



Stokenham Area Primary School Newsletter 2023-24/04

Friday 29th September 2023

www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are in full Autumn term swing here in school. Next week we have our Harvest Festival and Year 6 are going on our first school trip of the academic year!

Our School Council members have shared ideas with staff this week about various events and ideas they have for the academic year.



Our Harvest Festival is wonderful event which is held in St Michaels Church here in Stokenham. The children love to sing the harvest songs that they have been practicing in school, and are very proud to see family members and carers in the congregation. Please come along and see what the children have been preparing - it starts at 10am. There is lots of parking and the PTFA are providing refreshments afterwards.

Bake Sale for Harvest Festival - please can you help?



The PTFA are organising a Bake Sale for Harvest Festival. If you have a child in **Reception or Year 1** please could you bring to the church on Friday 6th a cake, a small plate of cakes or some cookies or biscuits for the PTFA to serve with tea/coffee after the Harvest Festival performance.

All Parents and Carers are invited to stay at the church after the performance to meet and chat and enjoy refreshments. If your child is in **Years 2 to 6** please bring to school by 3pm a cake, small plate of cakes, cookies or biscuits to be sold immediately after school next Friday. If your child travels by bus please send them to school with a suggested donation of £1 if you are happy for them to buy some cake etc at the end of the school day. Please be mindful of our **No Nut Policy**

Theatre Royal - Plymouth

Next Thursday our Year 6 will be off to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see 'The House with Chicken Legs!' The trip is set up on Parent Pay, please complete the necessary consent form, questions, payment and ordering of a packed lunch from the school kitchen if you need one. The children will travel to Plymouth by Tally Ho! coach leaving school mid-morning and returning at approximately 5.30pm.



Year 6 Civic Award

Letters have gone out today about the Torbay and Devon Civic Award. The Civic Award does a great deal to develop children's character. It encourages them to be compassionate and to take responsibility for positive change. It also supports them in leading purposeful and full lives and is great preparation for both secondary school and the workplace. Children who take part in the Torbay and Devon Civic Award report that it helps them learn skills of working both collaboratively and independently, skills of managing and organising events and makes them feel 'grown up'. It certainly builds self-esteem and confidence. We hope that this year our Year 6 children will participate fully.

To achieve the award, pupils have to demonstrate their participation in five main areas. These are:

- **Active Citizenship in their school community.** This could be Team Captains, Eco -council members, Reading Buddies, School Council members or other positions of trust and responsibility in school.
- **Active Citizenship in their home communities.** Pupils can take part in beach cleans, bulb planting, helping at Brownies/Cubs/sports clubs and looking after people in their community. Pupils may also work with others to organise events in school to support local charities.
- **A physical hobby(ies) and a non-physical hobby(ies).** Pupils should spend an average of 30 minutes a week on each of their hobbies. One of them needs to be new to the child from the September of their Year 6 year.
- **Residential experience and adventure training.** This entails sleeping away from home and taking part in outdoor challenges, stretching themselves and showing a willingness to learn new skills.
- Children also need to adopt a cause or charity which they feel strongly about. They need to research it carefully and find ways of demonstrating their support for it.

For those candidates who take part and pass the assessment, an award ceremony will take place next Summer with awards and certificates will be given out. Our Year 6 are already very excited and thinking about events they could organise for this. We wish them lots of luck in undertaking this fabulous challenge - they will do us proud!

Swimarathon - Friday 13th October

Stokenham have always done extremely well at this event raising £1000's of pounds towards the various nominated charities and for Stokenham School. This year we would like to enter 8 teams from year groups 4 through to 6 for the Annual Swimarathon.



If your child would like to take part full details about the event are now on Parent Pay.

- The event will take place during the school day on Friday 13th October.
- Each team will take it in turns to swim as many lengths as possible in 55 minutes.
- Your child MUST be able to swim a full length of the Quayside pool.
- **Please confirm your child's attendance via the Parent Pay system as soon as possible so we can sort out teams. Thank you.**

Christmas Cards!

Please remember to return your child's Christmas card design to school by next Monday, October 2nd. Please note that the design must be portrait and not landscape! If you miss the deadline then the card will not be printed! We look forward to seeing all the lovely Christmas-inspired designs.

Data Collection Information

The deadline has now passed but we are still short of some of your data collection sheets! **ALL data sheets need to be returned.** It is vitally important that this information is up to date for every child in school and particularly with regard to any contact details or medical information the school needs to be aware of. Please return any forms on Monday morning. Thank you.

Medicines in School

A reminder that at school we are not permitted to administer medications of any kind to children without you as the parent or carer completing, signing and handing in a 'green form' to the office. We can only administer medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor. We do not keep medicines of any kind at school and children must not be sent to school with any kind of medicine from home to take during the day. If you are in any doubt please contact the office.

Transfer to Secondary School

The application process for secondary schools is now open on the Devon County Council website. Please see link below. The closing date is 31st October. Any queries should be directed to Devon County Council on 0345 155 1019.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

Pupil Premium

If, due to your financial situation, your child has Free School Meals (not to be confused with Universal Free Schools Meals for those children in Reception and Years 1 and 2) your child will qualify for Pupil Premium and you will be allocated £100 to spend in school on specific items. See examples below. Each time you would like the school to use your child's allocation you can let us know and we will deduct it from their Pupil Premium account.

School Trips & Residential

Each time information is sent you can request a contribution towards a trip by letting the school office know.

School Uniform

With your funding you can buy our logoed school uniform and book bags, please speak to Mrs Lewis who will be able to organise this for you.

After School Clubs at School

Some After School Clubs are run at school by external providers and for these activities you may use your funding towards part or full payment.

Music Lessons

A number of music teachers come into our school to deliver private music lessons. Again, please contact the provider in the first instance to see whether they have availability and to organise a block of lessons and they can invoice school directly.

What if my circumstances change?

Don't worry, we will not ask you to refund the £100 even if your circumstances change. We will only ask for a refund if you spend over the £100. If you need to find out the balance on your child's Pupil Premium Fund please contact the school office. Please note, however, that if you have an unspent balance at the end of the year (cut off 1st March 2024) it does not carry forward into the next Financial Year.

If you feel that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please see Mrs Lewis in the office who will be able to help you. All enquiries will be in strictest confidence.

Around the School this Week

This week Year 4 enjoyed a virtual author visit from Maz Evans (who wrote the "Who Let The Gods Out! series). She talked about her new book 'Oh Maya Gods!' which continues the adventures with Vesper and Aster who take on the world's worst behaved immortals including Maya bad boy, Kizin. Maz told us about her favourite childhood author (Roald Dahl) and the writing process. She also shared how her books have been translated all over the world, including South Korea and Germany. Her advice to budding writers? "Read, read, read and read some more!"



The Reception children are enjoying their weekly forest school sessions in our wonderful grounds, exploring the various areas and identifying and describing different plants and trees with interest.



If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me
Have a lovely weekend.

With best Wishes

T. Coulthard

Tess Coulthard
Executive Headteacher