

February 2025

# STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY



## SPRING TERM, ISSUE 25

### DATES

7th—Ladybird  
cake sale

14th—  
Valentine's  
disco

17th - 21st  
Half Term  
Holidays

25th—Y2 trip to  
the farm

28th—Dragonfly  
cake sale

Dear Parents and Carers,

February is here and it seems that spring is finally on the way—I've spotted clumps of snowdrops in the wildlife areas and even the odd crocus breaking through.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already come to be a Secret Storyteller in their child's class. It's so lovely to see the children's excitement and it's a really brilliant way to keep giving our message about the joy and importance of reading for pleasure. We look forward to welcoming more of you over the coming weeks.

We're looking forward to the PTFA Infants' Valentine's Disco taking place on Friday 14th February. You will have received information via SchoolComms and hope lots of the children can join us for a dance!

Lastly, I want to let you know that as a Federation we are starting to work with Educatering: this company works with many schools across Exeter and Devon and we will be working with them to help reduce waste and to increase the food choices for the children. Look out for further details and come and sample some of their food at the upcoming Parent's Evening.

Best wishes,

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:** Layla, Oliver, Arlo, (Bee), Ayyub, Cody, Senan, (Dragonfly), Valentin, Thea, Harlan, (Ladybird), Gracie, Amber, Spencer, (Beech), Mohamed, Arwin, Elham, (Oak), Talula, Doris, Anamika, (Willow), Blas, Yusna, Ella, (Chaffinch), Edward, Ayra, Ben, (Swift), Arthur, Elina, Eva, (Woodpecker)

**Role models of the week:** Oakley, Remy, Jerry, (Bee), Isla, Marlow, Joel, (Dragonfly), Nina, Elodie, Imogen, (Ladybird), Evie, Ben, Imogen, (Beech), Arwin, Olivia, Zen, (Oak), Otto, Julia, Leena, (Willow), Jasper, Theo, Joseph, (Chaffinch), Eddie, Radmehr, Poppy, (Swift), Benjamin, Filip, Amelia, (Woodpecker)

**Learners of the week:** Arzo, Vienna, Hassan, (Bee), Aathan, Ed, Mohammed, (Dragonfly), Zach, Vihaan, Grace, (Ladybird), Imogen, Maya, Rithira, (Beech), Aniya, Nik, Alex, (Oak), Mei, Joe, Olive, (Willow), Darcie, Jesse, Oona, (Chaffinch), Aiden, Ezra, Elliott, (Swift), George, Ire, Colin, (Woodpecker)

## Science Day

On Friday, across the Federation, we enjoyed a day of science. The day started for all the Infant and Nursery children with an inspiring science demonstration from Devon Science. During the day, the children carried out experiments with bubbles, paper airplanes and pepper! Thank you to Miss Tamlin for organising.



## Playground after school

It's really nice to see so many families enjoying the playground after school, however I'd like to once again ask for your cooperation with a few things:

The toilets are not available after the school day

No school equipment should be used (the shed is not available)

No ball games

Thank you

## School Office Notice

New from February 2025!

We will soon be implementing a new Management Information System across both our schools in the Stoke Hill Federation.

The new system offers many benefits to both school staff and parents. If you are a parent of a child attending St. James High School, you will be familiar with the "My Child at School" app.

The app makes it easy for school to communicate with parents / carers. You will be able to update / change contact details at any time to ensure the school holds the most up to date information. You will be able to manage payments online securely for Clubs, Trips, Dinner Money and Wraparound Care. The app is fully GDPR compliant.

We will send more information out to you nearer the time we go live.

## Children's mental health week 2025

The message this year of "Know yourself, grow yourself" was shared in whole school assemblies.



As part of raising the profile of mental health our trained mental health ambassadors led assemblies at the infant and junior school, where they presented each year group with Oreo the Cat teddies.

Oreo the Cat is our mental health mascot and represents all the qualities we hope will help us to better understand our mental health and well-being such as being curious, caring, calm, inquisitive, strong and a good thinker.

## Stoke Hill Federation PTFA

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank our core PTFA committee for their continued support and dedication to raising funds for our school not to mention developing a strong community ethos.

The current PTFA have raised thousands of pounds and continue to make a significant difference to what we can achieve at school.

All this said, they really do need your support and are actively seeking parents and carers to be part of this amazing group. With a slightly larger committee of willing PTFA members the time and effort required would be as little as attending one hourly meeting approximately every 6 weeks and helping to plan and run 1 or 2 events per year. We really are asking for help to share the load and sustain the amazing work that our PTFA do. If you are able to help or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Padbury or Miss Hearle via the school office. Alternatively, you are welcome to join us at our next PTFA meeting, which is on Thursday 27th March. 9.00 am at the Junior School.

## Safer Internet Day 2025

**Safer Internet Day is tomorrow, 4<sup>th</sup> February. Here are some top tips from the UK Safer Internet Centre to help protect you and your loved ones from scams online:**

### **Top Tips for use Tips for Parents and Carers of 3-7 year olds**

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to, and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and could target anyone, including young people. Whilst your 3-7 year old may not yet be ready to use the internet independently, use our top tips to start good online habits now that will help keep them safe in the future.

### **Enjoy going online together**

Spending time online together with family is an important learning experience for the youngest internet users. Not only will you both enjoy the quality time together, but you can supervise their usage and guide them to make the safest choices.

### **Talk about their online experiences**

Help give your child the language to explain what they're experiencing online by starting conversations about the internet and technology as early as possible. Talking regularly about what they love doing online, as well as any worries they may have, will help establish this habit and mean they're more likely to come to you for help as they get older.

### **Make use of settings, especially relating to online purchases**

[Parental controls and other safety settings](#) can help protect your child from online harms, including scams. To avoid any nasty surprises on your bank statement, make sure in-app purchases or new downloads require a passcode, and don't set card details to autofill on devices your child has access to.

### **Explain that not everything online is true**

If your child is too young to understand what fraud is, you can still lay the groundwork to help them stay safe online as they grow. Start simple and talk about the difference between real and make believe. Help them recognise that not everything online is true and that some things they see or hear could be stories, jokes or tricks.

### **Make sure they know they can always come to you**

The most important thing for your child to know is that you are always there to support them, online and offline. Encourage them to talk to you if anything they experience makes them feel worried or upset, and show them they can trust you to stay calm, listen and help make things better.



## Pop Up Planting

**Wednesday 19th February at 2-3.30pm, Old Tiverton  
Road Park**

Meet neighbours, plant some bulbs, and share ideas with your  
Community Builder. Please bring digging tools and gloves.

☎07856917894 ✉Natalie.smith@eci.org.uk 🗣️Natalie Smith St James

[www.wellbeingexeter.org.uk](http://www.wellbeingexeter.org.uk)



Libraries  
Unlimited

# A message From **Exeter** **Library**

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our Pop-Up Children's Library in Princesshay, opening Saturday, 25th January!

While essential roof work takes place at our main building, the pop-up will be your go-to spot for children's books, events, and activities. Family favorites like Bounce & Rhyme, Lego Club, Storytime, and Stay & Play will continue in this exciting new location.

We can't wait to welcome you and your little ones to our vibrant new space. Stay tuned for more updates, and be sure to visit us soon!

For details, visit [discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk](https://discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk)



- 0345 155 1001
- [discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk](https://discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk)
- [info@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:info@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

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