

STOKE HILL JUNIOR

SUMMER TERM, ISSUE 7

April 2023

DATES

Return to School

18th April

4B Class

Assembly

28th March

Bank Holiday

School Closed

1st May

4G Class

Assembly

5th May

Coronation Day

School Closed

8th May

Year 6 National
Tests

w/b 8th May

4W Class

Assembly

12th May

Half Term

School Closed

29th May—2 June

Return to School

5th June

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the amazing things that have been going on during the last month at the school. As we finish the term it's a time to reflect, but also a time to look forward to the many wonderful events during the summer term. The leadership team have already begun to look at transition from your child's current year to either their new school, in the case of our year 6 children, or their next year group and new teacher. We will be giving you full details as to how we support all children and in some cases some additional transition visits and activities over the coming weeks.

We will continue to ask children to come into school in PE kits on certain days each week. Look out for a message from your child's teacher in case this day changes. I have started to notice a range of different 'kits' being worn. Please visit the link to see what children should be wearing.

<https://www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk/web/uniform/641425>

I appreciate for some of our older children a new t shirt may not be purchased and therefore a plain white top or another plain coloured t shirt is acceptable. There should be no sports teams kits being worn as part of PE kits.

At time of writing we are still awaiting publication of our Ofsted report. This normally takes around 6 weeks, so hopefully we'll have something to share with you shortly after Easter.

I wish all families a happy and restful holiday.

Jamie Sullivan
Head of School



School Champions

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

Reading: Hena (5P), Arlo (3J), Ben (4B)

Writing: William (3T), Fiona (3T), Max (6M)

Maths: Sullivan (6AE), Jack (6AE), Mahdiya (6MK)



Snacks

If you decide to send your child in with a snack for break each day, a couple of quick reminders. Firstly we have a strict no nuts policy due to a number of children who have allergies. Also we ask children to have a healthy snack. Most children bring in a piece of fruit, cheese or other healthy products.

We also ask that there is minimal packaging and where possible it is recyclable to fit in with the schools sustainability drive.

Let's save the sandwiches, biscuits and crisps for lunch boxes and not be eating them at morning break!

Year 3 Production

Pirates v Mermaids



Year 3 treated us to two evenings of their fantastic show this week. What a fabulous way to end the term. The children worked really hard to learn their lines, the songs and all of the acting that was included. There are so many talented children in the year group and this gives so many the chance to grow in confidence and showcase their skills. Thank you to the year 3 team of adults for working so hard to put this together and you for supporting your child with their costumes.



Classroom to 4K

For several weeks, as part of their daily exercise the children have been practising running round the track, building up to a 4K run. Led by Mrs Alam and our wonderful Sports Ambassadors, all of the children in school ran their hearts out to earn their medal. It was another lovely example of the older children helping and encouraging younger ones.

World Book Day 2023

World Book Day gave the school an opportunity to once again remind the children of the enjoyment of reading. This is something we feel strongly enables all children the access their learning better. This year as a school the children have read 125 million words through Accelerated Reader. It was amazing, as always, to see the brilliant costumes the children dressed up in.



School Office Notice

A reminder that school starts again on Tuesday 18th April.

We understand that sometimes you may need to request a leave of absence. Please come to the school office to complete the form with as much warning as possible.

Ordering meals continues in the same way. There is a new menu that is now the same for children across both schools.



Year 4 Residential to Magdalen Farm

It's been a wet and wonderful week for our year 4 children as they have spent 2 nights at Magdalen Farm. They learnt so much about how a farm works, feeding animals, orienteering, team building and much, much more. Parents will get a chance to hear more and see many pictures during the upcoming assemblies, so double check the date on the front page.



What could you do during the holidays?

If you're looking for something to do locally or perhaps a little further afield in Devon this Easter holiday, then check out some of the ideas on the websites below. Many are free, whilst some have small costs. Surely there is something to entertain the children this holiday.

www.exploringexeter.co.uk/7-events-easter-half-term-exeter

www.visitexeter.com/whats-on/seasonal/easter-in-exeter

Perhaps you'd like to travel a little further and explore Devon.

<https://devonwithkids.co.uk/things-to-do-in-devon-this-easter>

www.pinpointdevon.co.uk

Or perhaps a day out somewhere in the South West that you've not been to before?

www.flipflopsorwellies.co.uk/easter-days-out-east-devon-dorset-somerset

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the Internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



NOS National Online Safety®
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