



Stopsley Community Primary School and Nursery

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17th September 2025

Dear Parents,

I would like to officially welcome you all to the Stopsley Community Primary school family! We hope your child has had a great start to school. We have been pleased with how well the children have adjusted to school life and are enjoying getting to know them. Their first full week saw them tackle new adventures included staying for lunch in our new dining hall, choosing where they want to explore their learning and staying all day. It's been wonderful to get to know them and see how happy, eager and enthusiastic they all are.

At Stopsley, Friday mornings are 'Family Reading' where we welcome families into school to share books with their children at drop-off time. The rest of the school has started this already. **For now, we have not started this in Reception but will let you know soon when we are starting it.** We feel it is important that we give the children the first few weeks to get well settled. We know from experience that in the early weeks, changes to their routine and the parting with parents from the classroom, can be difficult for the children.

A few reminders:

- **Every item** of your child's uniform must be named. There have already been a couple of lost jumpers that we've struggled to reunite with their owners due to missing names.
- A polite reminder that school uniform states **plain black school shoes or trainers**. Black trainers with coloured soles are not within policy. We thank you for your support with this.
- The start of the day is **8:45am** and Reception children finish at **3:25pm** on Monday – Thursday. On Friday we start at **8:45am** and finish at **1:00pm**, as per the rest of the school.
- Teachers are available to talk to at the start and end of every day. Please do be mindful that our first priority at this time is getting the children into and out of school safely and we thank you for patience if we need to ask you to wait a moment while we do so. As we learn all your faces, and the children get to know the routine better, the process will get quicker. We will always come to see you once the children are safely in / out of school. You can also book appointments with us (via the school office) if you need to speak more privately.
- At the end of the day please be mindful of where you stand. A lot of grown-ups can be overwhelming and intimidating for small children who are trying to find their adult. Please stand back away from the covered area and be mindful that if you cannot see the teachers, they may not be able to see you. We thank you for the support you have shown with this.
- Parents Evenings are taking place for the whole school on 15th and 22nd October. Look out for an email to sign up for appointments. We would remind you that appointment slots go quickly so it is best to book early to avoid disappointment. We are looking forward to meeting with you all and talking about how your child is getting on.
- Parent helpers are always welcome. If you would like to come in and help read with children, please speak to Mrs Johnstone.
- Tapestry – Accounts are being set up for you and your children. You will receive an email in the next two weeks with instructions about how to activate your account. Please keep an eye on your junk folder in case the email goes into there by mistake. If your child was in our Nursery last year, then your account remains active from then. A letter explaining about Tapestry was in your welcome pack.

Below you will find a brief overview of what we will be learning as part of our autumn topic 'Terrific Transport'. We have included some suggestions of things you can do to support your child at home – please try to do these. On behalf of the team, I'd like to thank you for choosing to join our Stopsley family. We are excited for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Johnstone, Miss Hurley and Miss Ludlow

Headteacher: Mr R Fordham

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs N Broderick

Office Manager: Mrs A Collins

Safeguarding Leader: Ms D Mann

Assistant Headteachers: Mr J Dymock, Mrs M Johnstone and Mrs R Rhodes



Phonics



This term:

At Stopsley we follow a systematic Phonics scheme called 'Supersonic Phonic Friends' Lessons happen daily and we have spent the first full week recapping and ensuring children are secure in Phase 1.

This phase introduces one of the 'friends', Listening Len, and concentrates on developing children's listening skills, awareness of rhyme and alliteration and tunes them into distinguishes between different sounds. This phase is vital in making sure children are ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills necessary for reading and writing.

Most children will now begin Phase 2. This is where we begin to teach children letter names and the sounds (phonemes) they make in sets. As soon as a set of letters is introduced, children will be encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words (skills for reading and writing). They will come home with a set of new sounds approx. once a week and they will be accompanied by a parent newsletter.

To support at home you could:

- Read often with your child at home – story books, information books and comics – anything they enjoy!
- Watch a YouTube video which shows how each Phase 2 phoneme should be pronounced
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlpcaxNSU4>
 - Play 'I spy' – great way for getting children tuned into the initial sounds of words
- Once your child starts coming home with the phoneme cards, practise them as often as you can and start searching for them in books, on signs etc.

Maths



This term:

The first few weeks will be about us getting to know the children and what they already know, how confident they are and then using that information to plan for their next steps. Our focus area will then be Numbers – Counting and recognition. We follow NCETM Mastering Number and White Rose Maths to support the children's learning.

We will have whole class carpet times, small group activities and opportunities for children to apply their knowledge in their own play. The expectation is that by the end of the half term all children will be able to:

- Recognises all numbers 0 to 5 **or** 0 – 10 confidently and consistently
- Understand the value of each number for example, What makes 5? How can you show 5 in different ways?
 - Count up to three or four objects accurately, 1 at a time.
 - Selects the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5 objects.

To support at home you could:

- Count regularly – forwards and backwards 0 – 5 or 0 – 10
 - Spot numbers when out and about



Literacy



This term:

Our topic is 'Terrific Transport'. Our focus text will be 'The Train Ride'

The children will learn the story off by heart, using a story map to support them. We will look in-depth at the characters, vocabulary and the setting of the story. We will compare the story to others and look closely at similarities and differences. We will use our class story map to teach children about how a story is structured and to explore the beginning, middle and end.

New vocabulary is a vital part of our learning journey in Reception. We will explore new words and discuss what they mean. There will be a focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills as these are important for future development of reading and writing skills.

We will also be teaching children to write their own name using correct letter formation. The expectation is that by the end of the half term all children will be able to:

- Develop a wider vocabulary and show an interest in new words
- Listen to and join in with stories and poems, one-to-one and also in small groups.
- Join in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.
 - Begin to be aware of the way stories are structured.
 - Describe main story settings, events and characters.
- Give meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint.
 - Write their own name, with some letters correctly formed

To support at home you could:

- Read often with your child at home, story books, information books, comics – anything they enjoy!
 - Talk about books and stories – what happened? What might happen next? Who were the characters? Where did the story happen? What was your favourite part?
 - Practice name writing at home using laminated name cards we send home
 - Practice holding a pencil correctly at home

Other areas of learning

'Wow Weeks'

One week out of each half term we have special activities planned which will be linked to the children's development in Personal, Social and Emotional development, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design. These areas will be covered throughout the term however these focus 'WOW weeks' allow us to shine a spotlight on them and support children's development and curiosity.

This half term some of our activities will be:

- Creating a collaborative giant train in our deconstructed role play area
 - Working as a team to create a 'Field of flowers' painting
- Learning about festivals and celebrations from our own and our new friends lives
 - Creating Christmas decorations

PE

Formal PE lessons will begin after Christmas. Children do not need PE kit until then.

Until then Physical Development will be supported through our outdoor learning environment including the climbing frame and wall, bikes and scooters, hoops, bats, balls and obstacle courses created for the children. We will also be developing the children's fine motor skills through activities such as threading, playdough and tweezer games.

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Assistant Headteachers: Mr J Dymock, Mrs M Johnstone and Mrs R Rhodes