



# STOKE HILL JUNIOR

## SPRING TERM, ISSUE 4

January 2023

### DATES

Return to school  
4th January

Art Day  
6th January

Spring Term  
Learning Webs  
sent home  
13th January

Year 5 Music  
Concert @ Great  
Hall, Exeter Uni-  
versity  
20th January

Y4 Production  
7th and 8th Febru-  
ary 5.00pm

Year 5 Sleeping  
with Sharks trip  
9th and 10th  
February

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome to 2023. I hope that all of our families have been able to have a fun and relaxing time during the last couple of weeks and it's provided an opportunity to re-charge the batteries for what is the shortest half term of the school year!

Routines are now fully established for an all systems go start to 2023. It is with this in mind that I need to remind you that as part of our safeguarding systems, we need to know where children are. If they are ill please use the Gateway app to report this, or ring and leave a message on the school phone.

If you know in advance of an absence, please ask for an absence request form from the front office. Whilst holiday requests are unlikely to be authorised, we want to continue to work with families to ensure that children are in school as much as possible.

I love taking the opportunity to look through the calendar at the many events that we have coming up at the Junior School between now and Easter. It certainly will be a busy one, with lots of clubs happening, some with tournaments at the end of them, trips to enhance learning opportunities, productions from both year 3 and 4, class assemblies, parent's evenings and charity days, including World Book Day and Red Nose Day. You can find out more about your child's learning, with the Learning Webs that you will receive next Friday.

Jamie Sullivan  
Head of School

### School Champion

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

Reading: Robert (3P) and Max (6M)

Writing: Robing (5J) and Luna (3P)

Maths: Oscar (4B) and Manha (4G)



## Lunchtimes

From the start of this term we have altered our lunchtimes so that they now run from 12.00 until 1.00pm for all children. The children will still eat at the same time as they always have. This is 12.00 for year 3 and 4 children and 12.30 for year 5 and 6 children. The major difference sees the older children going out to play first and then coming in for lunch. All activities that the children currently have access to remain the same. The children have embraced the change of routine really well and talking to the older ones, they are liking the chance to play first and then have their lunch.

## Year 5 Production

### What a performance!



Our year 5 children treated us to 2 nights of brilliant singing and acting with their show, just before Christmas. This was the first time for many of the children performing in front of a large audience, but they did so with such confidence. Thank you to our year 5 team for putting this together and the kind donations from the audience, which have been sent to Barnardo's.

### School Council - Spring 2023!

It's time for new elections in each class to choose the new School Council Representatives.

Whilst some children may want to continue in the role, there are so many children that want to be part of this that we want to give as many the chance to help discuss school issues and learn important leadership responsibilities. The children meet with Mrs Padbury each Thursday at 12.30pm to plan their next venture.

Thank you to the 12 children who have contributed so much during the autumn term. I'm sure some will want to put themselves forward again next year.

### Christmas Carol Club



36 children, who have been attending our Christmas Carol Club, went and visited the residents of the Old Rectory to sing them their favourite songs.

Thank you to Mrs Padbury for organising the visit and Mrs Jackson, who has been helping to teach some of the songs, along with Miss Beal.

## School Office Notice

Thank you to parents who are using the different forms of communication to report your child's absence. Please continue to report each day's absence, this is really helping save us time and know that all children are safe. All messages sent from the school go to the app first, so please ensure that you have your notifications on, so that you don't miss anything.



## Winter Fair

On the last Thursday before the end of term, our year 6 children completed their unit of work on becoming entrepreneurs, by running stalls at the Winter Fair. All of the children had spent much time in lessons thinking about what makes a successful business and planning and preparing their stalls.

There was a great variety of games and challenges for the rest of the children to visit and to help raise some money for the school. We understand that not all children are able to be brought back to school by parents for a more traditional School Fair and this way, everyone gets to attend this fabulous end of year event. Thank you for supporting this.



## PE Kits

There are a couple of changes as to which days your child needs to wear their PE kit to school this half term. Please check below to see if this affects your child.

Monday	5B, 5P, 6AE
Tuesday	4B, 5J, 4G, 3C
Wednesday	3P, 6M
Thursday	3T, 4W, 6MK
Friday	



The assembly focus this half term will be Hope. Alongside this our learning in Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) lessons across the school will be Dreams and Goals.

We will be encouraging children to consider that often we may know the end destination/ place we want to get to in our learning but also to reflect on the way to get there and how this is

full of ups and downs and twists and turns, and that we may feel uncomfortable or excited sometimes. Not every dream is easy to achieve so we have to go through the ups and downs to get there.

Together we will think of dreams or goals that are important to us. Perhaps it is a long term one, or it might be one to do with their learning in school, or even something they want to achieve today. Together we hope to celebrate many successes and achievements of dreams and goals as we move forwards with the year.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable steam store pages show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the authority of a specific title [www.esrb.org.uk/ratingstool/hf/games](http://www.esrb.org.uk/ratingstool/hf/games).

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## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed recently in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, parents' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 2, for example.

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## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites bearing with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register, entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

## Meet Our Expert

Berry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, White, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, BBC 6 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



National Online Safety

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