



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 14

7 January 2022

Happy New Year!

It's great to be back in school for a new term with no lockdown on the horizon it seems. The Education minister made clear this week that the education of our children through face to face schooling is of the utmost priority for the Government – I couldn't agree more!

Despite the changes at the beginning and end of day, children have largely settled well back into routine and topics are already underway with our first Antarctica linked visitor this morning.

We were delighted to announce our termly awards, made on the last day of term in Autumn.

The Kindness Cup was awarded to Logan Best in Year 3.

Logan so deserved this award and has shown great kindness to others in his class as well as during playtimes. He's a fabulous partner and endlessly patient.

The Stockbridge Standard was awarded to Violet Hamilton-Smith in Year 6.

Violet embodies all of our values and is Miss Positivity herself. She is a great partner, fabulous role model and resilient in all she attempts.

The Endeavour Cup was awarded to Ella Ward in Year 2.

Ella is an extremely worthy recipient of this award and never gives less than 110% in all that she attempts. She is a great role model in how working hard and focusing well reaps great benefits.

We've got our beady eyes peeled to help us decide who'll receive these awards this term!

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

COVID clarity

Please read the leaflet, sent home on Tuesday in preparation for our return to school which outlines answers to as many scenarios as we could think of relating to COVID.

We are reissuing it with this newsletter with the updated guidance on PCR tests (I've highlighted it in yellow so it's really clear). The changes don't come into place until TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY and largely relate to not needing a PCR test if you get a +ve LFD but are asymptomatic. If you have ANY symptoms, you should seek a PCR test. Exact details are here [GOVERNMENT UPDATES](#)

Mottisfont parents....as we are limiting those on site, we will be recording your child's sharing assembly and posting on Google classroom rather than inviting you in in person. This will be available from next Thursday morning.

VOLUNTEER CALL

I have a list of people who kindly volunteered to come and help in various roles – thank you so much.

We'd love to get you into school this term but I must ensure you are adequately prepared and briefed for safeguarding and various other things. I've messaged you on DoJo if you have already offered with a date for this briefing. Please reply on there.

Cold weather clothing

Winter is definitely here and I just love the icy mornings but it can be miserable if you're cold. Lower School & Sprat & Winkle have PE first thing Monday morning so please make sure they have warm PE kit as listed here:

PE kits need to be in school on Monday please.

Please ensure PE kits contain:

- ☐ Dark shorts
- ☐ Dark jogging bottoms
- ☐ Red PE t-shirt
- ☐ Spare sweater or school red hoodie
- ☐ Spare socks
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Woollen hat

Shorts for general school are now out - trousers are in.
If children come to school in their shorts, we will be asking them to change into their jogging bottoms from their PE kit.

Sporting plans

This term we have lots of sporting opportunities:

Years 1 & 2: Kurling leading to entering a team in the inter-schools competition. They will also be entering the gymnastics competition.

Years 3 & 4: Gymnastics – this inter school event was planned for two weeks time but we have taken the decision to run it virtually to keep everything as safe as possible. Children will be submitting entries to PBED, who were organizing it, and competing against our other local schools.

Years 5 & 6: Netball - Staff will all be receiving specialist netball training to support children in preparing for their netball tournament just after half term.

Years 3-6 = Netball club on Monday nights
Years 1-6 = Boxercise on Tuesday nights
Years 2-6 = Integr8 Dance on Wednesday nights

School values

Our school values sit at the core of all we offer in school for children and underpin all of our policies and work with children and staff. One of our school values is 'RESPECT'.

Developing well rounded citizens who are ready to play their part in future society and be personable, approachable and kind is fundamental. To this end, we will be having a specific focus on general manners

WATCHING - WALKING - WAITING

Watch who's around you and make space for them and rightly expect space to be made for you

Walking around school so that we remain safe

Waiting your turn, even if that's tricky.

Alongside the pleases and thank yous that we have come to expect from our children is the good manners to reply to someone when they speak to you. A reply of good morning or initiation of a conversation followed by an expected response is critical to building relationships and something we'll be talking to the children about this term.

REGULAR



UPDATES

Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

Music in school

KELLY CLARKSON

...is our musician of the week next week and we're focusing on duration.

We introduce our artist of the week to our children in the first assembly of the week and then explore different songs by the artist both in class and in each assembly. The musical focus – in this case 'duration' – is accessed by all children and develops their understanding of musical concepts.

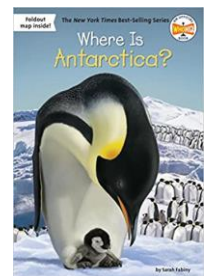
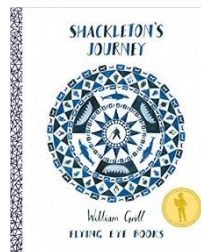
The Guitar concert is still planned for an 'in-person' event on
Wednesday 26th January at 9.15am

- Piano and guitar lessons will begin next week.
- Recorder club, run by Mrs McClue for Year 2 on Tuesday lunchtime.
- Year 5 children will continue their specialist music tuition on Fridays with Mrs Courcoux – this term it's samba drums! Ear plugs at the ready!
- Years R – 6 also focus on music every morning for 40mins on their 4 weekly cycle as usual

Reading

So many children have talked to me about the books they received from Santa, I hope you've all had fun sharing them with the children – thank you!

Our whole school topic this term is Antarctica so here are our favourite non-fiction books in case your child wants to explore a bit more – they can borrow these from the library or they're hyperlinked to Amazon if you click the picture.



Other letters that should have come to you this week:

- Years 5&6: O2 letter (sent via email Thurs)
- All years: COVID FAQs (sent via email Tues)
- Upper School: Antarctica talk payment reminder
- Lower School: Gilbert White trip letter (out today)

In other news...

Welcome!

We are growing and so is our staff team. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Tanner and Mrs Reynolds to our team. We have had a bit of a shuffle around in lower school too, so Mrs Hughes (Miss Palk) will be working partly in Sprat & Winkle but the majority of her time will be in Horsebridge. Mrs Hanham is now working 3 full days in Horsebridge also.

Mrs Tanner will be working with Year R and Mrs Cooper in Sprat & Winkle and has worked for us before but in pre-school and is already making a huge impact!

Mrs Reynolds has made a super start also in Mottisfont and will support Mrs Natt every morning as well as becoming a new member of our lunch team. Lucky children!



We are also advertising for:

- *Another LSA to support 2 children in Horsebridge class*
- *A pre-school key worker for Mon-Thurs mornings until 1pm.*

Farewell!

At the end of the month, we will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs RS in the office – her organization and efficiency has been brilliant and she'll be sadly missed.

We are therefore also advertising for an Admin Assistant to work 24hrs per week.

Panto refunds

We are about to begin the process of refunding monies already paid towards the pantomime visit which wasn't able to happen last term.

Mrs R-S will be in contact with you next week to collate details ready to return money which will have to be done electronically.

This email has come out today with details of how to claim back your money.

We were very grateful to FOSS who still paid for the Theatre to deliver the online 'live' version of the panto where children joined in heartily.

Last chance to bag a place!

The admissions 'on-time' round for September 2022 is almost completed with the deadline for all on-time applications being Saturday 15th January. If you have new neighbours or people looking for a school place, please do send them our way. We are usually oversubscribed but this year is a low birth year and we find ourselves unusually with a few spaces by the looks of things.