



## **F2 PARENT MEETING : STARTING SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2022**

**HAPPY VALUED CURIOUS AMBITIOUS TOLERANT RESPECTFUL CONFIDENT  
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# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



Mr Stevens  
Headteacher



Ms Bailes  
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Dennis  
Deputy Headteacher

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# MEET THE TEAM

We are sure you are keen to find out who your children will be working with in their first year of 'big' school, so with no further ado, please meet...

**Miss Longley**  
Year Lead  
Alder Class



Miss Longley has worked at SPS for 6 years now within Year 1 and F2 as of last year

**Miss Foster**  
Class Teacher  
Ash Class

Miss Foster is new to our school bringing with her enthusiasm and passion for the next stage of her career

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# STARTING SCHOOL



Is there a dress code that should be observed for parents? Presumably school drop-offs in your PJs are frowned upon?

Will they really need the padded cagoule with the school logo emblazoned on it?

Will they find it easy to make friends as they always have up to this point?

Starting primary school can be as much uncharted territory for adults as it is for children. There are so many things to think about.

Will our child be able to concentrate properly in lessons or just run around shrieking as she sometimes does at home?

How do you get involved in things without coming across as overly keen?

How do you go about making new mum/dad friends without looking desperate?

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# GETTING READY

- ✓ **BE POSITIVE.** You may question why we've included this point but children pick up vibes more easily than you think. You may have had a negative experience at primary school yourself and be letting this cloud your thoughts and subconsciously be passing these across to your young one. Do not allow your child to be privy to any adult conversations you are having surrounding your fears – this is not appropriate nor helpful in any way.
- ✓ **KEEP SCHOOL IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS OVER SUMMER.** “Do you remember when we went to visit...” or “When you start school you'll get to...” or “Shall we try on your school uniform today?” Drop thoughts of school in here and there over the long summer. Miss Longley and the team are working on a presentation for the children – watch it every now and then.
- ✓ **STARTING SCHOOL PICTURE BOOKS** are a great way to support any children who are feeling a little anxious – maybe purchase one or two.
- ✓ **ESTABLISH A ROUTINE.** This is going to be pivotal. Towards the end of summer begin to implement a good bedtime and morning routine. Swap out screen time for stories in the evening to ensure they get a proper nights' sleep and wake up bright and ready for a new day.

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# GETTING READY

- ✓ **ALL THE GEAR.** Make tasks such as getting school uniform ready, a lunch box and a water bottle into fun events which will make the prospect of school positive.
- ✓ **A COUNTDOWN CALENDAR** is a great way for children to see how many days until they will be starting school.
- ✓ **COMPLETE THE ALL ABOUT ME BOOKLET TOGETHER.** Tell your child that their teacher wants to find out all about them and this will help us to get to know you better. Take time on this activity – complete a section each week for example. Use stickers, photos and drawings to make it personal.
- ✓ **PRACTISE KEY SKILLS.** All of the following simple things will help your child to thrive at school. Giving them plenty of time to prepare will help them in the first few weeks as they settle in to school. See the next slide...

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# GETTING READY

Can your child:

- Dress and undress themselves – buttons, zips, shoes.
- Use the toilet independently – including flushing the toilet and washing their hands afterwards and being able to tell an adult they need to go.
- Write their name unaided – get them writing their name on everything – drawings, using chalks, paints, with their finger in sand, practise, practise, practise.
- Count and recognise numbers to 10 and beyond if possible – spot numbers on walks, trips to the shops and so on.
- Carry their own school bag – you'd be surprised! Can they hold their water bottle, lunch box and book bag independently?
- Use a pair of scissors safely – practise cutting playdough, grass, paper with the correct finger grip.
- Use a knife and fork – very helpful if they are having school dinners in particular.
- Listen well and follow simple instructions – try giving your child one step then two step instructions and see how well they respond. Reiterate the importance of eye contact and looking at their friends and familiar adults when they speak.

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# GETTING READY



As previously mentioned, you may want to try on uniform over summer getting into that positive headspace. Here follows the uniform/equipment required. All uniform is available from our school office – call ahead and your order will be prepared for collection. Cash/cheque only unless you have a sibling at school and a ParentPay account already activated.

An average 4-5 year old will wear a size 26 cardigan/jumper and this tends to fit for an entire school year (unless they have a huge growth spurt.) For those children transferring from our nursery, the sweatshirt can be used for the autumn term but then **MUST** be changed.

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# UNIFORM

## Girls

- Grey or black skirt or tunic
- Grey or black school trousers
- White blouse
- School tie (elasticated option until end of Year 3)
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan with School Logo
- Grey or white socks - not trainer
- Grey or black school shoes (low heeled)
- Green or white check cotton dress for summer
- Long hair must always be tied back but only with a suitable green or white band
- Hair bows must be an appropriate size and plain coloured, in line with school colours

## Boys

- Grey or black trousers
- Grey or black shorts
- White buttoned shirt (not polo shirt)
- School tie (elasticated option until end of Year 3)
- Bottle green jumper with School Logo
- Grey or black socks – not trainer
- Grey or black school shoes

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# UNIFORM

## PE kit (to be kept in small/medium sized bag)

- ✓ Bottle green shorts
- ✓ White polo shirt (does not need to have the school logo)
- ✓ Black plimsolls for indoor PE
- ✓ White or black trainers for outdoor PE
- ✓ Black tracksuit for outdoor games/PE

## Additional equipment

- School book bag is a **MUST**. There is not the storage space to accept a second medium sized bag (the first being for the PE kit). Please purchase one of our slimline book bags. These are also much easier for support staff to access when looking through regularly.
- Water bottle – does not need to be a school bottle.
- Sun hat – does not need to be a school hat.
- All other equipment is provided by school – children do not need a pencil case etc.

**PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING.** We cannot stress the importance of this enough, if it is named it will be returned, if it is not then it is near impossible to ensure the right item will come back to you. Please use labels that will not come off and check weekly that they are still legible.

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# FOOD AND DRINK

- ✓ **LUNCH.** At lunchtime your child can have a packed lunch prepared at home and brought into school, or a school dinner (hot option from w/c 12/09/22) . Lunchtime is between 11.30 and 12.30, when the children can eat lunch and then play with their friends. All Early Years and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal each day. There will be a selection of different meals available each day for your child to choose from. Vegetarian options are always available. Please let us know if your child has any other dietary restrictions or requirements. Further information to follow in September.
- ✓ Packed lunches should support our school's healthy eating policy. Please note that our school is a '**nut free**' zone which means that all types of nuts are banned. Also note that FIZZY OR FLAVOURED DRINKS/SWEETS/CHOCOLATE are not allowed in school lunches.
- ✓ **SNACK.** Children will receive a free piece of fruit/healthy snack during the day. You do not need to provide any additional snacks.
- ✓ **DRINKS.** Water is available throughout the day, including lunchtimes. Children can also bring a drink to school – remembering that no fizzy/flavoured drinks are allowed. Children are also provided with a free carton of semi-skimmed milk on a daily basis until they reach the age of 5.

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# HOW WE ARE GETTING READY FOR YOU

We too are very busy preparing and getting ready for our new cohort of children.

- ✓ **TRANSITION.** We have taken time to contact previous/current settings for a full transfer of information giving us that all-important head start in getting to know your child's interests and strengths.
- ✓ **CLASSES.** The above information has been used to inform the classes. This is an incredibly complex job and a great many criteria have to be taken into consideration such as age, ability, friendship groups to name but a few.
- ✓ **INDUCTION SESSIONS.** Running on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July 1.00-3.00pm for children **NEW** to our school.
- ✓ **MEET YOUR NEW CLASS TEACHER.** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 10.15-11.30am.
- ✓ **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT.** Knowing a little about the children already can help inform our planning and we are already getting some lovely activities ready to best support your children when they arrive in September.
- ✓ **STAGGERED START.** Please read the next few slides with care to ensure you know when your child is starting and the phased return to best support all children.

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# SEPTEMBER PHASED START

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	8:40am-11:30am introductory session for children with surnames A-L. Please note these are for children only and will provide a higher adult to child ratio to best support the children.	12.30pm-3.15pm introductory session for children with surnames M-Z. Please note these are for children only and will provide a higher adult to child ratio to best support the children.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	All children to start at 8.40am and be collected at 12.30pm to allow staff to make home visits in the afternoon. All children to bring a packed lunch for this week only.	Home visits.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	All children full time 8.40am to 3.15pm unless a further staggered start has been pre-arranged with staff. Hot school meals available for all children this week – further information will follow at the start of term.	

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# HOME/DOORSTEP VISITS



- ✓ For parents of children **NEW** to **STOKENCHURCH** Primary School.
- ✓ Will take place at the start of the new school year in September.
- ✓ Will depend on government restrictions whether this will be a home/doorstep visit.
- ✓ A chance to get to know you and your child and begin building a strong partnership.
- ✓ Your chance to ask us any questions.
- ✓ Your child's teacher and an LSA will attend.
- ✓ Approximately 20 minutes long.
- ✓ Email with confirmation of date/timing to follow.

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# SEPTEMBER IS HERE



- ✓ From the moment you wake up, keep everything positive. Keep your own emotions/anxieties in check. We don't mean to sound harsh but you are their role model – if you don't have a smile on your face then they won't either.
- ✓ Make sure you have time enough for everything – starting off the day in a stressful/rushed way will not help.
- ✓ Ensure everything is ready by the door – shoes, bookbag, PE kit – preparation is key.
- ✓ As you're walking down that path for the first time, keep smiling even if there are tears. Acknowledge how they are feeling and tell them you understand – liken it to your experiences of starting a new job for the first time for example.
- ✓ We encourage happy, swift goodbyes in the morning so please support us with this. If we struggle to settle your child we shall call you.
- ✓ Children walk into class without you – we cannot accommodate 60 sets of parents inside. Please adhere to this, if one parent comes in then the children start to question why their parent cannot.
- ✓ Don't be late for collection! We shall bring the children to you on the playground.

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# PARENTS AS PARTNERS



- ✓ All year round open door policy – please come and speak to us regarding any problems you may have (after school is preferable).
- ✓ Parent meeting in September – information about curriculum, day to day timetable (date to be confirmed).
- ✓ Variety of workshops throughout the year including phonics and maths.
- ✓ Online learning journal Tapestry which will be set up in September.
- ✓ Parents evenings in November/March – 1:1 meetings with class teacher.
- ✓ Stay and Play sessions – parents will be invited to come in and play.
- ✓ Topic days - parents invited in to see what we have been learning.
- ✓ Class assemblies – one per class in the summer term.
- ✓ Educational visits - parent helpers always required.
- ✓ End of year school report.
- ✓ School website – please do check the Year Group section regularly.
- ✓ Twitter account @stokenchurchps.
- ✓ ParentMail.
- ✓ Weekly school newsletters.

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# YOUR CHILD IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

Hopefully...

- ✓ Tired but excited and happy
- ✓ Making new friends
- ✓ Sharing positive experiences
- ✓ Having fun!

More than likely and **VERY VERY** normal...

- Tired with variable mood swings
- Seemingly disinterested in school
- No one to play with
- 'Apparently' not learning anything



BEFORE



AFTER

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# TOP TIPS



1. Diet and sleep are crucial – developing children use lots of energy in new situations and they will often emerge ‘starving’...having an energy-boosting snack can prevent many a meltdown
2. Keep **your** emotions in check - children pick up on parents’ anxieties so keep the new experience positive and upbeat...we have a swift kiss/cuddle goodbye policy...**never** drop off your child saying “good luck, he’s in a foul mood” especially in front of your child
3. Check their bag daily – we will be aiming to ParentMail as much as we can but sometimes this is not always possible
4. Label everything - as teachers we may be virtually superhuman but expecting us to match up unnamed jumpers with the right owner at the end of a session is a step too far!
5. Don’t grill your child at the end of a session - some will, some won’t but little good comes from ambushing your child...you’ll get snippets at some point
6. Put your phone away - your child needs you to be attentive to them when you pick them up...boost their confidence by taking an interest
7. Be prepared for ups and downs - sometimes your child will bounce out of school full of enthusiasm and energy and at other times they may seem tired, withdrawn or sad. Try not to panic if your child seems to be struggling, getting used to school is a steep learning curve. Talk to us if you’re concerned but keep in mind that teething problems are completely normal
8. Obey the sickness policy – especially at this time. If you are having to give Calpol your child is NOT well enough for school - bugs spread like wildfire
9. Teach them to wipe their own bottoms – no more needed on this!
10. Dummy...what dummy? At this age your child’s speech is really taking hold and a dummy can have a significant impact on pronunciation
11. ENJOY YOURSELF!!!

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