



Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Autumn Term 2 News

Dear Parents,

We hope everyone had a break during half term so that the children are ready for the fun activities we have planned for the second half of the Autumn Term, including Christmas.

As the weather is getting colder, please can parents remember to ensure their child has a coat, hat, gloves, [plenty of spare clothes](#) and wellies in a bag as we will regularly go outside. Do not worry if you forget your child's wellies we have spares at the setting. Please can we also ask parents to supply a [plastic bag for wet and dirty clothes](#).

Please DO NOT bring your child to the setting if they are unwell and ensure you let Laura know they will not be in. Staff cannot look after unwell children and if staff become unwell, we may have to close the setting.

Spring Term Nursery funding forms will be distributed later in the term. Please be aware they will need to be returned before the end of term. Please ask Dawn if you need any help with filling in the form especially the funding source columns as they change the term after a child is 3 years old for working parents or if your child attends another setting with stretched funding.

NEW PARENTS

EYFS - As most parents are probably aware we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework to design and organise our session activities. For further information please look at ['What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents'](#). We also utilise the [Development Matters Non Statutory Curriculum Guidance](#) which shows a child's usual pathway for learning, alongside the EYFS, to shape a fun engaging curriculum that uses a holistic approach which focuses on three building blocks – **Intent**, **Implementation** & **Impact**. Please refer to our website and the Session Trail book to see our curriculum in action.

Key Carer – each child is assigned a Key Carer, as shown on the Noticeboard. They build a positive relationship with your child with the aim of supporting them in the setting including making them feel safe and secure. They are a parent's first point of contact and further your child's learning and development through observations and assessments throughout the year. Due to the nature of our setting Laura and Dawn share Key Carer responsibilities with input from Rachel and the undertaking of observations. All staff create positive relationships with your child.

Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term 2: Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2026

The academic calendar is later in the newsletter, we will inform parents when we set inset days.

School Visit: Friday 20th November 2026

Christmas Event: Friday 18th December – Further details to follow - All Welcome

Setting Information / Reminders

Christmas Event - The Children's Christmas event (songs & party) will take place on Friday 18th December. Further details will follow including a running order and approximate timings. An attendance sheet will be put on the door along with a food list nearer the time. Parents attending the songs are allowed to take photographs and video; however we ask parent not to share these images on social media.



Family Help & Early Help – As part of Best Start in Life, Family Help supports families & children aged 0 - 18 years who need intensive & co-ordinated help/support to meet their needs.



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In Gloucestershire family help and early support are provided through the Families First program ([Families First Program Link](#)), Family Hubs ([Families Hub Link](#)), and the Glosfamilies Directory ([Glosfamilies Directory Link](#)). More information on numerous topics e.g. toilet training, health and sleep can be found on the Gloucestershire's Family Hub Early Years Support & Advice through Early Years section of the website [Early Years Family Hub Section](#). And the overview graphic later in this Newsletter

In South Gloucestershire family and early help support is provided through the Children and Families Portal ([Children & Families Portal](#)) and targeted local initiatives Children and Families Services ([Children and Families Services](#)).

Oral Health – good oral health is important for all children as teeth are needed to bite and chew, support speech and guide new adult teeth as well as confidence. A new tooth brushing guide has just been released and can be found at: [The Children's Toothbrushing Guide](#)

Screen Time - Some new guidance has been distributed for under 5's relating to 'screen time'. If you are interested please look at [Baby and toddler screen time guidance - Best Start in Life](#).

Attendance - If your child is not going to attend a session due to holiday, illness etc. parents **MUST let Laura know by 10am** as we need to record all absences and their reason. If you do not contact us, we will contact you, then the emergency contacts. If this fails, we will follow our Attendance/Absence policy, found on the Noticeboard, to ensure the child's safety & wellbeing.

Parent Suggestions – if parents have any ideas or suggestions for activities regarding the sessions that will positively impact the setting or you have an interesting job/hobby the children may find interesting, please let Laura know as we may be able to incorporate it during our sessions to help further or positive learning and play environment.

Communication Books – all children who attend another setting will be given a Child Communication book so enable communication between settings. If your child only attends our setting, we feel direct communication is best for our small setting. However, if you feel that having a communication book would be useful, please talk to Laura.

Parking – Just a reminder, if parents park on Lower Stone Road be considerate to residents by parking safely, not on the grass and please do not block their driveways, thank you.

Invoices - invoices will be circulated at the beginning of term and need to be paid by the date indicated on the invoice. **Failure to pay fees on time will incur late fees as detailed on the invoice.** If you have difficulty paying, please talk, in confidence, to Laura or Dawn.

Labelling – please please please can parent's label their child's clothing and other items they bring into the setting. We can end up with a lot of unclaimed clothes especially socks!

Can we also ask that you return any clothes items provided by playgroup – Thank You

Toys – we know that children like to show everyone their toys or something of interest to them. Children can bring items for show and tell and we will do our best to keep the items safe but please be aware, if they do bring items and play with them during the session they can get lost or even broken and it can be extremely difficult for us to locate them later.

Packed Lunches – We promote healthy eating at our setting as it is essential for good health, energy levels, growth and development. We therefore encourage parents to provide a balanced healthy lunch with water or milk for their children. This further guidance on nutrition and packed lunches can be found at: [Eatwell Guide](#), [Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance](#), [Packed lunches — First Steps Nutrition Trust](#) & [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS](#).



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Please do not include sweets or fizzy drinks in your child's lunch & please cut up large items e.g. sausages, grapes and cherry tomatoes in half or lengthways as they can be a choking hazard. If food is not cut correctly, staff will chop the food in line with our policy.

Increasing/Decreasing Hours - If you wish to increase/decrease hours, please can you let Laura or Dawn know. There is a **4-week notice period** to decrease hours and for any increase we will need to see if we can accommodate any change.

Summative Assessments or 2 Year Progress Checks – child assessments will be completed this term and distributed to parents. If you wish to know how your child is progressing, please feel free to talk to us at any time.

Noticeboard - Please make sure you take a look at the Noticeboard on the entrance door, as this is where we display Setting Notices, your child's Key Carer, WoW Vouchers used to highlight your child's achievements and successes and the daily 'Child Session Activity Sheet'. It also gives information about the setting, committee, staff and funding among other things.

School Visits – for preschool children attending the session on Friday we have the opportunity to visit the local school during the year. Please watch the noticeboard for these dates.

Nappies/Potty Training – please ensure a good supply of nappies, wipes and bags and/or clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents. If you need any advice please ask or look at our website, a new leaflet was just added: [The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#)

Setting Telephone Number – our new number is 07355 959567 although can parent please continue to use the Play Leader's number.

Ofsted Report – our latest Ofsted report from the 22nd November 2022 can be found at: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50201178>. Ofsted has now changed the way they inspect and report on settings. Further information for parents can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-for-parents-about-ofsteds-role-in-regulating-childcare/information-for-parents-about-ofsteds-role-in-regulating-childcare>.

Website - <https://www.stoneplaygroup.co.uk> – information is found here including the session trail book. A hardcopy of the Session Trail Book is located at the setting, just ask to see it.

If we have missed something out, you have any questions or concerns about anything then please speak with Laura or the other staff members. Please be aware that we do not work during the setting holidays, however, the setting email is monitored but a response will be delayed.

See you all in Soon,

Stone with Woodford Playgroup



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Setting Term Dates 2026 / 2027

STONE WITH WOODFORD PLAYGROUP

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2026/27

 Gloucestershire
GLoucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tues	1	8	15	22	29		Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		3	10	17	24	
Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur		3	10	17	24		Thur	1	8	15	22	29		Thur		5	12	19	26	
Fri		4	11	18	25		Fri		2	9	16	23	30		Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		5	12	19	26		Sat		3	10	17	24	31		Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun		6	13	20	27		Sun		4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22		
Tues	1	8	15	22	29		Tues		5	12	19	26		Tues	2	9	16	23		
Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thur		3	10	17	24	31	Thur		7	14	21	28		Thur	4	11	18	25		
Fri		4	11	18	25		Fri		8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat		5	12	19	26		Sat		2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun		6	13	20	27		Sun		3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28	

MARCH							APRIL							MAY						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tues		2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed		3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		4	11	18	25		Thur		1	8	15	22	29		Thur		6	13	20	27
Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri		2	9	16	23	30		Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat		3	10	17	24		Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun		7	14	21	28		Sun		4	11	18	25		Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tues	1	8	15	22	29		Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur		3	10	17	24		Thur		1	8	15	22	29		Thur		5	12	19	26
Fri		4	11	18	25		Fri		2	9	16	23	30		Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		5	12	19	26		Sat		3	10	17	24	31		Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun		6	13	20	27		Sun		4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	Inset Days (5)
	School Visits

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2026
	26 th December 2026
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2027
Good Friday	26 th March 2027
Easter Monday	29 th March 2027
Early May Bank Holiday	3 rd May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	31 st May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	30 th August 2027

Term 1: Tue 1st Sept – Fri 23rd Oct 2026
Term 2: Mon 2nd Nov – Fri 18th Dec 2026
Term 3: Mon 4th Jan - Fri 12th Feb 2027
Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb – Thur 25th Mar 2027
Term 5: Mon 12th April – Fri 28th May 2027
Term 6: Mon 7th June – Wed 21st July 2027

Four Inset Days TBC



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Early Help Graphic

Early Help Overview of Services

Supporting families enabling them to achieve and sustain significant change through a whole family working approach



Healthy Balanced Diet

A healthy balanced diet for children

Food group	Examples of food included	Main nutrients provided	Recommended serving
Fruit and vegetables	Fresh, frozen, canned, and dried fruit, vegetables, and pulses	Carotenes (a form of vitamin A), vitamin C, zinc, iron, and fibre	At least 5 portions each day Provide a portion as part of each main meal (breakfast, lunch and tea) and with some snacks
Potatoes, bread, rice, pasta and other starchy carbohydrates	Bread, potatoes and sweet potatoes, starchy root vegetables, pasta, noodles, rice, other grains, breakfast cereals	Carbohydrate, fibre, B vitamins and iron	4 portions each day Provide a portion as part of each meal (breakfast, lunch and tea) and provide as part of at least one snack each day
Dairy and alternatives	Milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais	Protein, calcium, and vitamin A	3 portions each day Provided as part of meals, snacks and drink
Beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other proteins	Meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, eggs, beans, pulses, nuts	Protein, iron, zinc, omega 3 fatty acids, vitamins A and D	2 portions each day Provide a portion as part of lunch and tea (two to three portions for vegetarian children)