



# 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.

Please can all parents with children eligible for Nursery Funding ensure we have received their funding form by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** otherwise your child may not be funded. If you have not received your form, please contact Laura or if you have the form and will not see Laura before the **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** then you can send a photograph to her and then give her the original.

The weather is now much colder 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!

### News for the Spring Term

**Staffing** – As everyone is aware Jen is leaving the setting at the end of the term. We wish her the well in her new role and know she will be missed. The setting has reorganised and increased several current staff hours and with the support of several parents (thank you) we have been able to staff sessions without the need to employ new staff.

### Setting Information / Reminders

#### Dates for the Diary

**Spring Term 1: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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

**School Sessions: To Be Confirmed**

**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.

**Funding** – As I expect everyone is aware the funding is changing in April 2024. The setting provides forms to those children who are eligible for the funding but parents need to apply for the funding codes e.g. 30 hours themselves before the cut off dates. If you have any questions please ask or look at: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). A summary is 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.



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**Labelling** – please label your child’s clothing 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** – we welcome ideas or suggestions for activities from parents/guardians. If you have any 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. funding information and school visit dates.

**School Visits** – Laura has contacted the school to arrange the first dates for preschool children during the Friday session. Please watch the noticeboard for these dates.

**Nappies/Potty Training** – please ensure a good supply of nappies, wipes, nappy sacks and/or clothes in your child’s bag in case of accidents.

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

**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.

**Information Bulletin** – in the session we have been talking about teeth, healthy eating and physical activity with the children so thought we would put some of the information in a bulletin for parents. We have also included toileting information as we have been sent information about a very useful website. Although parents can talk to us directly if they have any questions or concerns.

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*

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

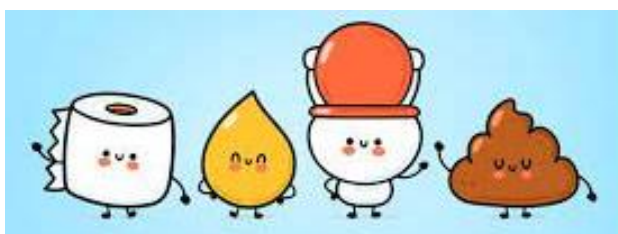
### \* Teeth \*

Oral health forms part of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the children have been learning about the importance of brushing their teeth. As I am sure you know, children will have 20 milk teeth by the time they are 3 and these teeth start to fall out when they reach 5 or 6.



More information can about looking after your child's teeth can be found at: [Institute of Health Visiting: Looking after your children's teeth](#), [NHS Dental Health Care: Supervised Toothbrushing Guidance](#) and [Early Years](#)

### \* Toileting \*



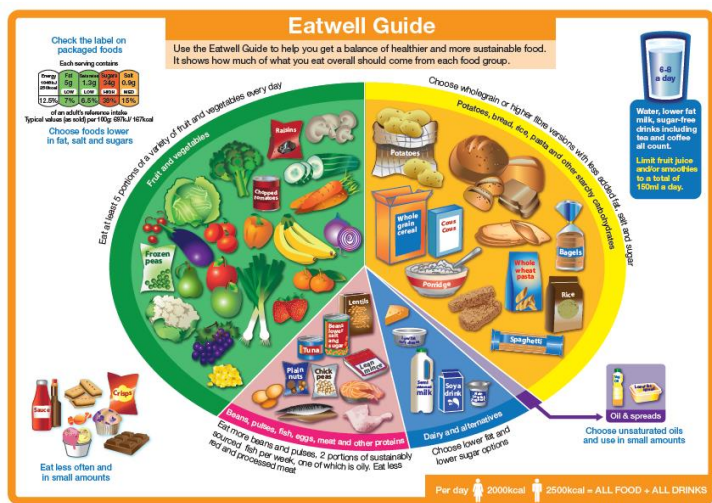
We are asked frequently about potty or toilet training so thought we would include some information here too, ERIC, the children's bowel and bladder charity provide useful information about potty/toilet training children including when you should start, how to prepare, the equipment

needed. The setting will support you when potty or toilet training your child, we only ask that you provide enough clothes for any mishaps. Useful links: [ERIC Toilet Training](#) and [ERIC Potty Training Leaflet](#).

### \* Balanced Diet & Physical Activity \*

At the setting we provide a healthy snack, which the children always enjoy and lots of physical activities, the children's favourite being Duck, Duck, Goose. Both a balanced diet and physical activity are important to keep children healthy. If you need any advice about either subject, please talk feel free to talk to us or contact your child's health visitor.

Further information about a Balanced Diet and Physical Activity can be found at: [NHS: Food Facts](#), [Public Health England: Eatwell Guide](#) and [UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines](#)



**Why is physical activity so important for children?**

- Built confidence and improves social skills
- Helps to relieve stress and maintain mental and emotional wellbeing
- Improves overall health and fitness and helps children maintain a healthy weight to prevent childhood obesity
- Inspires positivity and encourages tolerance
- Helps to develop coordination
- Makes children feel good and elevates their mood
- Enhances concentration and learning, which increases productivity and success
- Improves sleep and energy levels
- Strengthens muscles and bones
- gives children the opportunity to learn new skills and teaches them important life skills
- Reduces the risk of morbidity and mortality from chronic non-communicable diseases



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## Upcoming Changes to Nursery Funding

### HOW MANY HOURS OF CHILDCARE CAN YOU GET PER WEEK?

Age 3-4 years				Age 2 years				Age 9-23 months	
<b>ALL PARENTS</b>				<b>FAMILIES WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS</b>				<b>WORKING FAMILIES</b>	
<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>Now</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>APR 2024</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2024</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2025</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>Now</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>APR 2024</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2024</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2025</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2024</small>	<b>30 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2025</small>
<b>WORKING FAMILIES</b>				<b>WORKING FAMILIES</b>					
<b>30 HOURS</b> <small>Now</small>	<b>30 HOURS</b> <small>APR 2024</small>	<b>30 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2024</small>	<b>30 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2025</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>APR 2024</small>	<b>15 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2024</small>	<b>30 HOURS</b> <small>SEP 2025</small>			

\*38 weeks a year. Eligibility criteria apply.  
Providers may ask for charges in addition to the free childcare.

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

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		Inset	