

STOKE HILL JUNIOR

SPRING TERM, ISSUE 25

February 2025

DATES

6th - 7th
February
Y5 Sleeping with
Sharks

11th
February
5J/5W
Walkability

13th
February
PTFA Cake Sale

17th - 21st
Half Term
Holidays

28th
February
3B/3C
Walkability

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families have had a great start to 2025. There have been a number of super things going on at school and I hope that you enjoy looking at them through this newsletter. It's also a good time of year to remind everyone about some things that help the school to run safely.

End of the day: a reminder that all parents and children should leave the premises straight away. The playground and play equipment is not available. TreeTops and other clubs use these areas and to help safeguard the children at these times we must know who is on site.

Educatering: This company works with many schools across Exeter and Devon and we will be working with the company to help reduce waste and to increase the food choices for the children beginning over the coming weeks. Look out for further details and come and sample some of their food at the upcoming Parent's Evening.

Dogs: We thank parents for continuing to use the designated areas for dogs that I wrote to you about earlier in the year. However as a reminder all dogs must be on a lead that is held by an adult.

Contacting School: Our admin teams are spending an increasing amount of time contacting parents if a child is absent. If we haven't heard from you, it is part of a school's responsibility to check the child is safe. There are many different ways you can contact the school to report an absence, thank for your help in this and all of the above notes.

Have a super February!

Jamie Sullivan
Head of School



School Champions

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

Reading: Hamish (4DP), Florence (4G),

Writing: Max (3M), Mahmoud (4T)

Maths: Arlo (3C), Monty (6P)



PTFA News

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank our core PTFA committee for their continued support and dedication to raising funds for our school not to mention developing a strong community ethos. The current PTFA have raised thousands of pounds and continue to make a significant difference to what we can achieve at school.

All this said, they really do need your support and are actively seeking parents and carers to be part of this amazing group. With a slightly larger committee of willing PTFA members the time and effort required would be as little as attending one hourly meeting approximately every 6 weeks and helping to plan and run 1 or 2 events per year. We really are asking for help to share the load and sustain the amazing work that our PTFA do. If you are able to help or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Padbury or Miss Hearle via the school office. Alternatively, you are welcome to join us at our next PTFA meeting, which is on Thursday 27th March. 9.00 am at the Junior school.

School Residentials

In years 4, 5 and 6 we take the children on overnight stays that we call residentials. These are great opportunities for the children and we always want all children to attend and work with you to ensure this happens.

Year 4: In March we take year 4 children to Magdalen Farm in Chard for 2 nights. Current year 3 parents should expect details of this in September 2025.

Year 5: In February we take year 5 children to Plymouth Aquarium for 1 night to 'Sleep with Sharks' Current year 4 parents should expect details of this in September 2025.

Year 6: At the end of September we take year 6 children to Heatree, Dartmoor for 4 nights. Current year 5 parents should expect details of this in April 2025.

We appreciate that these trips can be expensive and this is why we offer payment schemes over a longer period of time leading up to the trip. When trips are first launched you will be sent information about what the residential entails. Nearer the time important documents need to be completed, kit lists will be sent and we offer a live webinar, where staff will take you through final details and answer any questions. All details have been given to year 5 parents for the upcoming Sleeping with Sharks trip. Year 4 parents please check below for further information about Magdalen Farm.

Trip Dates: March 17th—19th or March 19th—March 21st

Kit list sent home—February 24th

Live Webinar—February 27th 4.30pm (link is sent to you a couple of days beforehand)

Mental Health - Mascots

Children's mental health week 2025 and the message this year of "Know yourself, grow yourself" was shared in whole school assemblies. As part of raising the profile of mental health our trained mental health ambassadors led assemblies at the infant and junior school, where they presented each year group with Oreo the cat teddies. Oreo the Cat is our mental health mascot and represents all the qualities we hope will help us to better understand our mental health and well-being such as being curious, caring, calm, inquisitive, strong and a good thinker.



School Office Notice

New from February 2025

We will soon be implementing a new Management Information System across both our schools in the Stoke Hill Federation.

The new system offers many benefits to both school staff and parents. If you are a parent of a child attending St. James High School, you will be familiar with the "My Child at School" app.

The app makes it easy for school to communicate with parents / carers. You will be able to update / change contact details at any time to ensure the school holds the most up to date information. You will be able to manage payments online securely for Clubs, Trips, Dinner Money and Wraparound Care. The app is fully GDPR compliant.



Sporting Updates

Netball:

Our 2 netball teams recently took part in a tournament against other schools in Exeter. The teams were brilliant and finished 3rd and 4th. This is a great achievement and thank you to Mrs Alam and Miss Chard for coaching the players.

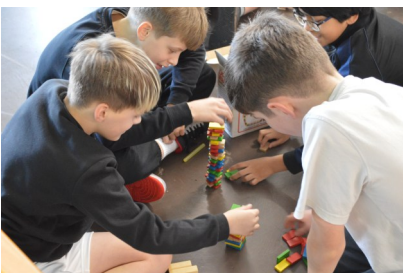
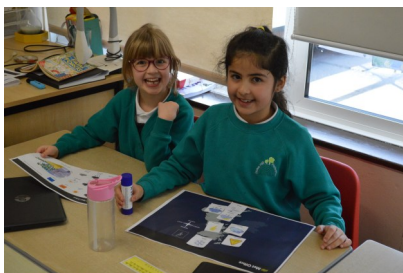
Football:

After qualifying for the next round of the EFL trophy, the football team played against schools from all over Devon. Coming 3rd in their group, despite only letting in one goal, meant they qualified to the Plate competition. The team got all of the way to the final and lost narrowly on sudden death penalties. Myself and Mrs Alam were super proud of the effort and determination that all children showed.



Science Day at the Junior School

On Friday 31st, the children spent the day learning about Science. Ask your child about some of the amazing things they did and saw.





message From Exeter Library

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Pop-Up Children's Library in Besshay, opening Saturday, 25th January!

While essential roof work takes place at our main building, the pop-up will be your go-to spot for children's books, events, and activities. Family activities like Bounce & Rhyme, Lego Club, Storytime, and Stay & Play will continue in this exciting new location.

We can't wait to welcome you and your little ones to this vibrant new space. Stay tuned for more updates, and be sure to visit us soon!

For more details, visit discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk





Pop Up Planting

**Wednesday 19th February at 2-3.30pm, Old Tiverton
Road Park**

Meet neighbours, plant some bulbs, and share ideas with your
Community Builder. Please bring digging tools and gloves.

☎07856917894 ✉Natalie.smith@eci.org.uk 📍Natalie Smith St James

www.wellbeingexeter.org.uk