

December - 2025

STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY



DATES

1st-5th—Nursery
Explore and Create
week

2nd—Devon Wildlife
Trust in Year 2

5th—Dragonfly cake
sale

8th—Dragonfly Sing
and Craft 2:30

9th Year 1 show 2:15

9th—Bee Sing and
Craft 2:30

10th Year 1 show
9:30

10th—Ladybird Sing
and Craft 2:30

11th—Festive jumper
day

11th—Year 1 and 2
Phoenix Show

12th—Bee cake sale

17th—Christmas
Dinner Day

17th—Rock Steady
Concert 2:30

19th—Last day of
term

**Return to school—
Tuesday January 6th**

AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents and Carers,

As December begins, we look ahead to lots of lovely activities and learning over the next 3 weeks—Year 1's show rehearsals are in full swing and Reception and Nursery are looking forward to welcoming parents in to craft.

Looking back over the term, so many things have happened, not least the birth of three Stoke Hill babies! Brianna Hennah became Mummy to baby Leo, followed by Emma Guest welcoming Bodhi and Catherine Tamlin welcoming Odell!

It's lovely to welcome new arrivals and sad to say goodbye: at the end of this term we will be saying farewell to Lola O'Sullivan, who's off to Cyprus, Emma Brooks, who is embarking on a career change, and Leo Kirby, who is leaving to pursue his teaching career. We will miss them greatly and I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best for the future. We look forward to introducing you to new staff in the new year.

We look forward to seeing you all when we return on Tuesday 6th January.

With best wishes, for a happy, healthy festive season,

Claire McKimm, Head of School

Stars of the week



The following children have been their class's reader, role model or learner of the week during the last month:

Readers of the week: Iris, Jasmine, Aria, Somaya (Bee), Eli, Alissa, Elia, Ralph (Dragonfly), Philo, Phoebe, Polly, Isabella (Ladybird), Vihaan, Harrison, Tommy, Amelie (Beech), Arlo, Harry, Pietro, Hassan (Oak), Lakely, Connor, Theo, Joel (Willow), Alex, Evie, Percy, Nik (Chaffinch), Willow, Reuben, Damon, Joulán (Swift), Shaika, William, Julia, Gabi (Woodpecker)

Role models of the week: Kacper, Lilyana, Marwah, Lefteris (Bee), Myla, Maddie, Alan-na, Laurie (Dragonfly), Ibrahim, Amelia, Davi, Nim (Ladybird), Imogen, Mason, Max, Zach (Beech), Seb, Gabriel, Oliver, Lyla (Oak), Mohammed, Lara, Ayyub, Abi (Willow), Willow, Caitriona, Aniya, Eliza (Chaffinch), Elara, Maya, Jacob, Rory (Swift), Olive, Yiya, Ben, William (Woodpecker)

Learners of the week: Jack, Anna, Evelyn, Kacper (Bee), Edward, Oakley, Albert, Myla (Dragonfly), Presley, Kit, Leah, Marcus (Ladybird), Zaid, Desiah, Melody, Elodie (Beech), Riley, Erin, Arzo, Viola (Oak), Aisana, Tsanda, Reuben, Aathan (Willow), Erin, Oliver, Mateus, Willow (Chaffinch), Zoja, Alex, Isla, Spencer (Swift), Ruben, Theo, Ryan, Charlie (Woodpecker)

Curious Quests



Year 1 have taken the next step after Drawing Club and begun their Curious Quests! They have enjoyed meeting Professor Klunk, Noodle, Titch and Brain. They are busy helping provide exciting ideas to power the Story Dream Machine and keep the inventions out of The Greap's hands. Ask them about their inventions and ideas—you'll be amazed!



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Over the past month, we have celebrated Anti-Bullying Week and National Kindness Day - two important reminders of how powerful kindness and support can be for our whole school community.

As we move into the winter months, the darker days and colder weather can sometimes make it harder to maintain the energy and positivity we enjoy earlier in the year. This makes it an important time to look after our mental health and to support one another - children and adults alike. Winter can bring wonderful moments of excitement and togetherness, but it can also feel overwhelming. Busy routines, less daylight and the run-up to the festive season may affect children's emotions and behaviour. Small acts of connection at home and in school can make a big difference.

In this month's newsletter, we are encouraging families to focus on simple ways to boost wellbeing during winter:

- **Keep connected:** Regular chats, shared activities, or a quiet moment together can help children feel secure and supported.
- **Stay active:** Even a short walk outside can improve mood and help children burn off energy.
- **Create calm moments:** Reading, drawing, or listening to music together can help children unwind after busy days.

Reach out: If you or your child is finding the winter months difficult, please know that talking to someone—friends, family, or school - can really help.

Below are three short Parenting Smart video clips and help cards you may find useful at this time of year:

"Managing emotions during busy seasons"

"Building calm routines on darker days"

"Supporting children through winter worries"

You can find these and other resources here: **Parenting Smart – Short Videos and Help Cards** <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

As always, thank you for your continued support. By looking out for each other, we can help ensure all our children feel safe, supported, and well this winter.

Festive Jumpers and Dinner

We will again be inviting children to wear a festive jumper on Thursday 11th December to raise awareness of the Save the Children organisation. If you would like to support this cause you can follow the link to make a donation: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>

Children will also be able to wear this jumper on the Federation Christmas Dinner day (17th). If you want your child to have Christmas dinner, please make sure you have responded to the Google Form.



School Office Notices and quick reminders

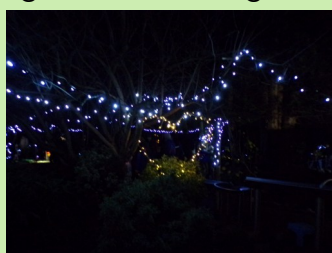
At this time of year we know that many parents may change their mobile phones. If this means that you have a new number, please remember to update the school office with your new details.

Please all remember to complete an Absence Request form if you know that your child will be off of school. Just pop in and you can do it there and then at the front office.



School in the Dark

On Tuesday 25th November, Reception children and their families enjoyed a magical *School in the Dark* experience. The children took part in a nature trail, toasted marshmallows and had great fun making wands and shadow puppets. They were delighted to



use their puppets in the shadow theatre, which looked absolutely fantastic. We also received some wonderful feedback from parents, including "The atmosphere was mesmerising" and "It was so exciting to go to school in the dark in our pyjamas!" It was a truly special evening for everyone involved.



PTFA Update

What an amazing term it's been! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our events over the last few months. Our Fireworks Night lit up the sky and raised an incredible £4,897, and Bags 2 School added a brilliant £123. We've loved seeing so many of you using the second-hand uniform rail at the Infants, getting involved with the uniform sales at the Juniors, and of course, attending our weekly cake sales—your sweet tooth is helping us do great things!

Looking ahead to next term, we've got even more fun in store: more cake sales, an Easter Egg Hunt, the Summer Fair, and tea towel design and sales at the Infant School, plus other exciting surprises in the pipeline – such as the well-loved quizzes potentially being resurrected! Watch this space!

And finally, a massive thank you to all our amazing supporters—whether you baked a cake, worked tirelessly in the dark at fireworks, donated Lego or simply came along to join the fun at one of the events, your contributions make a real difference to our school community. We couldn't do it without you!

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year from Stoke Hill PTFA!

A MIDWINTER NATURE CHALLENGE

12 Days Wild is Devon Wildlife Trust's festive nature challenge, encouraging you to do one wild thing a day from the 25th December to the 5th January each year. In those quiet days between Christmas and New Year, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored!

Your wild acts could be little things to help nature - like recycling your Christmas tree or feeding the birds – or ways to connect to the natural world, like trying stargazing. Sign up to receive a digital pack to help you to take part.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild>



Let's go
12 Days Wild

The Wildlife Trusts

Dec 25 Go for a Christmas walk and challenge yourself to spot three different species. Share what you discover with us.	Dec 26 Go stargazing and share your snaps!	Dec 27 Find out 3 interesting facts about a species and let us know what you uncover!	Dec 28 How many trees can you spot out on a walk?
Dec 29 Write a winter themed story or poem.	Dec 30 Set some eco New Year's resolutions!	Dec 31 Make Eco-decorations – check out our website for more details	Jan 1 Happy New Year! Tag us in your first picture of 2026!
Jan 2 How many nature treasures can you collect? Pinecones, leaves, twigs. GO WILD!	Jan 3 Leave presents for nature. Top up birdfeeders, make shelters for wildlife.	Jan 4 Take a look at our festive spotting sheet and see how many you can tick off!	Jan 5 Learn how to ID bird calls like a pro!

Tell us how you plan to make time for nature this year!
#12DaysWild