



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 10

10 December 2021

It's almost over!

Back in September, we began the school year with grand plans of what we could achieve in 'normal' times and really had everything crossed that we wouldn't have to lockdown or have lots of COVID and isolations in school. Touching wood, we have been very fortunate. With the exception of a small number of cases over the half term holiday and a few PCR tests this term which have thankfully been negative, we have been able to provide a stable and progressive term of education, learning and experiences which have bordered on our old 'normality'.

We have taken Year 5 to Calshot, Year 6 to Wales, all children on visits and trips whether around Stockbridge and in their local environment or further afield; the brilliant Ufton Court days with Upper School or a trip back in time to Milestones in Basingstoke with Lower School. We've traipsed up and down the High Street in preparation for our various performances and travelled well in excess of 1000 miles in minibuses!

This week, we have been testing children as we have done at key points throughout the pandemic. Since our return in Sept 2020, we've been testing on papers that were a year below their actual year group as this is the objectives we have been teaching in order to help rapid recovery from the lockdowns. This week though, we have been testing children on their actual year group papers for the first time since February 2020; that's almost 2 years ago!! Teachers are already interrogating the data to ensure we have a clear picture of where to go from January!

Please enjoy time with family and loved ones this year, it will be more precious than ever. Thank you for all playing your part in keeping everyone safe at Stockbridge. Happy Christmas!

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

A new way to communicate key dates and organisational info

Firstly, an apology. We have struggled in the last week or so to make sure you have all the information you need about times of events etc in school as we co-ordinate with various providers. Thank you for bearing with us.

The newsletter is 'meaty' and published every fortnight.
Diary dates, from today, will be published every week.

These will identify the key events coming up in the week ahead and any organizational things you need to know. Our first of these is attached to this newsletter. We'll be sending these paper copy so one can go up on your fridge and via email so you have it to hand all the time.

Please let us know your thoughts on this by emailing Mrs Jefferies: e.jefferies@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk or send me a Dojo.

12 days of Christmas

We've been really enjoying our 12 days of Christmas so far this year.

We've had winners each day and a plethora of children help find, announce and award prizes to the winners. What a simple but brilliant little competition.

We will be posting day 5 today on Facebook and we've also drawn day 6 for Saturday which I'll post on Facebook tomorrow. Sunday's will be drawn on Monday so there'll be a double whammy to look out for then!



COVID over the holidays

Staff will continue testing on their twice weekly schedule over the holidays.

Please let Mrs Jefferies know of any +ve COVID cases that occur in children or parents over the holidays so that she can quickly aid track and trace if asked. e.jefferies@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk

I realise that the rules around isolation are changing this weekend. Please check the most up to date guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

If you are travelling abroad over the holidays, please ensure you know the most up to date guidance on how to safely return to the UK. It can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

If you have any queries about returning to school in January because of a COVID situation at home, please contact Mrs Jefferies BEFORE Wed 5th January.

REGULAR UPDATES



Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

Clubs

We are getting ready for clubs after the Christmas holidays and with today's newsletter is the clubs booking leaflet so that we can get this organised in good time for you to arrange childcare.

Please read through carefully and complete for the clubs your child would like to attend. Payment for clubs should be returned with the request slip.

We will be accepting returns from MONDAY to WEDNESDAY next week and places will be allocated on Wednesday.

Parent's events next half term

We want to be able to share with you the learning your child will be focusing on both in the core subjects of English and Maths as well as their topic work but realise that restrictions and COVID cases may prevent us doing this wholly face to face.

Face to face information session for all parents:

9am Tues 11th Jan

Virtual information session for all parents unable to make the morning session:

7pm Tues 11th Jan

Antarctica

I know we have many army families and outdoorsy families in our midst. If you are someone who has undertaken explorations, been to either Antarctica or the Arctic, has kit that would be useful in these environments or indeed knows anyone else who has this in their life experiences, we'd really love to hear from you as this is our whole topic across the school next half term.



All photos and content will be refreshed and ready for 2022!

The school website is having a facelift over the holidays – watch out!



Adventure playground update

With your support, FOSS have been working hard for the last 3 years to raise funds to replace our now condemned adventure playground near the polytunnel. We are so nearly there!

School councillors have been asking their classmates what they would like to play on as a replacement. Our 2 eldest school councillors then met with a designer and briefed her. We now have a plan and we're hoping that it can be erected in winter so that we're ready to play on it in spring.

Children wanted climbing things, a raised platform, stepping stones, things to hide in and more! I've shared the design with school council and they'll feed it back to their classes next week but here you go – a multi-site, interesting and varied play trail which will allow lots of 'on and off' points and either can be used as one large play 'campus' or individual parts and which will allow lots of children to play at once.

Most significantly, we won't have dusty bark as a play surface! We'll be using plastic matting which allows the grass to grow through and prevents muddy feet and dusty clothes!

We are looking forward to working with Sawscapes, a Hampshire based play company, to realise our dreams! At the same time, we'll also be working with them to transform the Early Years area and remove the canopy which is now at the end of its life with us.

