



Stokenham Area Primary School Newsletter 2023-24/15
Friday 5th January 2024

www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope 2024 will be a positive one for all of us! The children were so excited to see each other again on Wednesday morning - the playground was buzzing! They have bounced back into school with renewed energy, glad to see their friends again and already working hard. We are so proud of them.



Attached to this newsletter you will find curriculum letters for each year group outlining the planning for teaching and learning for this term. These letters can also be found in the school website.



The Reception children have settled back into school after the Christmas break, excited to be back with their teachers and friends. They have particularly enjoyed playing with the new puppet theatre that was magically delivered by Father Christmas! The children would be very grateful for any kind donations to add to their puppet collection to further enhance their communication skills and storytelling.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Please could we ask that instead of recycling your old Christmas Tree with the bin collection, could you drop it off at school? Every year the children use your trees to make dens with in our Forest School area. If you could leave the trees on the grass area, next to the school gate, we can drag them in from there.



A polite reminder about dogs on school premises

Please could I remind you all that we do not permit dogs on the school site, whether on foot or being carried. It has been both Devon County Council and our school policy for a very long time. You will see notices on the school gates and on the noticeboard at the school entrance. Thank you for complying.



Lunchtime and After-School Clubs

Our programme of lunchtime and after school clubs will start next week. The clubs are always very popular and the children love them! A letter has been sent out and all clubs will be published on the parent pay system as of 4pm this afternoon. Parents must complete a consent form via Parent Pay and **NOT** through the class teacher or Mrs Lewis in the office.

Clubs Timetable

Monday	After School Karate with Caroline - Years 1 and 2 - (Please contact Caroline direct for more details on carolinetolo786@gmail.com)
Tuesday	No Clubs - Staff Training
Wednesday	Year 1 and Year 2 Lunchtime Recorder Club - On Parent Pay Years 2 to 6 After School Music and Choir Club (please contact Abi Tucker direct for more details on abi.tucker1@outlook.com Year 6 Booster Club - TBC
Thursday	Plymouth Argyle (External provider) After School Football Club - book direct at: https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/argyle/pl-stokenham-after-school-club-3.html After School Karate with Caroline - Years 3 to 6 - (Please contact Caroline direct for more details on carolinetolo786@gmail.com)
Friday	Year 1 and Year 2 Lunchtime Mindfulness Club - On Parent Pay KS2 After School Achieve4All Club www.achieve4all.co.uk

PE Time Table

Monday	Year 1 and 2
Tuesday	Year 4
Wednesday	Year 3
Thursday	Years 5 and 6
Friday	Reception, Year 1, 2, 4 to 6

Reading Ambassadors Recommendations

Year 5 Ambassadors Lily and Dillon really enjoy their recommendation "Loki" by Louie Stowell. It's all rather funny and written a bit like a diary, full of comic strips and doodles. Loki is a 'naughty' pranker God and is always playing tricks. Each time he does a naughty prank he is banished to Middle Earth. He has to be good to be allowed back to Earth! One of the funny bits is how he describe teachers: "A teacher is an adult human who imprisons children during the day, and yells facts at them". Um..... not sure about that!



School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals

School meals **MUST** be ordered and paid for in advance via Parent Pay. Prices are as follows:

- £2.40 per day
- £12.00 per week
- £67.20 for this half term



If you experience any difficulties ordering or booking meals please speak to Mrs Lewis in the office.

If you feel that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, due to your financial circumstances, please contact Devon County Council either by phone on 0345 155 1019 or by visiting their website portal at: https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE

Primary School Applications - a message from Devon County Council Admissions

*"If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, they will be due to start primary school in September 2024. For the best chance of getting them a space at your preferred school, make sure you apply by the deadline of **Monday 15th January 2024**. You can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissiononline*

You will find lots of information on our education website to help you with your application, including a step-by-step guide and a link to the online portal to submit your application. If you are unable to apply online, you can call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 and request a paper form."

It is very important you make an application - your child's name MUST be on the list for your preferred school to have any chance of starting at that school in September 2024

Attendance

Below is a table showing the attendance figures at school, for each class for last term. Our achievement of 94.4% is unfortunately below the required level as stipulated by the DFE but is very much a reflection of the winter illnesses we experienced last term. We thank all our parents for your continued support.

Attendance Data
Autumn Term 2023
05th September 2023 to 15th December 2023

Class	%
Reception	94.2
Year 1	94.75
Year 2	95.7
Year 3	94.5
Year 4	94.3
Year 5	95.4
Year 6	93.5
Whole School	94.6

It is really important that we accurately record our attendance data, so if your child is absent please telephone or email Mrs Lewis on 580 551 or stokenham@southhamsfederation.org.uk Regular attendance has a positive effect on the motivation and attainment of pupils. We believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships and gain the most benefit from their learning. Please keep in mind that missed days easily mount up and it is easy to underestimate the amount of time your child may miss throughout the year. It is a government legal requirement that all children should attend school for 190 days each academic year. The government requirement is that we monitor attendance.

We are legally required to send out letters to parents whose children's attendance falls below a certain level. As part of our commitment to supporting all parents and carers with their child's attendance we will keep you up to date with their attendance percentage each term. Coming home today will be their attendance certificates from Autumn Term 2023.

Snow Plans

We haven't had any snow yet but if we do have any severe weather in the future the following plans will be put into action:



Should We Need to Close the School Before the Start of the Day:

In the event of severe weather, particularly snow, the procedures are as follows:

- If parents feel that it is difficult to transport their children to and from school because of severe weather they should feel free to keep their children at home.
- If parents feel that it may be difficult for school transport to operate they should also feel free to keep their children at home.
- If the School is closed parents will be emailed before 8.30am.
- There will be a message on the School website; <http://stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk/> and we will also notify Devon County Council <http://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure/> so they can put a message on their website. It will also be broadcast via Heart radio.
- Please do not try and call School.

Should We Need to Close the School During the Day:

- In the event of a sudden heavy snowfall during school time we will send emails and text messages to families advising them that we are closing the school.
- If you receive a message saying we are closing the school please reply to this message stating whether your child will be collected and by whom or whether your child should travel on the bus.
- If Tally Ho are not running school transport we will let you know in our message.
- We will look after your child until we have received a response from you.
- **Please contact school through Schoolcomms /email system, to avoid the school phone line becoming clogged.**

Please note that there could be a considerable delay before buses leave school because:

- a) Drivers cannot be on permanent standby
- b) We cannot allow children to leave school until we are sure they will be met at the end of their journey.

School staff will not leave the premises themselves until all children have been collected.

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

With best Wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Coulthard".

Tess Coulthard
Executive Headteacher

The Week Ahead - Menu Week 2

Monday 8th January	After School Karate with Caroline - Years 1 and 2 Music Lessons with Holly Singing Lessons with Abi
Tuesday 9th January	Singing Lessons with Abi Music Lessons with Rose
Wednesday 10th January	Year 1 & 2 Lunchtime Recorder Club After School KS2 Music and Choir Club
Thursday 11th January	Drum Lessons with Alan After School Karate Year 3 to 6 with Caroline After School Plymouth Argyle Football Club
Friday 12th January	Music Lessons with Monica Year 1 & 2 Lunchtime Mindfulness Colouring Club Forest School Reception and Year 3 Achieve 4 All After School Club

Diary Dates

15 January	Deadline to apply for Primary School - Starting September 2024
24 January	In House Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Tournament at Stokenham - details to follow
31 January	In House Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament at Stokenham - details to follow
2 February	NSPCC Numbers Day - Details to follow
7 February	Visit from Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Gym and Dance Festival at MWSH - details to follow
12 to 16 February	HALF TERM
19 February	Back to School
7 March	World Book Day - details to follow
15 March	Sport Relief Day - details to follow
22 March	Scholastic Book Fair - TBC
25 March	Parents Consultations
26 March	Parents Consultations
28 March	Last day of Spring Term