
*Special Needs
Lead*



Miss Wells
*Finance
Officer*



Mrs Merryman
*Admin.
Assistant*



Mr Grocock
*Buildings
Supervisor*



Nursery Hours

Some children will attend Nursery full time. Some children will have chosen to come part time at either the beginning of the week - Monday until Wednesday lunchtime, or at the end of the week - Wednesday lunchtime until Friday.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	9am — 3pm <i>The Nursery gate will open at 8:40am and at 2:55pm in the afternoon.</i>
	8:45am—11:45 (if you attend at the beginning of the week) <i>The Nursery gate will open at 8:30am and again at 11:30am</i> 12pm— 3pm (if you attend at the end of the week) <i>The Nursery gate will open at 12pm and 2:55pm</i>
Wednesday	

When the Nursery gate is open then please come up the path to find us. We will be waiting for you and your little ones. You may have to queue as only one family are able to access the cloakroom at once. You will be able to give your child a cuddle before they come into the classroom then wave to them through the window so you know that they are settled for the day.

We are open in term time only. There is a school calendar included in your welcome pack.

The end of the session

Please return up the path where you dropped your child off. You will probably have to join the queue as we like to make certain that the children are handed back safely and with any important messages that you need to know.

Should someone different be collecting your little one then please let us know. We won't let children go with adults that we aren't expecting.

You can always ring the School Office—0114 2883109 if plans change through the day and someone else needs to come and collect. They will pass your message on.





Your First Day

This year, because of Covid-19 we can't offer transition visits for children prior to starting in September. Each of you will have a visit/play date to come to Nursery with your children in the first week of term so that we can start to get to know you a little better.

You will be able to ask all those questions that you want to know and you will be able to tell us all the things we need to know.



Your child has also been given a starting date and time.

By staggering these a little, we are able to give both you and your child a little more time. You will be very welcome to stay with your little one on their first day for a short while. We want them to be happy, we want them to feel safe and we want them to enjoy being at Nursery. For some children this will take ten minutes, for others it will be a longer process. They, like us, are all different and recently our lives have all been changed more than we imagined. Settling into Nursery after being at home will be a huge change for the children and we want to work with you to make it as enjoyable as possible.

Usually, we make short visits to each of our children at their home. This is to get to know them a little better where they feel most comfortable and a chance for you to tell us all those important things that you know best about your little one. We don't stay long but we would take a picture of your son/daughter so that we can use it when they start Nursery with us. This year home visits have not been allowed which is why a play date at Nursery will be the next best thing!



What To Wear



LABEL
EVERYTHING

Children in Nursery wear school uniform.

Uniform can be ordered online at <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/>

Alternatively, there is a form for ordering included in your Welcome Pack. It can be returned to Mrs Merryman in the school office who will happily be able to help you out.



Lots of time at Nursery will be spent outdoors, whatever the weather. Whilst learning and exploring, children may get messy and dirty.

School uniform washes easily and so do the children – don't worry!

You are welcome to send wellies and waterproofs to Nursery for outdoor play. In cold weather please ensure your child has a hat and gloves so that they can enjoy frosty mornings making dragon breath or catching snowflakes when we get the chance.



Occasionally the sun comes out and we ask that you put sun cream on your children as well as sending sun hats to school.

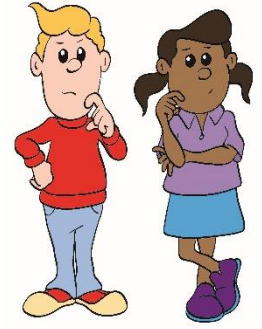
From time to time, children at Nursery do have 'accidents'. It's not a problem. We will clean them up and find them dry clothes but please can you wash and return the clothes children borrow as soon as possible, for when we next need to use them.

If you think this may be your little one just right now then you are more than welcome to send their own spares in their school bag for emergencies.



Children do not need a PE kit whilst in Nursery. However, they cannot wear ear rings or jewellery during the lesson. This is in line with our school and the local authority policies.

What else do you need to know?



Absence

If your child is ill or going to be absent, maybe because of a medical appointment, then please ring school – 0114 2883109 and tell us. We will contact you if your child has not arrived in Nursery and we don't know why. If you plan to take a holiday during term time then you do not need to apply for leave like you do for children in school. However, we do appreciate it if you could notify us so that we aren't worrying about where your child is.



Illness & Medication

Should your child become ill whilst they are at Nursery, then we will call you. **Please make sure you keep your contact details up to date.** It is really important that we can reach you as easily as possible. There will always be a first aider in Nursery who will look after your little one until you arrive. If they have a bit of a bump or scrape whilst they are with us, as all children do, then we will always let you know when you collect your child.

If your child has sickness and diarrhoea, then they must not attend Nursery for 48 hours.

During their time at Nursery, some children may occasionally need prescribed medication. We can give this to children but you must complete and sign a form in the School Office first.



Should your child need an inhaler then please send a (labelled) spare inhaler to Nursery that we can put into our locked cupboard. You will need to fill a form in so that we have a record of it. We will always let you know if we have given your child their inhaler during the day.

Letters & Payments

Any information, permission slips, letters or money can be returned to Nursery. We very much encourage parents to use ParentPay as this is the safest way to transfer money to school. School dinners and trips should be paid for using ParentPay. A leaflet about it is included in your welcome pack. You will be given an activation code for your account when your child starts.



Photographs



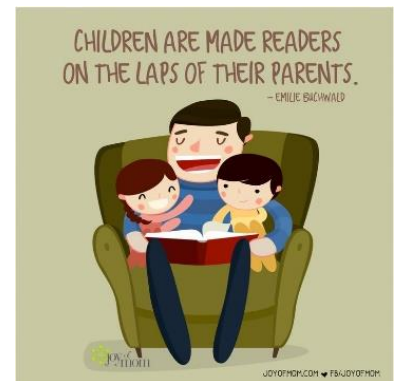
We regularly take photographs of the children for both their development files and to share with you. Included in your welcome pack is a form for you to sign to say that you give permission for your child's picture to be included on displays and the school website. Please return it to us.

Library



Each week your child will have the opportunity to choose a Nursery library book to bring home and share with you. Reading with children is proven to give them the best possible start to understanding words and making sense of the world.

We recommend that you purchase a book bag, or use the welcome pack wallet, to carry books back and forth from Nursery.



Snacks and Meals



Snack and Chat – often a highlight of the day! During each session the children are provided with a free piece of fruit and are offered milk and water whilst sharing their important news. It is a lovely social time where relationships are built and much laughter is usually heard!

We would recommend that all children bring a **named water bottle** with them. This should only contain water please (not juice) for children to drink throughout the day.

At lunchtime the children can either have a school dinner or bring a healthy packed lunch from home. The menu is always on the weekly newsletter and the children will order the food of their choice with you, when they arrive at Nursery in the morning. On Wednesdays, only children who attend for the full week will have school dinners/packed lunches.

A school lunch costs £1.75 per day. Families with low income may find that they are eligible for free school dinners. There is a form in your pack to read or alternatively speak with the Office staff.



Working with Parents and Carers

We will work closely with you to help your child throughout their early years at Stocksbridge Nursery. You are the experts on your children and we need you to help us and work alongside us in order to help your child to reach their full potential.

If you need to tell us something then please feel free to speak to us before or after sessions (after is probably slightly easier) or email the teacher:

krogers@stocksbridge-nur.sheffield.sch.uk

If you feel you need a longer chat then do let us know so we can make an appointment. Don't sit at home worrying about things – ask and if we can't help, we might well know someone who can!

We have Parents Evening twice a year and each term we will send home a digital update of what your child has been learning so that you can see the fun they get up to whilst they are with us. We do this using a parents share app called 'Seesaw' and we will let you have more details when your little one starts with us.



How else can you help?

- Sing. Nursery rhymes and action songs are great for children, but music, as we have seen so many times over the last few months, is great for positive mental health and well-being.
- Read to your child every single day. A child who shares just one book every day will have heard around 290,000 more words by the time they start school, than those that don't. A bedtime story each night is a wonderful time, a special time and such an important time. Please read to your children *every* evening and more!
- Teach your children how to go to the toilet and wash their hands independently
- Let your child get dressed/undressed on their own, including socks and shoes.
- Show them how to fasten their coat.



- Play games together – board games, i-spy, outdoor games. They build up a huge range of skills, including social interaction.
- Limit screen time on TV, ipads, phones and games consoles.

- Spot print when you are out and about. Many Children can recognise familiar words like these:



Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of all our children and staff at Stocksbridge Nursery Infants School is of utmost importance to us. We have confidential systems in place that ensure information is shared as necessary and we help families as much as we can when they need us. Children often chat to us and tell us things that happen at home and it is our job to listen to them. Occasionally they tell us things that we need to ask you about. Please don't be upset if we have to call you or catch you to clarify things. We all want our lovely children to be as safe as possible.



Attendance

As you are aware, attending school is compulsory. Attending Nursery is not compulsory, but there is much research to prove that consistently good attendance each session, gives children the best possible start in life. It helps them to build solid relationships with friends and staff and also gives continuity and consistency to children. We also encourage all families to arrive on time for the start of sessions. Children that go on to achieve highly always have great attendance and punctuality. Please call school and let us know if your child will be absent.

Special Educational Needs & Equal Opportunities

Everyone is welcome in Nursery and School and we do not tolerate discrimination.

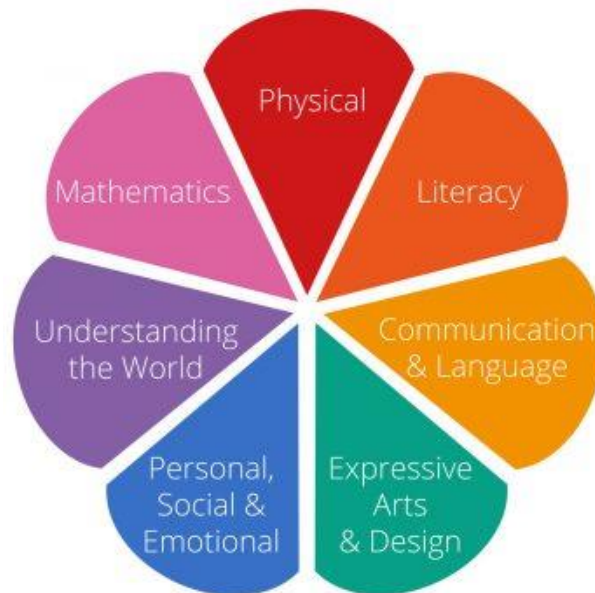
We will care for all children and try hard to meet the needs of everyone though occasionally there are some children for whom our Nursery may not be the most suitable setting. This is however, something we would discuss with parents.

Should your child have additional learning needs then we would work with you and our SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) to give them the help they need to access play and learning. If necessary we work with outside agencies such as speech and language therapists or the communication teams who offer us much more specialist help and advice.



What does learning look like at our Nursery?

Our children's learning is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This is what all children from birth to five use in this country. It has 7 key areas in which we focus:



How do we do this?

The whole school community focuses on a topic or theme that the staff and children develop and upon which learning is based.

As a team we decide what we want our Nursery children to learn. We look at what they can already do, what the children are interested in, and therefore, what their next steps need to be. We then decide the best way to deliver this to the children.



Sometimes the children will have short, focused teaching time as part of the whole Nursery group. At other times during the day, children will work as part of a small group to learn. Children will also have the opportunity to work 1:1 with a grown up and alongside this, in order to build up independence, there will also be periods that children will concentrate on 'continuous provision' activities.

Continuous Provision

To many of us continuous provision looks like 'play'. That's because it is! It is play that the children choose, for themselves, to engage in.

This may be making a dinosaur island in the sand pit, 'building' a housing estate outside, 'writing' a shopping list for Mum, investigating what items float in the water tray or building a fabulous zoo from the Lego.

As children play we ask questions, they practise talking, we develop their thinking a little further, they solve their own problems and they begin to make more sense of the world they live in. They want to learn, they want to know.



Continuous provision may change regularly to suit what the children are learning about. For example a topic on cold lands may see penguins and icebergs appear in the water tray for story tellers, whilst our little engineers are building igloos, our artists are mixing 'frosty' colours, whilst authors write icy words, curious biologists are out with magnifying glasses looking at the frosted leaves and the mathematicians are counting the buttons on snowmen. The children choose what and how they want to learn. Our Nursery team are skilled at leading this play and helping the children to challenge themselves and see where learning needs "to go" next.

All of this 'play' will help children understand the world in which they live whilst developing skills in the different areas of EYFS learning.



Literacy

At our school we love books! Stories are shared regularly and themes developed from stories. Children are encouraged to 'play' at stories and make up their own. There will always be literacy based activities taking place in Nursery each day. Do not ever be surprised to find that your child has been a giant, chased a gingerbread man or that they have tried Gruffalo crumble! Stories should be fun and that is what we try to make them in Nursery.

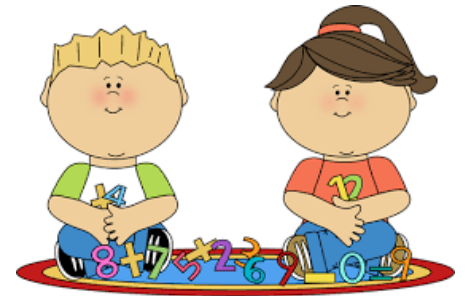
We work on speaking and listening skills – turn taking and asking questions, holding conversations, using manners, learning new words. We practise distinguishing between different sounds so that when children are ready, we can start to learn the letter sounds before moving onto recognising them and hopefully, in time for school, reading some words using them.

We enjoy nursery rhymes and stories with repeating verses in them so that children can practise 'playing with words'.

Mathematics

Early mathematics focuses heavily on language – longer, shortest, bigger, smallest etc. We might talk about filling containers in the water tray, looking at the different shapes we can find on a hunt around school, look at who has built the highest tower or who has the most cows on their farm and then of course we learn to count.

Children begin to learn what the different numerals look like and how to 1:1 match and count objects accurately. We learn about more than and less than.



Understanding the World

Perhaps the broadest of all the areas of learning and just what we are teaching our children as soon as they are born: To make sense of, understand, question and learn about the world in which they live.

Again, this is taught through our school thematic approach and ensures the children have the opportunity to explore a wide range of interesting and often new subjects, as well as leaning more about what they already know.



The Arts

Music, art and role play are offered throughout continuous provision each and every day. We will also teach specific skills so that children can then experiment and try out what they have learnt. Children will be encouraged to create their own masterpiece, be it in the modelling area, in outdoor music making, painting or maybe a wonderful performance on the stage.

Enjoying the arts has become such an important part of everyone's lives over the last few months and we value it very highly at our school. Through creating and experimenting the children learn to take risks, get things wrong, try again and be proud of what they have achieved. We firmly believe that every child is an artist.

Developing The Whole Child

When children leave us to start school we aim to have given them the first tools that they need to become learners. Learners that are independent and curious, learners that want to be the best they can be. Learners that are not just academic, but contented, happy, kind and considerate – little people who just love learning!

