

Stonesfield
Pre-School & Daycare
Making the most of each and every moment



Welcome Back

We hope everyone enjoyed the half term break and the children have made the most of the rainy days with lots of splashing in muddy puddles!



This term we would like to extend a special warm welcome to Channon and Taya who have joined our pre-school family 😊

Learning and Development



Reflecting on last term.....

Initially, during the first three weeks of term the younger children very tentatively explored pre-school and our older cohort of children mostly played independently alongside their peers. As the weeks passed, we witnessed the children's confidence growing and individual characters emerging and blossoming, which has been very rewarding to observe.



We love this picture..... The children waited patiently for their turn as they carefully negotiated the stepping stones. They each chose their own number to count up to before the big jump off the purple mountain at the end



Charlie and Willow happily engaged in imaginary play....
 "Room on a broom"
 and
 "Me in a boat"
 (The children's own words)

The world is
 but a canvas
 to the
 IMAGINATION



Growing in
 confidence
 and making
 friends



Last term the children talked about their families and we started to create an 'Our Families' display board in the home corner with the family photos you kindly provided. We anticipate the board will encourage further discussions about our families over the next few terms. If you have not provided any photos yet, it is not too late, the board is ongoing.

A few other favourite themes this term have been:

- ❖ Whizzing cars down guttering and working out elaborate ways with Sarah to make this even more exciting!
- ❖ Building obstacle courses with Sandra outside and practising our balance and coordination skills.
- ❖ Painting with our hands and fingers..... The children have created their very own Christmas cards that will be printed in packs to buy. *This is one of our Christmas fundraisers, we will let you know when they are available* 🌿

This term.....



Will be full of “Colour & Celebration”. We have attached our termly topic web for your information, and, as always we will continue to follow the children’s interests too. As Christmas approaches the children will have lots of opportunities to learn about the Christmas Nativity story through books, imaginary small world play and Christmas songs. This year we will be adapting our Christmas pre-school celebrations to ensure we adhere to the Covid -19 regulations. We will send out more information nearer the time about our Nature Friendly Christmas party we will be holding for the children at pre-school. The children will still feel the joy of the magic of Christmas at Stonesfield Pre-school!



Woodland Wanderers



We are hoping to be able to get out with the older children on a Thursday morning as soon as possible and start to explore the wonderful nature we are so fortunate to be surrounded by. However, to be able to do this we need a couple of volunteer helpers. If you are able to spare an hour or so on a Thursday morning (we would be most grateful!) please speak to a member of staff or email Lizzie stonesfieldps@outlook.com . If you are a regular helper you will need a DBS, we would organise and pay for this, it is a straight forward process. If you register your DBS with the government update service it will be transferable and is a useful document to have if you wish to do any other voluntary work that requires one.

During week 3 (wk. com 16th Nov) please could you help your child choose a small non electronic toy from home to show and tell in one of their sessions, thank you.

Keeping everyone safe



As we enter this second lockdown we would like to reassure you that our standards of cleanliness at pre-school remain very high. We rigorously follow the government guidelines, keeping the pre-school, the toys and equipment spotlessly clean after every session.

We ensure that the children are following good hygiene routines and give lots of support and reminders throughout the sessions. In particular, when appropriate, we are teaching the children our 'nose wiping' routine... *catch it, bin it, kill it*, is the motto! Please support your child with this at home too, thank you.

We continue with our safe drop off and pick up routine, ensuring that you, the parents and carers, and us, the staff are adhering to social distancing.

The routine is as follows:

Arrival – Back gate. Exit - Front gate

- ❖ Stand 2M apart along the side wall
- ❖ First person to stand and wait on the step
- ❖ Move forward to 2M marker in front of PS door
- ❖ Staff member will welcome your child who can move forward with belongings. If they are unable to carry everything, bags etc can be hung on the fence for a staff member to bring in.
- ❖ If there is not a member of staff available to meet and greet on the back gate please move forward, whilst adhering to the 2M rule.

Pick up – Back gate. Exit – Front gate

Polite reminders.....

- ✚ No toys from home please, a comforter is permitted, this can be kept in your child's red drawstring bag.

Exception to this is the small non electronic toy for show and tell during week 3.

- ✚ Please provide your child with plenty of spare clothing in their red drawstring bag, and ensure that clothing is replenished regularly when required.

- ✚ Below is a link to the current government Covid -19 stay at home guidance for households with possible corona virus infection – please follow if you have a suspected case in your household

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Parent/Carers Key Person Telephone Consultations



Our parent/carer consultations will take place over the phone next week. This gives you the opportunity to have an informal chat with your child's Key Person, ask any questions you may have and most importantly find out how your child has settled and is getting on at pre-school. You will receive a phone call from Lizzie informing you of the appointment time, once you have confirmed this we will send you a reminder via email. We will be able to offer alternatives if the day and time does not suit you.

Parent/Carer tips of the Term



We would like to share with you a few termly parenting tips. This term we have chosen our tips from 'Toddle about Oxfordshire' magazine.

be firm and fair but don't negotiate

We don't want to constantly say no. If your child knows what your rules are, they won't even ask. Be firm and fair and make sure you're always reasonable. No should mean no, not may be. Don't let the situation go on and don't negotiate.

let them be silly and loud sometimes

Try to let your child be as free as possible to use up all the energy they have so they don't start climbing the walls. Fresh air has a big positive impact on a child's behaviour, so try and let them run and shout and be silly when they can so when behaviour does matter, you can ask them to stop jumping about without feeling guilty.

stop problems before they happen

Consider your child's situation: if they are overtired they will be irritable and if they are hungry they will probably act up. Try and put yourself in your child's shoes and always think ahead so these situations don't arise.



**THEY DON'T NEED PERFECT,
THEY JUST NEED YOU**

Fundraising



Please save the above date for Stonesfield's Christmas Market, which will be a great fundraiser for our pre-school. We are hoping that we will be able to go ahead with it if the lockdown is lifted and we are in a tier that will enable us to do so, fingers crossed!

Dates for Diary:

Term 2:	2 nd November - 18 th December (finish 12noon)
	Monday 6th December - Stonesfield's Christmas Market 2-8pm
Christmas Holiday	21 st December -4 th January 2021 inclusive
Term 3:	5 th January – 12 th February 2021
Inset Day	Monday 4 th January
February holiday	15 th - 19 th February Inclusive