



Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Spring Term 2 News

Dear Parents,

We hope everyone has a good half term and enjoys the break before the run up to Easter and hopefully some warmer weather.

The weather is still cold so please can parents remember to ensure their child has a coat, several changes of clothes and wellies in a bag as we will still be having lots of fun playing outside and the children do, somehow, get wet.

As always, please can parents **NOT bring their child to the setting if they are unwell**. Staff are not able to look after children who are unwell and if staff become unwell, we may have to close!

Can parents please inform Laura if your child will not be attending the session due to sickness or holiday etc.

News for the Spring Term

Staffing – Dawn has completed her training and the staff have now reorganised so you will see Laura, Dawn and Rachel in the setting. Again we would like to thank those parents who supported us during this transition period.

Dates for the Diary

Spring Term 2: Monday 19th February to Tuesday 26th March 2024

The academic calendar can be found at the end of this newsletter.

School Sessions this Term: 1st March 2024

Advanced Warning - Photographer: Wednesday 1st May 2024

If you don't attend on Wednesday and would like photographs, talk to Laura to arrange a time.

Setting Information / Reminders

EYFS - 'What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents' can be found at <https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

Key Carer – Your child's Key Carers can be found on the noticeboard. If you wish to discuss anything about your child, please talk to them first.

Increasing/Decreasing Hours - If you wish to increase/decrease hours, please can you let Laura 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 as we are full currently.

Funding – As I expect everyone is aware the funding is changing in April 2024. The setting will provide forms to those children who are eligible for the new funding and the 15 hours universal funding but eligible parents **MUST** apply for the funding codes e.g. new 2-year-old funding or 30 hour extended funding themselves, before the cut off dates e.g. 31st March 2024. If you have any questions please ask or look at: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. A summary is found later in this newsletter.

Invoices - invoices will be circulated at the beginning of term and must 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.

Communication Books – all children who attend another setting will be given a Child Communication book to enable communication between settings. If your child only attends our setting, we feel direct communication is best so your child will not have a book. However, if you feel that having a communication book would be useful, please talk to Laura.



Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Labelling – please label your child’s clothing, drinks, lunch boxes and other items they bring into the setting as it is difficult to return items to a child if they are not labelled. If your child has lost any clothing please ask as we may have it in the cloakroom.

Toys – although we know that children like to show everyone their toys, please can be ask that you try to dissuade them from bringing toys into the setting as they get lost and it can be extremely difficult to locate them later especially if we have packed away.

Parent Suggestions – if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities, please let Laura know as we may be able to incorporate them into our sessions.

Noticeboard - Please make sure you check the noticeboard as it contains lots of information and setting notices e.g. school visit dates, given below too.

School Visits – Laura confirmed the preschool children school visits as: 1st March, 19th April, 7th June, 21st June, 28th June and 12th July. The children will be escorted to and from the school by staff during the Friday session.

Nappies/Potty Training – please ensure a good supply of nappies, wipes, sacks and/or clothes in your child’s bag in case of accidents. If you need any advice about toilet training please ask.

Ofsted Report – our latest Ofsted report: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50201178>

Website - <https://www.stoneplaygroup.co.uk> – information is found here although the website is currently being updated it does include the weekly 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 contact and speak directly with Laura or the other staff members.

Stone with Woodford Playgroup

We return to the setting on Monday 19th February 2024



Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Upcoming Changes to Nursery Funding



HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

- Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support will be expanded in phases.
- By September 2025, most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support.
- From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours per week childcare support from the term after their child's 2nd birthday, up to a maximum of 570 hours per year.
- The current scheme for funding for some 2-year-olds will continue. However, parents can only claim hours through one of the schemes, not both.
- From September 2024, 15 hours per week childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the term after they are 9 months old to 3-year-olds, up to a maximum of 570 hours per year.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week, up to a maximum of 1,140 hours per year.
- Like the existing offer, depending on your provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year (during school term time), or up to 50 weeks if you stretch your entitlement.
- Your Early Years Provider will be able to confirm with you which of the expanded schemes they are planning to offer.
- Parents must apply for an eligibility code by visiting www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to access these expanded offers and MUST reconfirm the code every 3 months.
- The deadline dates to apply for these codes are:
 - 31st March to access the expanded hours in the Summer term
 - 31st August to access the expanded hours in the Autumn term
 - 31st December to access the expanded hours in the Spring term
- To confirm potential start dates for eligibility, based on your child's age, please speak to your Early Years Provider.
- Please remember, the schemes only cover funded hours. Your Early Years Provider will charge for meals, consumables, additional services and private hours.

Sign up for more details about the upcoming expansion, as well as how and when to register for support with childcare costs by visiting:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Stone with Woodford Playgroup

Setting Term Dates 2023 / 2024

	JANUARY					FEBRUARY										
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26						
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	6	13	20	27						
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28						
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22						
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23						
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24						
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25						
	MARCH					APRIL					MAY					
Mon	4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27
Tue	5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28
Wed	6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22
Thur	7	14	21	28		Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23
Fri	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26
	JUNE					JULY					AUGUST					
Mon	3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26
Tue	4	11	18	25		Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	6	13	20	27
Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28
Thur	6	13	20	27		Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22
Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25
Term Time						Holidays										
Bank Holiday						Inset										

□ Photographer: Wednesday 1st May 2024

○ School: 1st March, 19th April, 7th June, 21 June, 28 June and 12 July