



Stokenham Area Primary School Newsletter 2023-24/18

Friday 26th January 2024

www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

'A good idea is nothing without a great team'

This week we have been thinking about teamwork. Our staff team members are always flexible and willing to support one another, we also rely on help from our parent helpers for activities such as Tag Rugby, Forest School and lifts to and from KCC for new science experiences. All these things have been going on this week and we couldn't do it without your support.

Tag rugby is all about team work and the children had a great time at our Year 5 and 6 friendly festival this week. **Thank you** to Mrs Taylor and her helpers Mr Taylor, Mr Freeborn and Mr Down for coaching and refereeing and for recruiting so many enthusiastic players. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot of new skills! **Next week it is the turn of Years 3 and 4** - if you have not signed up yet on Parent Pay please make sure to do that so we have all the relevant permissions and details in place. They will have a great time and no experience is required.



thank you! I would also like to say a big **thank you** to our growing team of Helpers in School. We have a number of new volunteer helpers across the school and we are so very grateful for their help in the classrooms and at weekly Forest School sessions. If you would like to volunteer as a regular Helper in School please contact us.

We would love to hear from parents and carers who have a skill, hobby or interest that they might share with the children at a club - knitting, arts and crafts, or a sport or activity such as rugby or running maybe. We would especially like to be able to run Gardening Club as the children enjoy this hugely in the warmer months. Clubs can be at lunchtime or after-school, and a group of parents could run it together. We are open to ideas, please get in touch if you would like to be involved in offering an out of school club for a term.



Finally, I would like to say **thank you** to our wonderful PTFA team who tirelessly work together to run fundraising events for the children and the school. Their enthusiasm has not gone unnoticed and their efforts are very impressive. We are grateful to you, the parents and carers, who make room in your lives to support your children when they attend fundraising events and require lifts and spending money to do so. **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore!



Morning Routines

We have been reminding everyone recently about morning routines in school - the learning day starts at **9am**, and all children need to be in school at before that time for registration. **At this time all parents and carers must leave school premises** so that we can lock the school gates. This is an important part of our safeguarding requirements.



The pedestrian Gate!

In the interests of safeguarding we politely request all parents and carers to refrain from pinning open the pedestrian gate at the school entrance. It will be unlocked at drop-off and pick-up times but must remain closed for the safety and wellbeing of BOTH primary school and pre-school children. Thank you.

Daffodils!

We ask the parents and carers of children in Reception and Year 1 to walk on the path at the front of the school, the daffodils are doing their best to grow and we really don't want to squash them! Thank you.



Can you help please?

We need plastic take-away cartons for mixing paints in the classrooms. Please make sure they are clean - hand them to your child's class teacher or bring them in to the office. Thank you.

Polar Explorer Day - Wednesday 7th February

Hopefully it won't be Polar weather for our Polar Explorer day on Wednesday 7th February. Our Reception children are to come to school dressed as a polar explorer or if they wish a polar animal of their choice e.g. penguin, polar bear, arctic fox, arctic hare, reindeer, snowy owl, seal, walrus?? All very exciting and this does include the staff!

Gym and Dance Festival Wednesday 7th February

We are making plans for a Gym and Dance festival which will take place at Malborough Village Hall. Our pupils are very excited about performing and have been practising in earnest for the occasion. 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.



PTFA School Disco!

Its disco time again, all very exciting! If your child would like to come to the PTFA School Disco on Thursday 8th February please sign up and complete the consent forms via the Parent Pay system. EVERYONE is welcome. The cost of a ticket is a donation of £3.50. This will include cordial, biscuits and a glow stick.

Key Stage 1 (Reception, Y1 & 2)

4.15pm - 5.15pm

Year 3 & 4

5.30pm - 6.30pm

Year 5 & 6

6.45pm - 7.45pm

In-House Tag Rugby Festival



On Wednesday afternoon our Year 5 and 6 children competed in our first in-house tag rugby tournament. There was a buzz of excitement on the school field as the Gara Greens, Lannacombe Lemons, Beesands Blues and Slapton Scarlets warmed up and discussed tactics. With two pitches set up we were able to play 2 matches simultaneously, ensuring that all children were playing at all times. We had 3 closely contested rounds, each team pitting their wits against each other. After much adding up, the results were in: Beesands Blues and Lannacombe Lemons tied in joint third with 7 points each and Gara Greens and Slapton Scarlets were our eventual winners, tying for first place with 11 points each. Congratulations to our winners and a tremendous "Well done" to all of the children who participated - they had an amazing time and left school tired, muddy and in high spirits. Thank you very much to Mr Freeborn and Mr Taylor for refereeing, your help was much appreciated and we couldn't have run the tournament without you. We are looking forward to next Wednesday 31st January, when it is the turn of our Year 3s and Year 4s. Please sign up via Parent Pay but if any problems, just email the school direct if you want your child to take part.

In Year 6 this week we have been busy conducting an investigation about light. The class were exploring what happens to the shadow when there is a change in the distance of the light source from the object. The children worked in small groups to measure the size of the shadows. Next stop, they will be plotting their results into a graph.

News from the Kitchen

This week saw the beginning of our Food Matters campaign. We are teaching the children about food waste, the environmental impact of wasting food and it also allows the kitchen to see where areas of concern are. Each class has a 'bucket' to put their waste food in and at the end of lunch each bowl is weighed. At the end of the week the class with the least waste per child is awarded a trophy. The campaign will last 9 weeks and there will be a grand prize at the end.



Whilst we are encouraging the children to think about what they are wasting, we DON'T want any children going hungry because of the competition. Children have been told that if they are not sure they may like an item of food, they are to ask for a small portion and if they want more they can come and ask.

We hope you can join us with this important campaign by discussing food waste at home. When making menu choices, please discuss with your children to make sure they are choosing options that they like. By pre-booking their meals this ensures all children get to eat what they like and will in turn reduce waste and our school carbon footprint.

If you have any comments or concerns please email school or pop in to see Sharon in the kitchen. Thanks for your support and help. Sharon, Pam and Sharon from the kitchen

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 2

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| Monday 29th January | After School Karate with Caroline - Years 1 and 2 Music Lessons with Holly Singing Lessons with Abi |
| Tuesday 30th January | Singing Lessons with Abi Music Lessons with Rose |
| Wednesday 31st January | Year 1 & 2 Lunchtime Recorder Club Ri Physics at KCC After School KS2 Music and Choir Club Year 3 and 4 In-House Tag Rugby - see above |
| Thursday 1st February | Drum Lessons with Alan After School Karate Year 3 to 6 with Caroline After School Plymouth Argyle Football Club |
| Friday 2nd February | Forest School Reception and Year 3 Music Lessons with Monica Year 1 & 2 Lunchtime Mindfulness Colouring Club Achieve 4 All After School Club |

Diary Dates

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| 2 February | NSPCC Numbers Day - Details to follow |
| 7 February | Reception Class Polar Explorer Day 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 |