



Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School

Pot House Lane, Sheffield, S36 1EJ | tel: (0114) 288 3109

email: enquiries@stocksbridge-nur.sheffield.sch.uk

web: www.stocksbridgenurseryinfants.co.uk



Dear Parents & Carers

18th July 2025

LAST LETTER OF THE YEAR!

It's been a long year that's gone quickly.... or is that now because we're at the end.

The children have been joyous (generally!) They have all made terrific progress academically but also in the amount of confidence they have and in their social skills. With the help of our Golden Rules, with consistency and with lots of praise and encouragement, they are developing into responsible little people. We have very high expectations re how our children will 'be' and without exception, they rise to it. School remains a lovely place to learn and work.

The biggest challenge we have faced this year is a financial one. To make our budget balance we have had to cut back on some of the extras. We had to stop drumming lessons at Easter for our Year 2 children to save some money. Next year we will not have the services of our Education Welfare Officer (EWO), Dale Edwardes. We will still be working hard to improve attendance. Just last week we were graded red by the Local Authority because of the number of children we have whose attendance is less than 80%. We won't have Dale, but we will have a LA to help us support you to improve your child's attendance if it is needed.

We have cut back on the support we receive from external agencies. But we are part of a growing trust with lots of expertise and we will utilise this to make sure we keep 'ahead of the game' in terms of education and continue to improve our educational offer going forward.

We'll have fewer staff next year. The wonderful Mrs Bailey has already left us and oh, we do miss her. We said goodbye to Mrs Costello today. She's off to university to train to be a social worker. We congratulate her on getting on the course. It's the perfect job for Clare and we know she'll be brilliant at it. She has been our nurture guru in school and has been so skilled at supporting those children who have found things tricky socially and/or emotionally. She will leave a hole that's for sure. But the next phase is exciting and we congratulate her and wish her well.

Miss Harrison is reducing to working two days at our school. She'll work at Abbey Lane Primary at the end of the week. We're so very grateful to Cara for stepping up to this as we would have been overstaffed with teachers come September if not.

Miss Saville, one of our playleaders and Joanne Turner, one of our cleaners, leaves today too.

Mr G did his last shift this morning. Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School won't ever be quite the same without him. I've worked with lots of Building Supervisors in my time in education. He's been the best by a country mile. It's not just because he's been fabulous at his job but because he's been just so great to work with. He has a fantastic sense of humour, loves to get up to mischief, teases staff relentlessly and is wonderful with the children. Just this week George has been helping David deliver the milk and have rides on the blue trolley. Thanks Mr G for your 29 years' service to our school. Thank you for locking and unlocking the 1000's of doors. Thanks for all the fixing things you've done. Thanks for responding to all our 'Mr G, could you just....?' Thank you for the dedication you have shown to making sure our building is safe every single day and over 29 years that you've been here, that's over 10 000! Many thanks to staff and parents who put into his collection. We gave him an Amazon Voucher (his pick) for £320 today. We wish him all the very best in whatever comes next for Mr G and we hope we'll see him around because we sure are going to miss him.

This week Darren Darwin started with us. It's been great that we've been able to have a handover. We're all looking forward to working with Darren. He's very experienced so we know we'll be in safe hands.



Safeguarding Lead: Mrs J Townsend | Safeguarding Officer: Miss C Redgate | SENCO/Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mr R Barker

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At the end of June, Lynda Bembrick officially left the school. She's not been here for sometime but prior to this absence, Lynda was such a loyal meal time supervisor. She worked here for around 20 years and had the odd day off.....and was always mortified that she had. Lynda was a trouper. She took her job very seriously and she was good at it. We wish Lynda well.

Today we said farewell to our Y2 children. They have been a lovely cohort moving through school. They have been great role models for our younger children. They are kind, thoughtful, have good social skills and many are great at showing empathy to others. The pleasure some of them have brought to our friends at Alpine Lodge is unquantifiable. We wish them well as they move into Y3. Work hard, have fun, be kind and look after each other.

Well done to Class 2 on getting through the last two weeks. They've had different teachers and support staff but they've coped brilliantly.

On another joyful note, Mrs Ellis had her baby on Tuesday. She's had a little boy called Hugo who was a whopping 8lbs 10oz. We're all thrilled for her and Mr Ellis and wish them all well.

On Thursday we celebrated great attendance this year and certificates were awarded. A special shout out to Tilly Anderson and Freya Morgan who managed to avoid the bugs and germs and have 100% attendance.

My Pupil of the Week this week is Guy Gilbert. He has made fabulous progress this year in learning, in talking but more importantly in being such a fabulous caring friend to so many children in school. He helped a friend in assembly this week and showed such empathy and understanding.

A parent asked me about how we will teach our Reception and Year One classes next year. Here's my reply:

We will teach the children in groups according to where they are and what they need to learn next. We won't split the class into Y1 and Reception and have half taught by a teacher and half by a teaching assistant - another parent has asked me this (I know this is what happens in some schools with mixed aged classes).

It genuinely doesn't matter what year group the children are in. It matters that we teach the children according to what they can do now and what they need to do next. For example, in our current Y2 class we have children at Reception, Year One and Year Two levels of development. They've all been taught what they need and they've all made great progress.

For me the transition from Reception to Y1 is the hardest. Some schools don't value learning through play and take this away in Year One. The children find it very difficult and it can put some children off school. We don't do that. Planned right, children learn so much from play - social skills, problem solving, how to be a team player, how to negotiate. It also helps them consolidate things they've been learning for example by the things we put in the water or the sand.

I am working on the long-term plan for Reception/Y1 at the moment to ensure all is covered that needs to be but considering some of our Y1 children will still need to recap some Reception learning and some will really be ready for different Y1 challenges.

I hope this allays any worries but please come back to me if you have any further questions.

Thank you to Miss Miles who applied for a RHS Gardening Award on behalf of school. We've been awarded Levels 1,2,3 4 & 5! Already! We've received all of these goodies & £200 of gardening vouchers (for levels 1-4). For Level 5 we've won more seeds and another £150 of vouchers! Woo hoo!



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After the holidays...

The last week or so has been very busy getting plans in place for phase 1 of our roof replacement. We only received details last Friday (11th). This hasn't been anyone's fault. Everyone has been working as fast as they could. Notification from the DFE of our successful financial bid came very late.

Over the summer the roofs of Class 8 and Nursery will be replaced. Staff are madly packing up resources as the work is set to start on Monday 21st July. The remaining works – the top corridor and the section that joins Class 1 & 2 to school will be done whilst we are here. We'll manage it and keep you informed of any changes to entrances/exits etc.

IMPORTANT: Because Class 1 & Class 2 will be cut off from school completely for the duration of that piece of work, we have decided that the children who would be in Class 1 next year will be in Class 3 with Mrs Otten, Mrs McGrail and Mrs Parsons. Children who would have been in Class 2 with Miss Harrison, Mr Barker and Mrs Jennings will be in Class 5. By changing this now, the children and staff can settle into their rooms and they won't have to relocate and be uprooted in the autumn term.

Breakfast Club will be in Class 1 until the point where this area isn't accessible and then we will move it to the hall. Please continue to come into school via the main office.

School re-opens for Year 1, 2 and existing Nursery children on Tuesday 2nd September. Our Reception children are having a staggered start and parents have the dates for their children.

We will figure out arrangements for sibling collection during that first week. Our older children will go along to the classroom of the youngest child in school so they can be collected from one space. It takes us a little while to get slick at this so please bear with us. Children who are going with childminders will be taken to nursery where they can be collected from. The nursery train, ably steered by Miss Marshall, has worked a treat again this year. It stops at several forms around school picking up and dropping off children.



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		Drop off & collection point
Class 3	Mrs Otten, Mrs McGrail, Mrs Parsons.	Top of the steps near the offices in the main playground.
The Orchard	Mrs Turner, Mrs Beal-Edwards	Drop off and collect from the external door to Class 4 – via the main gate into the playground.
Class 5	Miss Harrison, Mr Barker, Mrs Jennings	Close to the door on the top corridor.
Class 6	Miss Bennett, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Moore, Mrs Newton, Miss Price, Miss Kane	Drop off at the end of the path that runs along the back of school. Children will enter via the gate and door directly into Class 6. Please also collect from the space at the end of this path in the main playground. Please do not venture down the path as it can be quite disruptive and unsettling for the children and staff seeing parents outside.
Class 7	Mrs McGhee, Miss Spencer, Mrs Hearnshaw.	Close to the door on the top corridor.
Class 8	Miss Miles, Miss Kane, Mrs Veale, Miss Price.	Drop off and collect in the small yard via Alpine Road.

In September we'll send out some information relevant to each class. Remember, your child will need a PE in school in a named bag. They should have black shorts, a white t-shirt, some pumps and a pair of jogging bottoms for outdoor PE. We'll help the children get changed. We'll send home kits when they need a wash or if things become too small. Please name all your child's PE kit. Thanks.

(A reminder, if you are thinking of having your child's ears pierced, please do so at the start of the summer holiday so this does not impact on PE lessons. We cannot tape up ears and children have to remove earrings which isn't advised for a number of weeks initially)

Here's the menu for the first four days back.

Week 3	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main course	Beef lasagne & garlic bread	Roast chicken with roast potatoes, stuffing and gravy	Margherita pizza & tomato pasta salad.	Fish fingers with chips.
Vegetarian main course	Vegetable chilli rice	Quorn grill, gravy, stuffing & roast potatoes.	Cheese flan & homemade potato wedges.	Crispy vegetable fingers & chips.
Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo
Sandwich option	Ham	Ham	Ham	Ham
	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo
	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese
Vegetables	Broccoli, cauliflower & carrots.	Broccoli, carrots & sweetcorn.	Garden peas, sliced carrots.	Garden peas, baked beans.
Dessert	Chocolate cookie & orange wedges.	Vanilla cupcake	Chocolate crunch 'concrete' & chocolate sauce.	Homemade jam sponge & custard



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Yoghurt and fruit are also available each day as an alternative to desert along with a selection of breads, salads and fresh drinking water.

IMPORTANT: SNACKS – from September the children **should not bring snacks into school** or morning playtime. We have more than enough fruit and vegetables for the children to have several snacks each day if they wish. Why? In school we have to adhere to School Food Standards which is why we advocate healthy snacks. More and more of the children are not bringing healthy snacks and it's not easy to 'police' in school. It's hard to tell a child they can't have that packet of crisps that have been sent in. It will also save us, and you, a job of the never-ending search for lost snack pots! So, in September, school will provide snacks for the children.

Thank you for all your support this year – for the events you've attended, the funds you've sent in to pay for trips, for supporting children with learning. Thank you FOSNI for all the support - the fundraising, the events, the activities. Your help has been very much appreciated and you have been lovely to work with. Our last fundraiser, Break the Rules day, raised over £350 and it was such good fun!

To the Y2 parents who are leaving us this time – we have been a part of your lives for the last 3-4 years (and for some parents many more). We thank you for everything you've done to support our school and we wish you well in the future.

Thank you for all the cards, gifts and kind words that have been showered on us all this week. I hope you all have a lovely holiday and a well-deserved rest from the routine of school.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Townsend,
Headteacher



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