

Stoneygate Nursery School



October 2026
Autumn Term Newsletter 2

We are definitely seeing signs around nursery that Summer has left us and Autumn has arrived! We are noticing the leaves changing colour and falling off the trees and playtimes and outdoor learning have definitely required our coats on!

Diary Dates

Friday 23 rd October	School closes for half term break	3.30pm
Monday 2 nd November	School opens	8.30am
Wednesday 4 th November	Bonfire Stay and Play session	10.00–11.00am or 2.00–3.00pm

Attendance IS important

Attendance in nursery is really important; in fact, it matters a whole lot more than you might know! Coming to nursery helps your child:

- Play and learn with other children
- Make friends and learn to share
- Follow simple rules and routines
- Get ready for school



Children learn best through play. In nursery, they learn how to talk, listen, take turns, and be part of a group. These skills help them do well when they start school. Nursery helps your child get used to:

- Going to school every day
- Being on time
- Following a daily routine

When your child is compulsory school age (the start of the term after they have turned 5) going to school every day becomes the law. Starting good habits early makes school easier and more fun. Children who go to nursery often are more confident and do better in school later on.

How You Can Help Make Attendance a Habit:

- Show your child that going to nursery is important
- Help them feel safe and happy in a routine
- Have regular times for waking up, eating, and sleeping
- Keep mornings calm and simple
- Try nursery-like activities at home (like reading or playing together)



If you need any support with attendance, then please pop in and ask for a chat – we are here to help!

Please visit our school website: www.stoneygate-nursery.co.uk

Creating Independence

We are noticing that lots of our children are struggling with the skill of independence; something that they need more and more of as they grow older and transition into primary school. Below are some handy tips that you could try at home to help develop these skills...

1. Make Your Environment Child-Friendly

- Lower storage: Put cups, plates, and snack bowls in low kitchen cupboards so they can reach them.
- Add helper tools: Use a bathroom step stool so they can wash hands and watch or help safely.

2. Offer Limited Choices

- Keep it to two options: Avoid overwhelming them by giving a choice of two items (such as "Do you want the red shirt or the blue shirt?")
- Differentiate choices from commands: If a task is not optional (like putting on shoes before going out), use a firm statement instead of a question ("It is time to put your shoes on").

3. Involve Them in Daily Routines and Chores

- Self-care steps: Let them try squeezing toothpaste, pulling up elastic-waist trousers, and washing their own hands.
- Kitchen help: Give them small jobs like tearing lettuce, pouring pre-measured ingredients, or carrying plastic bowls to the table.
- Simple clean-up: Turn putting away toys or dropping socks into the washing basket into a playful routine.

4. Pause Before Stepping In

- Count to ten: When your child looks frustrated, wait about 10 seconds before offering help. This brief gap lets them try to solve the problem.
- Praise effort, not perfection: Focus on their perseverance and hard work rather than how neat the final result is.
- Allow extra time: children move slowly; build extra minutes into your schedule so you do not have to rush them through tasks they are trying to do themselves.

Nursery Clothing

Please can we ask that you send your child into nursery in suitable clothing. We appreciate that the weather has been a little unreliable lately, however please make sure that they are arriving to nursery in suitable shoes (e.g. no open-toe sandals) and a warm coat. Please also provide your child with some wellies too – we go outside to learn and play in all weathers!



Can you help?



We are still seeking old phones for our 'Speaking and Listening' area! If you have any old mobiles or home phones then please send them in to Emma – thank you!

Meet the Teachers



A huge thank you to all of you who managed to join us last week for our 'meet the teacher' drop in sessions. All of the sessions were well attended and we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to chat to your child's Key Worker and the class teachers; not to mention watching your child in 'action' in nursery! If you were unable to attend last week's event and do wish to speak with us, then please pop in to arrange a suitable time. Thank you for your ongoing support!