

STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL



December 2022

AUTUMN TERM, ISSUE 3

DATES

Y1 working with
Devon Wildlife Trust
1st December

Reception Explore
and Create
5th December
9-10 or 2-3

Nursery explore and
create for Nursery
families each day
from 9-10 w/b 5th
December

Y1 Festive
Singalong
8th December
9:15 or 2:30

Festive Jumper Day
9th December

Federation
Christmas Lunch
14th December

EYFS Orchestra
performances
14th December
Nursery 1:15
Reception 2pm

Y1+ 2 Phoenix Trip
15th December am

Last Day of Term
16th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

This first term as Head of School has gone really quickly. We have lots of exciting things happening in school and lots of plans moving forward. After Christmas we hope to offer more opportunities to come in and find out more about what is happening in school, changes we are making or have made, and plans we have.

This week we are launching our **celebration assembly** for Key Stage 1—Reception will start joining us for these after Christmas. Each class teacher will nominate a **star reader**, a **star learner** and a **role model** of the week. Teachers will be thinking about effort, perseverance, resilience, as well as behaviour which demonstrates being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. The stars will receive a round of applause in assembly, have their photo displayed for the week and bring home a special postcard.

We have also launched the **Book of Above and Beyond** this week—children who do something 'above and beyond' in the eyes of their teacher, will come and see me and get their name put in our very special book. These names will then be shared in our celebration assemblies where the children will receive a collective well done from the school community.

I wish you all a happy, healthy festive season,

Claire McKimm, Head of School

Little Wandle

The Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics programme is now fully integrated in to our day-to-day life at Stoke Hill. If you're keen to know more about it you can find helpful videos and resources by going to

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

School in the Dark

It has been wonderful to have parents in school for Y2 family assemblies over the last few weeks, and we are very excited for Y1's Festive Sing-a-long next week, but perhaps the most exciting even so far this term has been Reception's School in the Dark!

The Reception children and their families returned to a school transformed into a woodland fairyland, where they shared stories, made wands and bats, enjoyed marshmallows round the firepit, followed the clues to find the badger and learnt lots about bats from Emily from the Devon Wildlife Trust. Thanks to everyone who came and for the EYFS team for organising and giving up their time to make it such a special evening.



PTFA Fireworks Night

What a night!

A massive thank you to Helen Wallace and the other PTFA members and volunteers, who organized the wonderful fireworks this year.

Sonic Fireworks once again did us proud with a super range of fireworks and lighting up the trees, really created a lovely atmosphere.

These events take a lot of time and effort to organise and having an audience of 850 to support this community event made it one of the highlights of the year so far.



Festive Jumper Day

Each year across the Federation we show our support for Save the Children by allowing children to come to school wearing their favourite festive jumper if they want. This year this is happening on Friday 9th December.

However, children can also wear this instead of their school jumper on Wednesday 14th December, which is Christmas Lunch day.

If your child doesn't wish to wear a festive jumper, then they should be in normal school uniform.



Devon Wildlife Trust

We are very proud to have been one of the first schools to get involved in Devon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Champions programme, and are really pleased to be working with them again this year. Emily has been working with Y1 today and Y2 and Reception will also get the chance to work with her as the year goes on.



Devon
Wildlife Trust

School Office Notices

Federation Christmas Lunch — This is happening across the Federation on Wednesday 14th December. If you want your child to have this, please use the Gateway and order this option for this day.

Absence — We are at the stage in the year, where there are an increasing number of absences. As part of safeguarding the children we must know where each child is each day. Please remember to communicate with the school each day that your child is absent. Your support in this will save the office staff a lot of time each morning.



Snacks

Please provide a morning snack for your child of fresh/dried fruit, fresh vegetables/salad or cheese, avoiding disposable wrappers. We are a no nut school. Please ensure snack pots are named.

Christmas cards

If your child would like to give Christmas cards to their class mates this year, they are allowed to bring them in during the final two weeks of term. Cards should be taken into classrooms and the teacher will manage when they are handed out.

Community News - Police Notice

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

Incidents of Dangerous Parking

Devon & Cornwall Police are committed to working together with other agencies as part of the Exeter Community Safety partnership in order to reduce levels of nuisance and anti-social behaviour. Our intention is to prevent this behaviour and to improve the quality of life for everyone in our community.

The Mincinglake Neighbourhood Police Team have received reports of vehicles being parked dangerously and inappropriately on roads in and around both schools. The reports include vehicles double parking, driving on to pavements and on to grass areas, vehicles causing an obstruction by parking on junctions and vehicles blocking resident's driveways. Parking or driving on to a pavement or causing an obstruction are traffic offences for which Police officers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your help in this matter. If you or any other persons using your vehicle are parking in a manner as described above, please ensure you park in a safer and more appropriate place. Although we understand that parking in the area can sometimes be difficult, there are normally spaces in nearby roads.

The local Neighbourhood Police Team hope that you receive this letter in the spirit it is intended, i.e. to reduce future problems. So far Officers have issued verbal warnings or written warnings to drivers they have seen parking inappropriately. However, should these issues continue, we will look at taking further action which may include warning letters and Penalty Notices.

Yours sincerely,

PCSO 30092 Shelton

Mincinglake Neighbourhood Police Team

Our Vision and our Next Steps

Dear Parents,

In case you missed the letter sent out a few weeks ago, we wanted to remind you of our new Vision statement.

Parents, staff, and children all had an opportunity to offer a statement they felt would capture Stoke Hill's vision and values. We received many ideas and thank you to all of you that contributed your thoughts and ideas.

The final say then went back to the children as they voted for their favourite:

We work together to make Stoke Hill a great place to learn, work and play.

This statement has now been shared with everyone and we are excited to bring this statement to life.

One of the ways we want to do that is to share with parents what both schools are working on this year, by sharing with you all the School Improvement Plans. These plans are created each year by gathering evidence across a range of areas and these include:

- Feedback from you, our parents
- Listening to the children
- Feedback from the Local Authority
- Analysing our data
- Working with teachers to identify learning needs

Next week the overview of our School Improvement Plans will be available on the website and will be shared electronically with all of you. We believe that 'working together' is essential for Stoke Hill and, moving forwards, we aim to strengthen our Parent-School partnership by sharing more with you. I hope you will read through the improvement plan documents when you have chance and find them informative as we work together to make Stoke Hill a great place to learn, work and play.

Yvonne Hammerton-Jackson,
Executive Headteacher.



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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