



STOKE HILL JUNIOR

October 2023

AUTUMN TERM, ISSUE 11

DATES

Year 6 Residential
Week @Heatree
2nd October –6th
October

Parent's Evening
9th and 11th
October 3.20-
6.00pm

Book Fair
9th October

PTFA Meeting
9.00am and Infant
School

School Photo-
graphs
17th October

Last day of half
term
20th October

Halt Term
23rd –27th
October

Deadline for
Year 6 to apply for
High Schools
31st October

Dear Parents and Carers

September has literally flown by and the children have begun to settle into the routines of school life once again. We welcomed 93 new year 3 children and 10 other children across the school at the beginning of the year. Communication is a really important aspect to ensure a successful year and we will aim to provide you with regular reminders, without overwhelming you. We work really hard with children 'using their voice' to tell us what's going well and what they might need some support with. It's great to see the confidence developing in so many, so young.

There are always a couple of things that we need to remind you about at the start of the year, so please don't be offended if you've heard them already. Firstly we ring the school bell at 8.30am to allow the children time to come in smoothly for a register at 8.40am. We are having some children arriving from 8.10am, where they are unsupervised. With gates open to allow staff to park they are simply having to stand around. There really is no need for anybody to arrive before 8.25am, allowing 15minutes to begin the school day. A quick, but extremely important reminder that we are a no nut school. Please ensure no product in a lunch box contains nuts. We ask that healthy snacks are brought in for break, if you feel your child needs one and that no sweets should be part of a snack or packed lunch. It simply helps us to reinforce the healthy eating message to the children.

There are so many great things coming up between now and Christmas. We have assemblies, productions, swimming, trips and a brilliant PTFA Fireworks Display. For now I hope you enjoy reading the many exciting things that have already happened throughout this month's newsletter.

Jamie Sullivan
Head of School

School Champions

The following children received school awards in reading, writing or maths during the last month:

Reading: Annabel (4B), Ethan (4G), Daniel (5P)

Writing: Jack (3M), Seb (5W), Freddie (3B)

Maths: Rosie (5J), Amelie (6M), Imogen (6AM)



Parent Teacher Interviews

October 9th and 11th

Shortly we have the first opportunity for parents to hear from their child's teacher about how they have started the year. The meetings take place in the school hall and we ask that parents wait outside of the hall until the time of their appointment. Each appointment is 10 minutes and if it appears the conversation needs to be longer, the teachers will arrange a separate time. It's our way of sticking to time for other parents, so they are not kept waiting. You will be given some of your child's books by the teacher to look at with your child at your leisure. Also we have a book fair during this week and so you can purchase books after your meeting if you so wish. We look forward to seeing you all.

Have Fun Year 6

Heatree House Residential

This week 80 year 6 children have gone to Dartmoor for 4 nights for a wonderful set of outdoor activities. Whilst it's a bit nerve wracking for some to be away from home at first, it always turns out to be one of the highlights of the children's time at the school. The children will share their experiences with parents during Class Assemblies after half term.



School Council

Pupils continue to develop their understanding of two key British values; democracy and mutual respect as The School Council was launched for this academic year. Those wishing to be elected presented brilliantly to their class, so many more were worthy of being elected. Pupils in each class had a vote and the school council were delighted to hold their first meeting of the year and receive their new badges! Pupils will have the opportunity to be elected each term. Congratulations to all.

Help needed

At Stoke Hill Junior school we would love to take our school garden to the next level and plan to increase the amount of produce we grow. To do this we are revamping the garden and will be erecting a new polytunnel. To help us achieve our vision of a school garden that enables children to sow, grow, cook and eat we need help! We are looking for volunteers to become part of our team and offer a small amount of time at regular intervals throughout the growing season (March-October.) Equally we want volunteers to be part of the journey from the start of the revamp so that they can also share in the success and see our school garden grow from strength to strength. We are seeking volunteers NOW! If you enjoy gardening, talking to children and making a difference to your community please contact Mrs Sarah Padbury via the school office 01392 667830 or via email admin@stokehill.devon.sch.uk, FAO Mrs Padbury. Thank you!

School Office Notice

It is very helpful for you to pre order lunches on the Gateway App (before 8am each day). Please can you make sure you do this if you know your child will be missing at morning registration. Meals are prepared using the figure given to the kitchen after registration each morning so we can't always accommodate late arrivals if they haven't been pre-ordered, which may mean some children may not get their chosen meal. Many thanks for your support.



School Parent Survey

Each month we are keen to hear parent views. The survey takes a matter of seconds to complete. If you copy the link below into your browser you should be able to access it. We'll share the findings in the next newsletter (go to page 4 to see the results from July).



<https://app.myschoolwellbeing.com/survey/begin/245/parent>

Around the Junior School

Each month we'll share with you some of the things going on around the school and September has been a busy start.



Touch typing in year 5.

Lots of hands up with right answers in year 3.

Future tennis champions in year 6.

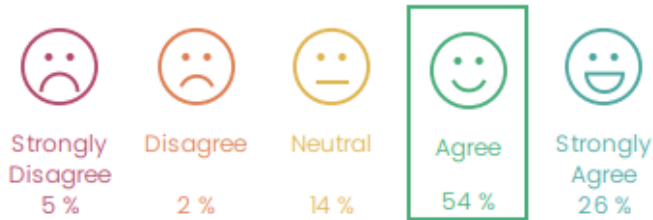
Concentration during maths in year 4.

Plenty of playing with friends at break times.



School Survey - July 2023

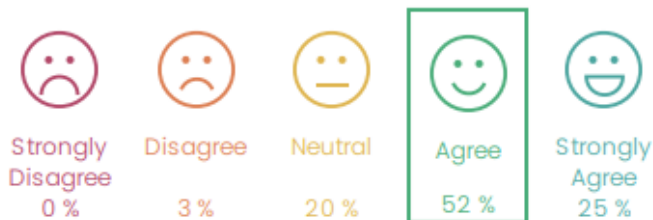
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn throughout the year (School life)



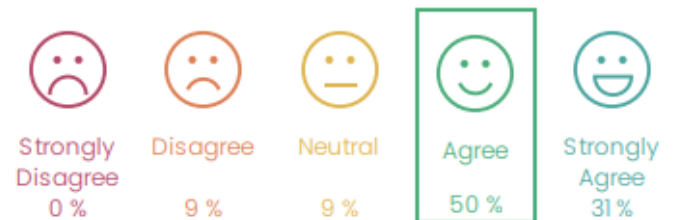
My child's teacher keeps me informed (Class life)



The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved (School Leadership)



The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved (School Culture)



I would recommend the school to other parents



Parents are given the opportunity to comment against any of the questions. Below are a sample of the comments and our response.

The school was particularly supportive to my child and our family during difficult times.

We understand that at times, children coming to school is hard as they experience challenges and traumas. Our staff are empathetic and try to signpost families to the right support.

I think communication still needs to be worked on. Some things we receive a lot of email and other none.

Striking the right balance for all families is difficult. We aim through calendars and newsletters to give notice of events, whilst sending reminders nearer the time. Sometimes reminders about payments have to be more regular. We will continue to seek ways to make this the best it can be.

My daughter is thriving at the junior school, enjoys it, loves going to school and doing all of the lessons.

Thank you for letting us know that the hard work of all of the staff is really making school a happy place for your daughter.

I like the Parent Pop Ins, but they are always on the same day and I work and can't make them.

We've listened to what you have told us and this year they are on different days. Check your annual calendar that we sent you, but we'll remind you by email bearer the time.