



# Stone with Woodford Playgroup

## Spring Term 1 News

Dear Parents,

We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we will see you all next year! As the weather is 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 plenty of spares at the setting.

Just to reiterate, **please DO NOT bring your child to the setting if they are unwell.** Staff cannot look after unwell children and if staff become unwell, we will have to close the setting.

**Funding Forms:** These need to be returned by **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** Please can all parents ensure we have received the funding form by this date. Contact Laura if you need a form. If you will not see Laura before this date, you can send a photo and give her the original later. Please make sure you complete the form fully including the allocation of hours to each funding provision e.g. universal or working parent and how hours are allocated between settings, if applicable. If hours are stretched at another setting or you need help please talk to Dawn.

### Dates for the Diary

**Spring Term 1: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

A copy of the academic calendar is at the bottom of the newsletter including inset days. Please note a change to the remaining inset days. The **June Inset Day** will now be **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026.** Once we confirm the last inset day, we will let you know the date.

### Setting Information / Reminders

**Early Help** – We have been provided with an update to information relating to the Early Help. This is when advice, support, guidance and direct interventions are offered at the earliest point of identified need. Early Help aims to support families in supporting themselves, to prevent problems escalating and to reduce the numbers needing statutory interventions. An overview of this can be found in the graphic later in this Newsletter. Further information can be found at: [Gloucestershire County Council - Early Help and Targeted Support](#) or [Glosfamilies Directory - Advice, Support and Early Help Services](#)

**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 try to 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.

**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. Due to the nature of our setting Laura and Dawn share Key Carer responsibilities. Rachel also notes any observations and inputs into the children's learning. They build a positive relationship and support your child along with furthering their learning through observations and assessments when they are at the setting. They are your first point of contact if you have any questions.

**Parent Suggestions** – we welcome ideas or suggestions for activities from parents/guardians. If you have a special skill or undertake any interesting activities you would like to share with us then please let Laura know as we may be able to incorporate them into our sessions.



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**Communication Books** – all children who attend another setting have been given a Child Communication book to enable communication between settings. If your child only attends our setting, we feel direct communication is best although you can request one if you wish.

**Parking** – Just a reminder, if parking on Lower Stone Road please be considerate to residents by parking safely, not on the grass and not blocking 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.

Due to changes in the funding agreement we now need to provide parents who use funding to pay for their childcare with invoices. These invoices are just for information.

**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!

**Toys** – we know children like to show everyone their toys but please can be ask that you try to dissuade them from bringing toys into the setting as they get lost and can be hard to find later.

**Packed Lunches** – we encourage parents to provide a balanced healthy lunch for their children, the Eatwell Guide can be found below. Further guidance on nutrition/packed lunches can be found at: [Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance](#), [Packed lunches — First Steps Nutrition Trust](#) & [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS](#).

We ask parents not to include sweets or fizzy drinks in your child's lunch and remember to chop up large items e.g. grapes and cherry tomatoes as they can be a choking hazard.

**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 this term and distributed to parents. If you wish to know how your child is progressing, please feel free to talk to us.

**Noticeboard** - Please make sure you look at the Noticeboard on the entrance door, as this is where we display Setting Notices e.g. upcoming events and the daily 'Child Session Activity Sheet' and information about the setting, staff and committee.

**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 further 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. Further information can be found on our website.

**Ofsted Report** – our latest Ofsted report from the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 can be found at: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50201178>

**Website** - <https://www.stoneplaygroup.co.uk> – lots of information is found here including the Session Trail Book. A hardcopy is located at the setting, just ask a Staff member 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.

*Stone with Woodford Playgroup*



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## Setting Term Dates 2025 / 2026

STONE WITH WOODFORD PLAYGROUP

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2025/26



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

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET Days	

Term 1: Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Sept – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

Term 2: Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

Term 3: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

Term 4: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026

Term 5: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Term 6: Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June – Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
	26 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
New Year Bank Holiday	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2026
Good Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026
Easter Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Early May Bank Holiday	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026



## 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Direct Programme delivery

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

### Partnership Managers

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



### 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.

## Eatwell Guide

