

STOKE HILL JUNIOR

AUTUMN TERM, ISSUE 13

December 2023

DATES

Y5 Production
5th December
5.00pm

Y5 Production
6th December
2.00pm

Festive Jumper
Day
8th December

Phoenix Theatre
Trips
12th/13th
December

Christmas Dinner
13th December

Winter Festival
14th December

Last day of term
15th December

Spring Term Starts
4th January

Dear Parents and Carers

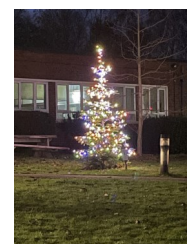
It's been another jam packed term of exciting opportunities as the children approach the last couple of weeks and there are plenty more things going on. We try not to bombard you with emails, but this is the most efficient way for you to keep up to date with what is happening.

This is the last newsletter of 2023 and as I looked back through previous editions it's just amazing to see what has been going on. The end of a year is always a time of reflection and setting new goals for the new year. In schools it's a bit different because the end of year is July, but that shouldn't stop everyone stopping, relaxing and enjoying their time together over the holidays. So whatever you do I hope you have a wonderful time.

We know that most classes now have parent WhatsApp groups set up and these can be useful ways to know about PTFA events, class trips etc. Although these are not school-run groups, we encourage you to get involved but to make sure that your conduct within these groups is supportive and appropriate. School communication is shared via School Gateway and if you have any school concerns these should always be addressed directly with a member of school staff rather than within the class WhatsApp.

Finally a couple of thank yous. Firstly to D & L Wride t/a Chestnut Trees www.chestnuttrees.co.uk, who have donated the fabulous Christmas tree at the front of the school and secondly to Morrisons for donating an advent calendar to each class in the Federation.

Jamie Sullivan
Head of School



School Champions

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

Reading: Poppy (6AM)

Writing: Billy (5W)

Maths: Jess (6AM)



Cross Country Champions

Recently we took 48 children to Killerton for the Exeter Cross Country races. I've posted the results below, I'm sure you'll agree they're pretty impressive.

Year 5/6 Boys - Champions

Year 5/6 Girls - Champions

Year 3/4 Boys – Champions

Year 3/4 Girls – Champions



Exeter Champions

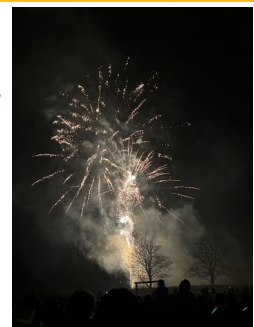
A couple of weeks ago myself and Mr McKimm took a mixture of year 5 and 6 girls to their first ever football tournament at St Lukes. The girls played a total of 6 matches altogether against 3 other Exeter schools. There were brilliant performances from the girls in winning all 6 of their matches, in their brand new kit too!

This meant that they were the champions and now go forward to the Devon finals in the new year.



PTFA Fireworks Display

It was wonderful to see over 1000 people come and enjoy a marvellous firework display this year. Thank you to the PTFA for all of their hard work in organising the event and the volunteers who helped raise £2500. Keep a look out for details of upcoming events and how you can support these or volunteer to help on the day.



December at Stoke Hill

As we approach the last couple of weeks of the term there are a number of exciting events lined up so please keep a look out for any additional communication.

December 8th - Festive Jumper Day - children can wear festive jumpers on this day if they wish

December 13th - Federation Christmas Lunch (the festive jumpers can be worn)

December 14th– Winter Festival Day - the year 6 children run stalls for all children to be part of a fair during the day. We ask for cake donations and for the children to bring in 50p if they would like a cake. No other money is required to take part in the fair.

School Office Notice

Parents are reminded that they need to contact the school to report their child's absence. We understand that from time to time this is forgotten and we will send you a message as a reminder. If we still do not have a reason for the absence we are required to record this as unauthorised.

Please also make us aware of a known absence e.g. dentist. You may be required to fill in an absence request to authorise the time, so please pop into the office or call 01392 667830 if this applies to you.



The Big Ambition

This month we have been asked to share a survey from the Children's Commissioner, who is keen to hear children's views on their education futures. If you want to take part then copy the link into your browser. It takes 5-10 minutes.



www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Community News

It's been a fun and busy term for the PTFA; this is what we have been up to....

The cake sale every week at the infants on Friday is going very well. On average we are making £90 per week. Thank you to all the classes who have baked/brought and helped at the cake sales; we couldn't of done this without you.

There was a lot of work behind the scenes to give Stoke Hill the most fantastic Fireworks evening. We had a breathtaking display from Sonic, even the rain held off until the display had finished. The evening was a great success and we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped organising and on the night

The Winter Fair is on 1st December at the Infants School in the hall from 4-6pm. Everyone is welcome. We have lots of festive fun planned including stalls, refreshments and there will even be a visit from Father Christmas. Please come along and join in the festivities; we are looking forward to seeing you all. A big thank you to all that are helping at the Fair.

We are busy planning ahead for 2024 we have a quiz planned for early in the year, the cake sale will carry on and we will have a cake sale at the end of every half term at the Junior School, there will be lots more too, so watch this space.

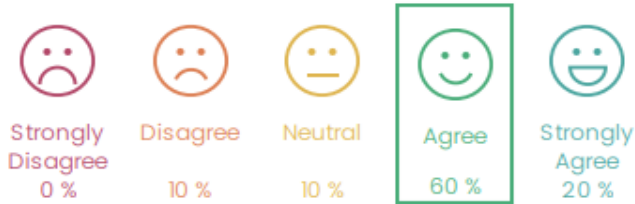
We are in the process of putting together a quarterly newsletter to update everyone on what we are doing, and where the money we have raised is going to help your children in the School

Local Parking

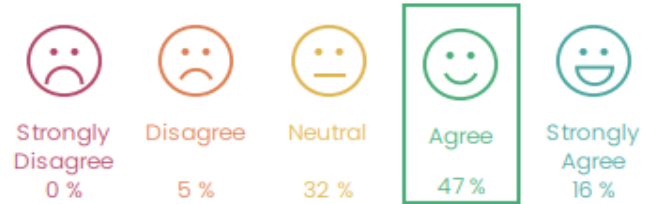
We have received a number of complaints from local residents in the Widecombe Way area regarding parking. Whilst I appreciate the challenges faced by parents, we aim to work with the local community to make these times as safe for our children as possible.

School Survey - November 2023

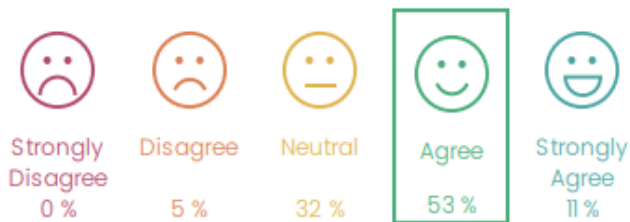
Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school (School life)



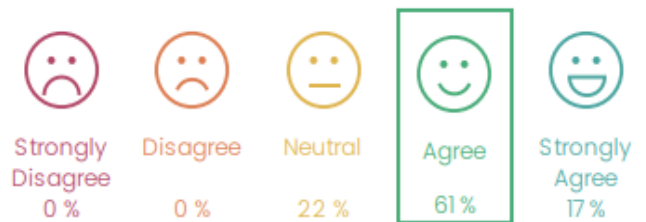
My child receives support if he/she needs it (Class life)



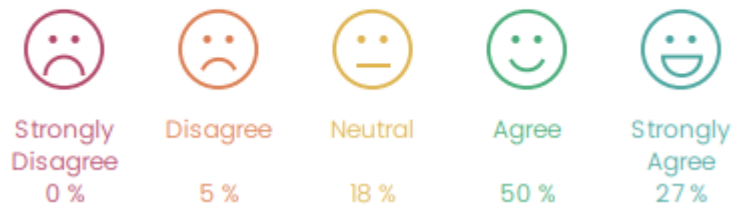
The level of homework set is about right for my child (Class life)



Staff and children have good relationships (School Culture)



I would recommend the school to other parents



Parents are given the opportunity to comment against any of the questions. Below are a sample of the comments and our response.

My child's teacher doesn't reply to emails, I don't email very often and don't expect a same day reply, but it makes communication difficult.

Teachers work hard to ensure communication is effective. During the school day they are teaching the children and so may not look until the end of the day. If it is urgent then please call the school office and arrange for a call back. We are looking at ways to reduce emails that teachers receive in order to not miss the ones that need quicker responses.

Are there quiet zones or chill out zones that children can go to if they are feeling a bit overwhelmed?

Playtimes can be busy times and we do have some individual plans in place for children that need a quieter experience. As an older building we don't have the same zones or spaces that the Infant School does. All children are able to visit Lunchtime Club each day for some quiet time. The bus is open as a chill out zone and the library is also open throughout lunchtime. These spaces all have adults leading activities and we also have Mental Health Ambassadors who lead clubs for small groups of children.

I know there is an annual calendar, but sometimes we don't get enough notice about one off events, for example a Year 4 Greek Day.

We always try to give as much notice as possible and details around events. We'll continue to look at the best ways to make sure parents have enough details and preparation time.

At this time of year, there are lots of illnesses about and we wanted to take the opportunity to share some useful information.

The NHS website has lot of clear and useful information

<https://patient.info/childrens-health>

and

<https://onedevon.org.uk/our-work/services-and-support/children-and-young-people/handi-app/>

is a good handy app that patients can download and has lots of useful information on childhood illness.



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.