



Stokenham Area Primary School Newsletter 2023-24/16

Friday 12th January 2024

www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a full-on wintery week in school this week! The East wind has been nipping at our noses at playtime. Whilst it is not spring quite yet, we are hoping for a splendid display of daffodils like last year and so we ask politely that you stay **on the footpaths and off the grass** for the next few weeks please. Thank you.



Whilst the weather is so cold please make sure that your child has a warm coat/hat/gloves (all named please) in school each day. Please also make sure that your child has a clean freshly-filled water bottle each day too.

FINAL REMINDER!

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.

The School Day Begins at 9am Sharp

Our school day starts at 9.00am. The school gates open from 8.45am. Please make sure your children are at school ready to start the day promptly at 9am. Coming in later is disruptive to the other children who are already having lessons. If your child is not attending school due to illness please contact us either via phone or email. Children not present at registration will be marked as late.



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SCHOOL

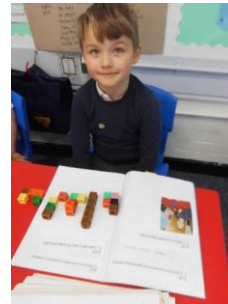


Around the School this week

How lucky our Reception children are to have weekly forest school sessions led by the marvellous Mrs Moore from Forest and Beach! They are continuing to enjoy exploring the glorious grounds, identifying and describing seasonal changes, wildlife and plants and developing a wide range of valuable skills.



Our year 1 class this week in Art have been making simple prints with our fingers using colours to represent Winter. In Maths we have been investigating different ways of making 3D models using multilink cubes. We arranged the cubes in a variety of ways and compared them with our peers.



Our new Computing topic this term in Year 2 is 'Robot Algorithms'. The children are learning how to create programs and write algorithms to make their 'Beebot' move round a given route. This week they had great fun learning about the different functions on the 'Beebots' and were practising moving their Beebot round the classroom.



Budding artist in Year 3! In Art we have been studying Henry Matisse and his technique of 'drawing with scissors'. We sketched interesting objects from a piece of artwork by Japanese woodblock printer Hiroshige and then chose one to collage, using only paper, scissors and glue to make the picture. The collages were full of detail and we really enjoyed the freedom of 'painting with scissors'.



Teddy Bears Party Afternoon for Year 1 - Friday 19th January

Year 1 are ready to celebrate the filling of their Fuzzy Jar! The reward they have chosen is to spend the afternoon having a Teddy Bears Party. Mrs Searle asks that children bring their favourite teddy bear into school (named please) next Friday ready to celebrate an afternoon of fun. Thank you.



In-House Tag Rugby Festival - Wednesday 24th and Wednesday 31st January

Our budding rugby players will be having an In-house festival on Wednesday 24th and Wednesday 31st January. The event will take place straight after school and parents are very welcome to come and watch. If your child would like to take part, please sign up via Parent Pay. Three cheers for Lannacombe, Slapton, Gara and Beesands. Who will be the victory team amongst our house teams?



Gym and Dance Festival Wednesday 7th February

Plans are being made for a Gym and Dance festival which will take place at Malborough Village Hall. Our pupils have been very exciting about performing and have been practicing in earnest for the occasion. More details to follow but if your child is taking part they will need taking to Malborough. As soon as we know more we will of course let you know.



Pedestrian Gate - safeguarding!

We politely request that parents do **NOT** pin open the pedestrian gate at the entrance to the school at the end of the school day. Whilst it may appear more convenient to you as you walk into and out of school - an open gate is an open invitation to children to leave school premises unattended, and as we share the site with 2 pre-schools it is imperative that we consider safeguarding a priority.

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.

Thank you to everyone who donated their Christmas Trees to our Forest School Area. The children have been very busy dragging them up over the last couple of weeks.

It's all about Team Work!



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

With best Wishes

T. Coulthard

Tess Coulthard
Executive Headteacher

The Week Ahead - Menu Week 1

Monday 15th January	After School Karate with Caroline - Years 1 and 2 Music Lessons with Holly Singing Lessons with Abi
Tuesday 16th January	Singing Lessons with Abi Music Lessons with Rose
Wednesday 17th January	Year 1 & 2 Lunchtime Recorder Club After School KS2 Music and Choir Club
Thursday 18th January	Drum Lessons with Alan After School Karate Year 3 to 6 with Caroline After School Plymouth Argyle Football Club
Friday 19th 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

24 January	Forest School for year 3 and Reception - Wednesday this week NOT Friday 26 January
24 January	In House Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament at Stokenham - see above
31 January	In House Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Tournament at Stokenham - see above
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
23 February	National Weigh and Measuring Nursing Team at 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
27 March	Year 2 Theatre Trip - details to follow
28 March	Last day of Spring Term