

Stoneyhill Primary School

June 2020

We welcome you and your child to Stoneyhill Primary.

It is well known that happy children learn best. At Stoneyhill we will do everything possible to make this important step a happy one. We want them to feel relaxed and secure so that they can find out that making new friends and learning things is fun and that the staff are here to help them.

The information in this booklet is designed to answer some questions which are often asked by parents about starting school.

For more information about the work of the school please visit our website:

<http://edubuzz.org/blogs/stoneyhill>



Head Teacher:

Ms Fiona Macartney

Depute Head Teacher

Mrs Carol Colville

Getting Started

School Uniform:

Our Uniform is:



- Green Fleece with school badge.
- Green or Purple Sweatshirt with school badge or Green Jumper/Cardigan.
- Green, Purple or White Polo Shirt with school badge or White Shirt.
- School Green Jogging Bottoms or Grey Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore.

We intend to be as flexible as possible around uniform at the start of term and advise you to buy generic pieces of uniform in line with our school colours.

However in our current circumstances, there will not be the option of ordering a number of items from our branded school uniform supplier. To restrict contact and work within current guidance from Scottish Government, we propose a compromise. **We intend to offer you the opportunity, for P1 only (DO NOT order uniform for siblings),** and with absolutely no exception, you can order ONE sweatshirt with a school logo to allow you to take photos for your child's first day of school (at the front door of your house/garden/ living room). Staff will take some photos of your child in class and email these.

Depending on restrictions we will advise you of the agreed system of collection or delivery of the sweatshirt.

You will be able to make a further order once guidance around schools returning and which phase of recovery we are in in August.

You can order and pay directly to Patricia Bewsey Design at www.garmentprinter.co.uk

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL EVERYTHING!

PE: our normal kit is:

- white t-shirt (additional to the one worn in class)
- dark green/grey shorts (or a dark colour)
- indoor gym shoes.

This is usually kept in school as the children will go to gym regularly.

However you will be advised of the days your child has gym and we will, in the current circumstances, ask you to send your child to school in active wear (no football strips) on those days.

Money in School:

We now **DO NOT** accept cash payments. If you are new to our school, you will receive a unique code for you to set up an on-line account. On-line payments can be made using the link www.eastlothian.gov.uk/schoolpay. The code will be given to you once your child has formally arrived in school for daily register.

If you are required to pay for something we will advise you which account/ fund to make your payment to e.g. milk, uniform, zoo trip. It is really important funds are paid into the correct fund so please take care when making online payments.

School Lunches:

Pupils in P1-3 are currently entitled to free school meals. Your child may also wish to bring a packed lunch. You can view a sample menu at https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/12858/school_meals_menus_and_price_lists

We will send you an up-to-date link when the new menu is issued. You can also pre-order on-line if you wish, however your child will still have the choice in the morning and may choose something different!

Pre-ordering with a parent gives you the opportunity to discuss the choices with your child prior to the school day. Your child will be given a coloured band which indicates their choice to the dining hall.

Packed Lunches:

Packed lunches: no fizzy juice please

Nut Allergies

We would ask that packed lunches and snacks do not contain anything with nuts as we have a number of children in school who have nut allergies.

Drinking Water

Research shows that drinking water helps children concentrate as well as avoid dehydration. Please supply your child with a water bottle with his/her name clearly marked on it. They can drink water throughout the day. NO JUICE allowed

Communication:

We work really hard in sharing information with parents and try and communicate with you in a variety of ways to ensure you know what is happening

We send home a monthly newsletter, the class teacher sends regular class newsletters, we have our school BLOG, School APP (see attached) as well as Parent Council Facebook page

In School

Milk: Normally we offer the option of ordering milk for your child to have in school on a daily basis. With the uncertainty of our current structure, please await further information.



Snack:

We are lucky that the region supplies all P1 and P2 children with a fruit snack three times a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We encourage pupils to bring healthy snacks and actively discourage sweets and chocolate.

Toys:

Please discourage children from bringing toys to school as they can become distracted by them in class and they can also become broken or lost.

In the Playground:

At interval and lunch times, the children are looked after by 2 playground supervisors. We also have our playground P.A.L.S. (Playtime and Lunchtime Squad.) who are a group of P6/P7 children trained in teaching playground games. They also help children who are feeling a bit lonely.



At Home:

Parents as teachers:

We must never forget that parents are a child's first teachers and that even when a child starts school you still have a big part to play.

Here are some ways in which you can prepare your child for the work which he/she will meet in school.



Language:

There are many things you can do as a parent to help your child develop the language skills of talking, listening, reading and writing.

Talking :

- Try to encourage your child to talk in sentences, explain things clearly and describe things he/she has seen or done.
- Try to discourage 'baby talk' and make sure they start to use proper words.
- Encourage your child to talk to other children his/her own age and to adults that he/she knows.
- Try not to talk for your child - their confidence will grow if they are allowed to do things for themselves.



Listening:

- Try to put your child into situations where he/she has to listen hard.
- Encourage him/her to repeat rhymes and poems.
- Give your child simple instructions to follow and then make them more difficult e.g. "Go to the bathroom and wash your hands." becomes "Go to the bathroom, wash your hands then bring back the towel and put it in the washing basket."
- Play games like 'I Spy' and encourage him/her to listen to the beginning of the word.
- Try to read them stories and encourage them to listen to recorded stories and music.
- Remember children follow your example so try to show them that you listen to what others have to say and encourage them to listen to yourself and others.
- Try to discourage them from interrupting someone when they are talking.



Reading:

- Try to spend time reading books with your child and, if you can, encourage others in the house to do the same. Look at the pictures and talk about them.
- Teach your child to respect books. Show him/her how to handle them carefully.
- When reading to your child run your finger under the words from left to right and from top to bottom.
- Look at the writing which is all around, on shops, buses, packets etc.

- Encourage your child to recognise his/her own name. Start with their Christian name and then move on to both names. Please **do not** write in capital letters.
- Joining the local library and going along to organised story times introducing your child to the world of books and reading.



Writing:

- Playing with plasticine and dough will help to develop the muscles in the hands and fingers which are used when writing.
- Encourage your child to colour in using shading rather than scribbles.
- Cutting out pictures from old magazines and catalogues helps to build up hand control.
- Allow your child to draw and encourage him/her to add more detail to their pictures.
- Playing with toys such as Lego or puzzles with small pieces will help the fingers and eyes begin to work together.
- Show your child the correct way to hold his/her pencil, not too near the point.
- If your child is left handed **do not** try to change this.



Mathematics:

Our Mathematics scheme is carefully planned to give both practical experience and reinforcement at every stage. Your child will be learning some new words to help him/her in this work.

Here are a few which you might try and introduce before your child starts school. (Some may be familiar from work in our nursery.)

Colour - names of colours, light/dark, bright/dull ...

Position - on, above, below, under, behind, beside, inside, in front, top, bottom...

Shape - circle, square, rectangle, triangle, round, flat...

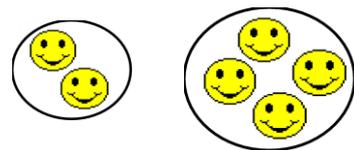


Size - large/ larger/ larger than/ largest, long / longer / longer than / longest, short / shorter / shorter than / shortest, thick / thicker/ thicker than / thickest, thin / thinner / thinner than / thinnest, tall ...



Time - before, during, after...

Quantity - fewer than, more than, less, the same, different

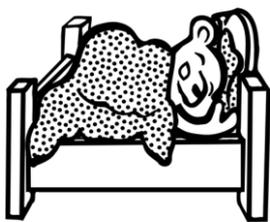


Although some work in Mathematics requires special equipment much of it can be taught using everyday objects.

- buttons, sweets, cars etc. can be used for sorting - bring me all the red cars, give me the buttons with two holes etc.
- setting the table is a good matching exercise - is there a knife for everyone?, do we need any more teaspoons ? etc.
- Lego, beads, gummed shapes can all be used to help your child look for patterns.
- games such as snap and dominoes are fun but also help to prepare your child for more formal work in Maths.

More ways to help your child:

- Make sure that your child is self-sufficient at the toilet and knows how to clean him/herself, flush the toilet and wash his/her hands
- Train your child to look after and put away toys when he/she has finished playing with them.
- Play games with your child and teach him/her to take turns. Don't always let them win and encourage them to obey the rules.
- Try to teach your child to share willingly and to take care of and respect other people's belongings.



- Schools can be very tiring for young children, especially after September, make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep.

- Practise dressing and undressing quickly. It is an idea to choose clothes and shoes with simple fastenings.
- Make sure that your child knows his/her name, address and telephone number.
- Remember that children react very well to praise. Make sure that you praise their efforts and don't forget that learning should be fun.
- Practise putting their jumper/ t-shirt the right way in if inside out.
- Practise carry a tray with food and drink from the kitchen side to dining room/ table/ short distance getting ready for our lunch hall



Check your child's school bag daily to see if there are any messages for you and check the class page on the website for further information.

And Finally

Do not worry about your child in school. Children can very easily pick up anxieties from their parents so it is vital that they are happy and relaxed about the transition from pre-school to school. If you have any problems please contact school, in the first instance via phone to speak to a member of staff. We are always willing to discuss any worries which you may have concerning your child.

