



# STOKE HILL JUNIOR

## AUTUMN TERM, ISSUE 33

December 2025

### DATES

**Y3 Kents Cavern  
Trip  
4th/5th December**

**Festive Daily  
Exercise Run  
10th December**

**Festive Jumper  
Day  
11th December**

**Rock Steady  
Concert  
12th December**

**Y4/Y6 Phoenix  
15th December**

**Y4 Production  
15th December  
5.00pm**

**Y3/Y5 Phoenix  
16th December**

**Y4 Production  
16th December  
2.00pm**

**Christmas Dinner  
17th December**

**Break up  
19th December**

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of term, there are many things going on in school and a number of changes ahead of January 2026.

Over the next 3 weeks I will contact you to make you aware of,

- 1) A new mobile phone policy
- 2) A reset with PE kits
- 3) New end of the day collection arrangements

We are constantly looking at ways to make small improvements that support the children and their families, so please take a few minutes to read these when they are sent to you.

December will also see the children taking part in many festive activities. Please take a moment to check the dates that apply to your child.

We know that many of you will be buying jumpers for December 11th and our Festive Jumper Day to raise awareness of the Save the Children charity. Children will also be able to wear this jumper on the Federation Christmas Dinner day (17th) and our Winter Fair (18th). The Winter Fair is an annual event led by our year 6 children. It is the culmination of a piece of learning called Young Entrepreneurs . No money is required, it is not a fundraiser and takes place during the morning in the school hall.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Whatever your plans are, enjoy the holidays and see you all back at school on Tuesday 6th January 2026!

Jamie Sullivan  
Head of School

### School Champions

The following children received school awards in reading, kindness, maths and sustainability during the last month:

**Writing:** Scarlett (6G), Connie (6B), Lissi (4F)

**Kindness:** Emily (3M), Zoe (4DP), Robyn (5G)

**Maths:** Eva (3B), Sadaf (5J), Sofia (4T)

**Sustainability:** Isaac (6P), Mimi (4DP), Eddie (3M)



## Fancy a bargain?

If you're clearing out or wanting to pick up some great finds for your children, check out The Secondhand Craft Shop & Thrift Warehouse. It's a welcoming, not-for-profit community shop based out of Marsh Barton. They accept donations of children's clothes, toys, books and more. You can explore and find DVDs, dinner sets - even school shoes!

Their "Thrift Warehouse" is full of lovely, affordable pre-loved items from clothes and toys to party supplies and seasonal décor. Its fancy dress section even makes it an ideal find for events like Christmas Jumper Day, Red Nose Day and World Book Day! Many items just £1!

You can drop in at Unit 2, 8 Marsh Green Rd N, Marsh Barton, EX2 8NY to see what lovely treats they have on offer!

## PTFA Update

What an amazing term it's been! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our events over the last few months. Our Fireworks Night lit up the sky and raised an incredible £4,897, and Bags 2 School added a brilliant £123. We've loved seeing so many of you using the second-hand uniform rail at the Infants, getting involved with the uniform sales at the Juniors, and of course, attending our weekly cake sales—your sweet tooth is helping us do great things!

Looking ahead to next term, we've got even more fun in store: more cake sales, an Easter Egg Hunt, the Summer Fair, and tea towel design and sales at the Infant School, plus other exciting surprises in the pipeline – such as the well-loved quizzes potentially being resurrected! Watch this space!

And finally, a massive thank you to all our amazing supporters—whether you baked a cake, worked tirelessly in the dark at fireworks, donated Lego or simply came along to join the fun at one of the events, your contributions make a real difference to our school community. We couldn't do it without you!



Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year from Stoke Hill PTFA!

## Mobile Phones

Please look out for details of our new policy in the next week. It will give clear guidance and support to parents around mobile phones and smart watch use in school. We know that parents feel under pressure more than ever with new technology and we will be clear on what and which aged children will be allowed to bring items to school, whilst supporting their safe use.

## Mental Health at Stoke Hill

Below are three short Parenting Smart video clips and help cards you may find useful at this time of year:

**"Managing emotions during busy seasons"**

**"Building calm routines on darker days"**

**"Supporting children through winter worries"**

You can find these and other resources here:

Parenting Smart – Short Videos and Help Cards <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

As always, thank you for your continued support. By looking out for each other, we can help ensure all our children feel safe, supported, and well this winter.

## School Office Notice

At this time of year we know that many parents may change their mobile phones. If this means that you have a new number, please remember to update the school office with your new details.

Please all remember to complete an Absence Request form if you know that your child will be off of school. Just pop in and you can do it there and then at the front of-  
fice.

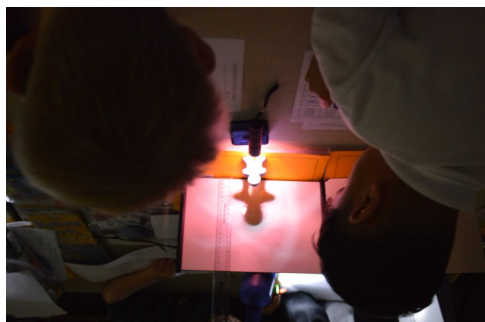


## Christmas/ (Festive) Jumper Day

We will again be encouraging children to join us on **Thursday 11th December** to raise awareness of the Save the Children organisation. This **Thursday (4th)** we have organised the opportunity after school to bring an old jumper and purchase another donated one. If you would like to support this cause you can follow the link to make a donation. <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>



## Around the Junior School



November has been a really busy month across the school. It's been lovely to see so many parents at the year 6 class assemblies and all of you at the Parent Pop In.



12 Days Wild is Devon Wildlife Trust's festive nature challenge, encouraging you to do one wild thing a day from the 25th December to the 5th January each year. In those quiet days between Christmas and New Year, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored!

Your wild acts could be little things to help nature - like recycling your Christmas tree or feeding the birds – or ways to connect to the natural world, like trying stargazing. Sign up to receive a digital pack to help you to take part.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild>



The poster features a blue background with white snowflakes. At the top left, the text 'Let's go' is in green, and '12 Days Wild' is in large, bubbly orange letters. A robin is perched on the '12'. At the top right is the Wildlife Trusts logo, which includes a stylized animal head and the text 'The Wildlife Trusts'. The challenges are arranged in a grid of white boxes, each with a date, an icon, and a description. The dates range from Dec 25 to Jan 5. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text 'Tell us how you plan to make time for nature this year!' and the hashtag '#12DaysWild' in orange. A white rabbit is on the right side of the banner, and a bird is on the left.

**Let's go**  
**12 Days Wild**

**The Wildlife Trusts**

**Dec 25**  
Go for a Christmas walk and challenge yourself to spot three different species. Share what you discover with us. 

**Dec 26**  
Go stargazing and share your snaps! 

**Dec 27**  
Find out 3 interesting facts about a species and let us know what you uncover!

**Dec 28**  
How many trees can you spot out on a walk? 

**Dec 29**  
Write a winter themed story or poem. 

**Dec 30**  
Set some eco New Year's resolutions! 

**Dec 31**  
Make Eco-decorations – check out our website for more details 

**Jan 1**  
Happy New Year! Tag us in your first picture of 2026! 

**Jan 2**  
How many nature treasures can you collect? Pinecones, leaves, twigs. GO WILD! 

**Jan 3**  
Leave presents for nature. Top up birdfeeders, make shelters for wildlife.

**Jan 4**  
Take a look at our festive spotting sheet and see how many you can tick off!

**Jan 5**  
Learn how to ID bird calls like a pro!

Tell us how you plan to make time for nature this year!  
**#12DaysWild**