

Stoneygate Nursery School



September 2025

Autumn Newsletter 2

We are well in to the swing of things here in school now; the children are much more used to their new environments, routines and teachers and have been having lots of fun learning– both inside and outside– this week. We have made the most of the lovely sunshine that we have been having and are hoping it lasts!

Dates for the Diary

Bonfire Craft Stay and Play Session

Tuesday 4th November 10.00–11.00 am and 2.00–3.00pm

Frenchwood Tots Community Group

Wednesday 15th October 1 – 2.30pm

October Half term:

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October inclusive

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
15 January 2026

lancashire.gov.uk

School transport

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.

Lancashire County Council

Applications for Lancashire school places for September 2026 are currently open, with a deadline of January 15, 2026, for primary schools. Parents and carers must apply online via Lancashire County Council's website, even if your child has siblings at the school. Applications are not first-come, first-served, but missing the deadline can decrease your chances of securing a preferred school.

We urge all of our parents to look around the different schools available so that you can make an informed choice about where best to send your child.

If you are a parent of a SEND child with an EHCP, who may hope to attend specialist primary provision, then we still urge you to look around mainstream schools and complete the same application process. For further advice on specialist provision, please visit:

<https://lancssendias.org.uk/>

If you need any advice or support with the school application process, then please do ask!

Advice around eating

We have lots of parents asking us for some advice on helping them develop their child's eating habits; from those that are struggling to chew properly, to those who are refusing to try a range of new foods. Hopefully, some of the following information and links will help!

According to NHS Kent (2024), some children find chewing foods difficult, simply because they have not had enough practise with foods that require chewing. Some children may gag, refuse foods or chew and spit out foods or lumps which are all typical when children are practicing their skills; in this case, their advice is to try and remain calm. Chewing requires your child to use a range of jaw movements and sideways tongue movements to break down foods so they can be safely swallowed. This is a skill that children learn with practise though oral exploration of objects and foods. Foods and objects safe for your child to explore should be encouraged to be placed to the side of your child's mouth to encourage sideways tongue movements – essential for building chewing skills. They also advise that children should be seated securely when eating and drinking, for example, in a high chair with their feet stable on a flat surface; children should not be allowed to walk around or move about whilst eating food for safety reasons.

Ideas:

- Offer foods that will dissolve/ melt in the mouth such as Wotsits, melty puffs or wafers; these can be offered to the side of the mouth either as crumbs or as whole crisps to encourage sideways tongue movements. These can be dipped in purees or sauces for your child to explore different flavours and textures.
- Hard munchable: These are foods that do not easily break apart and that children can hold independently. They offer opportunities for oral exploration, help to develop chewing skills and can support teaching the mouth how to accommodate foods of different sizes. Hard munchable are not for eating and should be offered outside of mealtimes always under adult supervision; things like a whole raw carrot or celery sticks are good examples.
- Soft fruit/veg: Begin to offer soft (well-cooked if needed) fruit and/ or vegetables cut up into sticks or batons e.g. slices of ripe avocado, peeled well-cooked pear.

If you find that your child can eat but is very limited with what they like to eat, then there is some great advice from the NHS on helping you tackle this. Please scan this code:



There is also some great nutrition advice for toddlers featured on the Nutrition.org website, available here:



Polite Reminder Please can we ask that you do not send your child into nursery with toys from home. Unfortunately, we cannot be responsible for these if they become lost and understandably, this can cause upset for your child. If there is a particular toy/resource that your child is enjoying using at home, then please mention it to us as we may have the same, or similar, here in nursery that your child can use.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to those parents who were able to make it along to our Meet the Teacher drop in sessions that we held on Tuesday this week. If you didn't manage to make it in to school and do wish to receive an update on your child, then please catch your child's Teacher/Key Worker to arrange a suitable time. Thank you!

Please 'like' and 'follow' us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#):

