Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Autumn Term 1 News

Dear Parents,

We hope everyone is having a good summer, hopefully it will not be as hot when we return. We cannot wait to hear from the children returning and new about their summer adventures.

We hope the weather will still be warm, so please can parents ensure their child has a sun hat, sunscreen applied and several changes of clothes in their bag.

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.

URGENT: Please can all parents with children eligible for Nursery Funding ensure we have received your funding form by **Friday 4th September** otherwise your child will not be funded and you will have to pay all fees. If you have not received a form, please contact Laura.

NEW PARENTS

Registration & Funding Forms - It is important that you remember to bring your child's completed Registration and Funding forms, if applicable on their start day, if you have not already returned it to us. Due to new requirements we must now see the child's birth certificate or passport to confirm their identity, so please bring them on the first day.

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' at the following link:

https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf

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 1: Tuesday 1st September – Friday 23rd October 2026

The academic calendar is later in the newsletter, we will inform parents when we set inset days. The setting returns on Tuesday 1st September unless you have been given another date.

Setting Information / Reminders

Clothes – Please can we ask parents to supply a plastic bag for wet and dirty clothes.

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 able to incorporate it during our sessions to help further or positive learning and play environment.

Stone with Woodford Playgroup

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

Early Help – For information about the Early Help advice, support, guidance and direct interventions that is offered please refer to the overview graphic later in this Newsletter, GCC Early Help and Targeted Support or Glosfamilies Directory - Advice, Support and Early Help Services.

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, when dropping off and collecting children can parents use the car park. 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. Please do not to 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 – child assessments will be completed throughout the year and given to parents to discuss. If you wish to know how your child is progressing, please feel free to talk to your child's key carer 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.

Stone with Woodford Playgroup

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 – out 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.

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.

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 a Staff member if you wish 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

Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Setting Term Dates 2026 / 2027

STONE WITH WOODFORD PLAYGROUP

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
2026/27

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Five Inset Days TBC

Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Early Help Graphic

Early Help Overview of Services

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

Community Social Workers
Social work qualified practitioners, providing advice and training (e.g. MARF, Neglect toolkit) to community partners (Designated Safeguarding Leads for example) to respond to emerging risk, manage and de-escalate risk and better respond to complex and challenging cases.

Families First Family Support Teams
Based within 7 district teams (including 2 for Gloucester City) - delivering the Family Intervention Model, with elements of systemic practice, restorative practice and trauma informed practice and the Graduated Pathway My Plan/+, to stabilise and support families at the earliest opportunity.

Children and Family Centres
16 Centres delivering family support service for children pre-birth to 11 yrs. and their families.

Early Help Co-ordinators
Providing support, advice and guidance to schools and partners to develop and deliver robust Early Help plans and a comprehensive knowledge of available services and community resources.

Family Group Conference
A county-wide Family Group Conference team taking referrals across the early help and safeguarding spectrum offering Family Group Conferences, Family Network Meetings, Safety and Support Planning meetings, Restorative meetings and Emergency Network Meetings.

Direct Programme delivery
- Triple P Parenting
- Trauma recovery
- Boys/girls groups
- Digital interventions to reduce parental conflict.

Early Help Triage
Oversight of requests for early help interventions from professionals; MASH and parents/carers, information gathering and make initial decision making in regards to the service offer.

Family Information Service
Information and advice for families on a range of subjects (childcare availability and funding, finances, family support, activities, parenting and education including support for children and young people with SEND) – management of the GlosFamilies Directory and Local Offer for children with disabilities.

Partnership Managers
Engaging key partners and brokering effective locality partnerships to help inform early help and safeguarding responses in response to local needs.

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

Stone with Woodford Playgroup

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)

Department for Education