



Stokenham Area Primary School Newsletter 2025-26/19
Friday 30th January 2026

www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The days are most definitely getting longer and it is now still light when staff finish work at 5.30pm. Just two more weeks before the half term break and when we return on 23rd February, we will have daylight until about 6pm! There is still much to look forward to in the last 2 weeks of this half term – Year 5 residential, the PTFA disco night, NSPCC numbers day and Polar Explorers for our reception class. We will keep you up to date so please check your inbox and read the newsletter.

We would like to say a fond farewell to Miss Islam who has been at Stokenham since last November. She has been with our Year 2 class teaching as part of her final teaching degree. We wish her all the best and hope that we see her again very soon.



RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch

On Tuesday 27th our Eco Councillors became Citizen Scientists as they took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch. They observed the playing field and the Forest School hedgerow borders for an hour in teams to see which species could be spotted. Despite the blustery weather, several species were seen: Wood pigeon; Blackbird; Robin, Blue and Great tits; Jackdaws; Song thrush; and a Fire Crest, which is the UK's smallest bird.

Josh said, "I liked spotting the Goldcrest, it was really cool because they are quite rare. I like looking out for birds, it's quite fun."

Hope shared her enthusiasm for being part of the Eco Council. "The bird watch we did on Tuesday was so much fun. We could hear the birds whistling in the tree and we even saw a nest! It was so peaceful and calm and I loved seeing all the birds soaring through the sky. My favourite bird was a small blue tit. I can't wait for all the exciting things we will be doing as the Eco Council." Well done to our Eco councillors.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



LET'S GO
ZERO
2030
Schools working together to be zero carbon



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Devon County Football Finals

Unfortunately, the championships were postponed yesterday due to the weather. It will now take place on Thursday 12th February. That gives Team Stokenham two more weeks to practise their tactics to win!



National Child Measurement Programme – Wednesday 4th February

The school nursing team will be at Stokenham next Wednesday 4th February as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. They will be visiting our pupils in reception and year 6. A letter was sent out last October explaining the programme and there was the facility to opt out, should you not wish for your child to be weighed or measured.

Year 5 Residential – Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th February

It's next week! Year 5 are getting very excited about their residential next week. The children come to school at the normal time on **Wednesday 4th February** and will need to be collected at the usual pick-up time on **Friday 6th February**. They will be back in time for school buses if they are a 'bus child'. During the trip, the children will take part in a variety of exciting outdoor activities, including low ropes, archery, climbing wall and Bronze Age Roundhouse. A suggested kit list is coming home today with your child. If you have any questions or last-minute concerns please do not hesitate to contact myself or speak with Miss Woollard. The children are going to have a brilliant time.



Reception Class Polar Day - Thursday 5th February



We hope that it is **not** polar weather next Thursday when our Reception class will be having an exciting polar-themed day. This will be a day to celebrate and further enhance the learning from their polar region topic. We ask that our reception children come to school dressed up as either a polar animal or a polar explorer e.g. penguin, polar bear, arctic hare, arctic fox, reindeer, snowy owl, walrus, or an explorer in warm layers/ski goggles/compass etc.

NSPCC Number Day – Friday 7th February

NSPCC Number Day takes place on the first Friday of February every year, a nationwide event organised by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in the UK. This day combines fun, educational math activities with the important goal of raising funds and awareness for the protection of children. NSPCC Number Day is a unique opportunity for schools, communities, and families to engage in entertaining math-related challenges and games, all while supporting the vital work of the NSPCC. This year we will be wearing normal school uniform but



please add a number of your choice! Use your imagination – it could be your age, your house number, the number of pets you keep or the number of goals your football team has scored this season. We don't mind, and we look forward to seeing which numbers arrive at school!

This week in Computing, Year 1 have been learning how to combine commands to create a sequence. We became mini programmers by inputting our own instructions into the Bee-Bots, guiding them to travel to different locations on our maps. We also made predictions about where the Bee-Bots would move, thinking carefully about how each command would change their route. It was great fun testing our ideas and seeing if our predictions were correct!



This week in year 5, we have been developing our landscape painting skills. We have taken inspiration from artist Kittie Jones and blended water colour painting with fine liner pens. As a class, we did a nature walk around our school grounds and captured interesting trees, bushes and flowers to draw and paint. The results were amazing and the year 5's are very proud of their creations!



The Reception class have been learning about the continents of the world through the *Poles Apart* story, songs, globes, map puzzles and a range of non-fiction topic books. They enjoyed learning additional facts about the polar regions and the interesting animals that live in these cold climates.



Reading Ambassadors

Megan and Jenson from Year 4 told us all about a very moving book they have been reading in class: *Farther* by Grahame Baker Smith, is all about a father who has a dream of flying. He has to go off to war and doesn't come back, which is very sad. His son fulfils the dreams and goes flying, as does his son. The class really enjoyed the book and some, like Megan would love to go flying, Jenson would be ok to go to war but has to come home!



News from the PTFA



The school disco is taking place for **Wednesday 11th February**. Get your dancing shoes on and outfits ready!

Key Stage 1 (Reception, Y1 & 2)	3.40pm – 4.30pm
Year 3 & 4	4.40pm – 5.40pm
Year 5 & 6	5.50pm – 6.50pm

Please sign up and complete the consent and payment via Bromcom/MCAS System. The cost of a ticket is a donation of £3.50. This will include cordial, biscuits and a glow stick. Please email Mrs Lewis the following:

- any dietary requirements, allergies etc.
- Will your child go home on the school bus (if applicable) at the end of the day?
- Who will be collecting your child at the end of the disco?

Please sign up before Tuesday 10th February, Thank you.

Calling all Cake Makers! The PTFA plan to launch a new, fun and delicious fundraiser! We plan to have a monthly cake raffle which will be held in whole-school assembly on a Friday. Only children and staff at the school can have their names in the draw so the winner will be in the room. To help get this set up, the PTFA are looking for cake bakers to cook and donate a cake. Caroline Simpson (PTFA member) is very happy to do one of the proposed dates. More help is needed. Cakes can be any flavour, style and type just **NO NUTS!** An ingredient list will need to be provided with the cake. We are looking for cakes that have great appeal with lots of 'ooohs and ahhhhs', the more the merrier.



The dates for each raffle are: (always the second Friday in the month)

- **Friday 13th February**
- **Friday 13th March**
- None in April as it is the Easter holiday
- **Friday 8th May**
- **Friday 12th June**
- **Friday 10th July**

If you think that you can help with this new fundraiser, please text Caroline on 07745 042 873 and dates can be arranged. Please feel free to ask any questions. Thank you so much for all your support, Caroline Simpson and the PTFA.

Merry-Go-Round-News

"This week we have been making boats, this then turned into looking at floating and sinking. We had lots of fun and showed great concentration when choosing if our items would sink or float. We all got super muddy at Forest School this week, and enjoyed listening to a story in the woods, then making the characters from the story. We loved eating our delicious apple and pear crumbles we made too"



News from Stokenham Explorers

The children of the club have been so busy, playing, creating and having lots of fun over these last few weeks. Building dens, making up some brilliant new games, and creating some amazing drawings and Lego structures. As always, we are so proud of all our members and are delighted to see the beneficial power of play in action. On Thursday afternoon there was an unexpected break in the rain which meant we could take the football club outside on the playground for some much-needed fresh air. They gave it their all and it's so great to see their passion for the sport and how much they have all improved over these last few weeks. Our star players for this week goes to Jemima and Lennie from KS2 and Alfie and Dan Dan from KS1. Well done everyone. If you would like any further details regarding Thursday After School Football Club and/or the Wrap Around Care we offer – please contact Caroline Baldwin direct 07967 318 114 or e-mail us on stokenhamexplorers@outlook.com

For bookings please use this link <https://eegu.org/book/stokenham-explorers-wraparound-carewith-stokenham-explorers-20225>

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best Wishes



Tess Coulthard
Executive Headteacher

The Week Ahead

Monday 2 nd February	Abi Tucker Singing Lessons After-School Choir with Abi
Tuesday 3 rd February	Lunchtime Mindfulness Yoga club
Wednesday 4 th February	Year 5 leave for residential – See Above Reception & Year 6 - National Measurement Programme – See above Lunchtime Times Tables Club After School Laura Darvell Ecotherapy Club
Thursday 5 th February	Reception Polar Explorer Day – See Above Lunchtime Recorder Club After School Arts and Crafts Club After School Football with Stokenham Explorers Alan Inglis-Faulkner Drum lessons
Friday 6 th February	NSPCC Numbers Day – See Above Monica Chapman Music lessons Forest School Reception and Year 3 Year 5 back from residential – see above

Dates for your Diary

Day & Date	Times	Year	Event
Wednesday 11 February	PM	All	PTFA School Disco – See Above
Monday 16 to Fri 20 Feb		All	HALF TERM
Thursday 5 March	All Day	All	World Book Day – details to follow
Monday 9 March	PM	2	Dental Workshop - details to follow
Wednesday 18 March	All Day	All	Devon County Cricket Day – details to follow
Friday 20 March	All Day	All	Comic Relief Red Nose Day – details to follow. Link to donate is below: Just Giving is fundraising for Comic Relief
Monday 30 March	AM PM	R and 6 All	Tempest Photography Parent Consultations – details to follow
Tuesday 31 March	PM	All	Parent Consultations – details to follow
Wednesday 1 April	PM		Netball Festival – to be confirmed
Thursday 2 April		All	Last Day of Spring Term

Monday 20 April	AM	All	First Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 22 April		6	Sailing in Salcombe – details to follow
Wednesday 29 April		6	Sailing in Salcombe – details to follow
Monday 4 May		All	Bank Holiday – No School
Tuesday 5 May	All Day	3	Residential Day – letter sent out
Monday 11 to Fri 15 May	All Day	6	SATS Week
Monday 11 to Fri 15 May	All Day	5	Bikeability Week
Tuesday 19 May	PM	6	KCC Presentation to Year 6 pupils & parents
Mon 25 to Fri 29 May		All	HALF TERM
Wed 17 to Thurs 18 June	All Day	4	Residential – letter sent out
Mon 22 to Wed 24 June	All day	6	Residential – letter sent out
Wednesday 1 July	PM		Cross Country – to be confirmed
Thursday 2 July	All Day	6	KCC Induction Day – to be confirmed
Wednesday 8 July	PM		Swimming Gala – to be confirmed
Friday 10 July	PM	All	PTFA Fair
Wednesday 15 July	PM		Rounders Tournament – to be confirmed
Friday 17 July		All	Last Day of Summer Term