

STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL



January 2023

SPRING TERM, ISSUE 4

DATES

4th Jan Term starts

10th Jan
Devon Fire
Service work-
shops in Y2

12th Jan 9-10am
Early Years
Speech and Lan-
guage Coffee
Morning

Spring Term
Learning Webs
sent home
13th January

1st Feb Early Years
Little Wandle
parent workshop

7th and 8th Feb
Parents' Evenings

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to first take the opportunity to wish you a very happy new year. I hope everyone had a lovely break, found time to spend with family and friends and is feeling rested and positive about the year ahead. We are delighted to welcome you and your children back for another exciting term at Stoke Hill. As you will see from the calendar, there are a number of events planned in and many more in the pipeline. You will be informed of any upcoming events via School Gateway, or Tapestry if your child is in Nursery or Reception.

There continue to be lots of illnesses about—please use the School Gateway app to keep us informed on the morning of any absence so we know where the children are.

With best wishes for 2023,

Claire McKimm
Head of School

Christmas Dinner

We enjoyed a delicious dinner from Katie and her team, accompanied by decorations, hats and Christmas songs.



Early Years Orchestra Visit

It was wonderful to have so many Nursery and Reception family members join us in school on the last Wednesday of term. The Early Years team quickly transformed the hall from Christmas dinner to performance space and the visiting orchestra warmed up ready for their two performances. It never fails to warm my heart when young children sing, and it certainly put us all in a very festive mood as they sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Thank you to the Early Years team for all their hard work in making it happen and to all the family members who came to watch.

Year 1 Festive Singalong

The Year 1s treated us to two wonderfully festive singalongs on 9th December. It was so brilliant to see their confidence and performance skills grow during rehearsals and they really rose to the occasion once they had an audience in front of them. Thank you to all the Year 1 team for putting the show together; well done to the children for being such fabulous performers and thank you to everyone who came to watch.

Phoenix Trip

For the first time since before Covid, Year 1 and 2, along with the Junior School, went to the Phoenix Theatre to watch Quirk Theatre's performance of Mary the Pigeon Who Never Gave Up. It was such an exciting outing, with a coach trip and a first visit to the theatre for many.

I wasn't fortunate enough to see the show (I'm told there was a pigeon called Mrs McKimm!), but was amazed to find out that it's based on a real pigeon, Mary of Exeter, who received a medal For outstanding endurance on War Service in spite of wounds. You can read more about her here: <https://www.pdsa.org.uk/get-involved/dm75/the-relentless/mary-of-exeter>

We received lovely feedback from the theatre company about what a wonderful audience Stoke Hill are, which made us all feel very proud.

School Office Notices

Parents Evening

The second Parents' evening of the year will take place on Tuesday 7th/Wednesday 8th February. You will receive information about how to sign up for a slot in the coming weeks.



Absence

Thank you to parents who are using the different forms of communication to report your child's absence. Each morning recording attendance, checking absences and ordering lunches can take up to an hour.

You can help us to reduce this by reporting your child's absence everyday, rather than waiting for us to text you. Thank for your support with this.

Health and Safety

Please can I remind all parents and carers that, to keep everyone safe, there should be no dogs on site at any time.



Any bikes or scooters should please be left in the shelters or wheeled, rather than ridden, when on site.



Many thanks for your cooperation.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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