

April 2023



STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY

SUMMER TERM, ISSUE 7

DATES

Return to school
18th April

KS1 parent pop-in
27th April

May Day Bank
Holiday
School closed
1st May

Coronation Bank
Holiday
School closed
8th May

Half Term
School Closed
29th May—2 June

Return to School
5th June

Dear Parents and Carers

What another busy half term! These few pages can only capture a small amount of what we have been learning and enjoying this month.

The Spring terms are some of the most important when it comes to children making progress in their learning. By January, children are settled within their academic year and their school routines are established, this allows them to really push forwards with their class based learning and we often see large steps forwards in January, February and March.

This learning comes from an active and exciting curriculum brought to life by our talented teachers and teaching assistants and I want to thank them for all their hard work this term.

I have very much enjoyed filling in for Mrs McKimm for the last 6 weeks and I know she is looking forward to coming back after the Easter holidays. Miss Burt will also be joining us after the Easter holidays to take over from Ms Lownes in Willow class. We wish Ms Lownes all the best of luck with the future.

Have a safe and happy Easter break.

Yvonne Hammerton-Jackson, Executive Headteacher

Stars of the week

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

Readers of the week: Eva, George, Antec, Ire, Elara (Bee), Joseph, Lucia, M... e, Jesse (Dragonfly), Eddie, Sylvie, Yashvan, Lucas, Boming (Ladybird), Lucas, Aurora, Tobias, Tapi, Viktoria (Beech), Poppy, Isla, Ocean R, Ruken, Arlo M (Oak), Lily, Ernie, Oliver, James N, Serene (Willow), Joseph, Alby, Naamah, Hamish, Imogen (Chaffinch), Rudy, Hannah, Rory, Taylor, Florence (Swift), Hollie, Marnie, Erica, Mahmoud, Lyra (Woodpecker)

Learners of the week: Filip, Kenai, Ellen, Etienne, Tabitha (Bee), Quin, Ellie, Esmae, Iliana, Joseph (Dragonfly), Boming, Aiden, Ben, Eddie, James (Ladybird), Emilio, Noor, Eliza, Mimi-Peach, Louis (Beech), Jack, Toby M, Annabelle, Molly, Toby B (Oak), Tate, Jax, Lily, Annie, Aggie (Willow), Sirac, Yarra, Ghina, Ollie, Aeryn (Chaffinch), Freddie, Leo, Abby, Lyla, Umaiza (Swift), Rupert, Bogi, Emma, Lily, Brooklyn (Woodpecker)

Role models of the week: Zayan, Davide, Avara, Charlie, Roy-Nihal (Bee), River, Teddy, Charlie, Albie, Ella (Dragonfly), James, Lucas, Nuala, Nuala, Martha (Ladybird), Maya, Emil, Samiah, Linnea, Nabil (Beech), Jonah, Branwen, Jamani, Arlo C, Marjan (Oak), Lissi, Kayan, Solomiia, Mila, Izzie-May (Willow), Anna, Evie, Oscar, Jessica, Alex C (Chaffinch), Tolu, Aaradhya, Jawad, Milosz, Levi (Swift), Haryn, Emily, Ava, Praise, Rocco (Woodpecker)



World Book Day

World Book Day gives the school an opportunity to once again remind the children of the enjoyment of reading. This is something we feel strongly enables all children the access their learning better. It was fantastic to see so many imaginative and creative costumes!



Year 1 class assemblies



All three Year 1 classes performed brilliantly during their class assemblies in March. They shared some very interesting facts about what they have been learning about, from the history of flight in History lessons to how to collage in Art lessons. Thank you to the Year 1 staff team for putting the performances together and well done to each and every Year 1 child for taking part.

Musical performances

The school has been filled with the sound of music many times this term. On 14th March, the whole school were treated to a performance by musicians from across the Federation. This was a lovely opportunity to see our school musicians in action! Later that week, our children in EYFS had a visit by musicians from Exeter Symphony orchestra where they learned about different instruments and how they sound.



Devon Wildlife Trust

As part of our continued link with Devon Wildlife Trust, our Reception children enjoyed a session learning all about life cycles in our wildlife garden. They learned a lot about how animals change as they grow and will be keeping a close eye out for frog spawn in our school pond! Later in the term, a group of Year 2 children represented our school at Exeter Wildlife Champions Conference in Mincinglake Valley Park. They participated in a number of nature-themed activities and all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



School Office Notice

A reminder that school starts again on Tuesday 18th April. We understand that sometimes you may need to request a leave of absence. Please come to the school office to complete the form with as much warning as possible.



Goodbye and thank you

This week we are wishing a fond farewell to Mr Rowlands who has carefully tended to our lovely school grounds for a number of years. Thank you for everything you have done, you will be missed

We are also saying a temporary goodbye to Mrs Channing who is beginning her maternity leave this week. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing about the new addition to her family.

What could you do during the holidays?

If you're looking for something to do locally or perhaps a little further afield in Devon this Easter holiday, check out some of the ideas on the websites below. Many are free, whilst some have small costs. Surely there is something to entertain the children this holiday.

www.exploringexeter.co.uk/7-events-easter-half-term-exeter

www.visitexeter.com/whats-on/seasonal/easter-in-exeter

Perhaps you'd like to travel a little further and explore Devon.

<https://devonwithkids.co.uk/things-to-do-in-devon-this-easter>

Or perhaps a day out somewhere in the South West that you've not been to before?

www.flipflopsorwellies.co.uk/easter-days-out-east-devon-dorset-somerset

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the Internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the Internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house; spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSHE curriculum.



National Online Safety®

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