



# Stockbridge

## Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 17

17 February 2022

### Thank you

Thank you so much for your support this week; from the kind words, patience at the gate, the messages left and well wishes for staff and children who have been off, it's marked out what a great community we are. Thanks also for the constant testing, return to masks and altering drop offs and pick ups – it's amazing how quickly the children and all of us adults have slipped back into the more stringent measures to prevent the spread of COVID any further than necessary.

With all of the COVID woes aside, this half term has been a really productive one with visitors, visits, a whole school topic on Antarctica and much more besides. Children have produced stunning art work based on the Antarctic landscape, interesting diary entries as if they were one of Shackleton's crew and written super reports on the life of Captain Scott.

The next term promises to be an exciting one as the weather warms up; lower school will be exploring our local area with lots of geography field trips and data collections whilst upper school will be learning all about the ancient civilization of Egypt – trips to the British Museum in London (look out for bargain train deals) over half term or the Ashmolean in Oxford (great park and ride system off the A34) are fantastic places to help the topic come to life. Sprat & Winkle will be answering the question 'is a house a home?' through their knights & castles topic.

In the meantime though, please all stay safe, keep testing and have a great half term. I hope that most isolations are over in the next few days meaning you can enjoy some time as a family without the pressures of school day routines.

Kind regards,

Emma Jefferies  
Headteacher

### Reading books

Mrs Cooper and I are having a huge sort out of all of our reading books for younger readers over half term and on the Tuesday of our INSET days. We have been working with our English Hub to streamline and be more targeted in the books that children read at this early stage so that they have success and build early confidence.

**PLEASE HAVE A REALLY GOOD LOOK AT HOME FOR READING BOOKS IN pink red blue green orange bands.**

We'd really love them back for the Monday or Tuesday after half term – we realise these are INSET days but the office will be open. Failing that, please do send them in during the first week of next half term.

This does mean that any child on any of these levels does NOT have a school reading book over the holidays. We have made sure that they have general library book or two instead.

### Year 6 mock SATs week

In the first week back after half term, Year 6 will be sitting a mock SATs week and it's extremely important that they are in school every day please.

Whilst we are very 'anti-cramming', we are keen that children know the stamina required to sit the tests so that it's not a surprise when they come to the actual thing.

Ultimately, we want children to enter into SATS week full of confidence and this is a first and useful indicator as to how they will approach this and what support might be required to support them, it's certainly nothing to worry about.

### Parent Teacher Consultations

**We have face to face meetings available on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March.  
We have online meetings available on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

Please make sure you have booked a slot on one of these – we are half way through the year and this is a crucial time to catch up on your child's progress.

After these are over, we will be issuing this year's parent's questionnaires – we have a few things planned and we'd love your views on them through this survey. We are hoping to resurrect our parent forum which we haven't had for a few years in the summer term so your feedback on the questionnaire will help guide us a bit further.

The link will be out in the first newsletter after the holidays.

# SPORT

For the last 11 years, we have taken upper school swimming and last year, the impact of COVID was very noticeable with more children not being able to swim than those who could. Because we engage in adventurous activities on water during our residential in Years 5 & 6, it's critical for children to be at the very least, water confident.

So that we get a head start on getting children water confident, this year we are going to take our Year 2 children swimming as well as our Year 4s and any year 5 & 6 children who cannot yet swim 25m.

Year 2s will be going intensively every morning for a week from 28 March – we will write further after half term with details.

Year 4 & non-swimmers from Years 5 & 6 will go in July as usual.

# Music

Interested in purchasing a musical instrument for your child?

Would you like it a bit cheaper?

Thanks to the Brown family, we now have a link to Hayes music shop in Romsey as well as our existing relationship to Kev's shop, Stringbrokers in Andover and we are able to purchase the instrument for you and then sell it to you without the VAT. This saving could be substantial if you're purchasing a piano!

Please speak to the school office or Mrs Jefferies BEFORE making the purchase so that we can arrange payment with the shops.

**Our musician of the month is  
Gabriel Prokofiev**

# REGULAR



# UPDATES

Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding extends to all of the adults and children in our school. We want to ensure that you are as protected when working and volunteering in school as you can be so that we are doing the very best for all children.

If you help out with FOSS, pop up cafes etc, please drop Mrs Spayes an email and ask for a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Services) check.

Then, there is a clear but strict process which at the moment is going very quickly – we're finding checks being returned within no more than 2 weeks.

1. Mrs Spayes will email you a link to the DBS pages.
2. You fill in your details and then it automatically gets returned to Mrs Spayes. She cannot move forwards until you've completed step 3.
3. As soon as you've done your details in step 2, please bring 3 forms of ID into school (2 must be photographic eg, passport, driving licence) & utility bill from the last 3 months
4. Mrs Spayes then completes our side and the check is processed.
5. I receive an email with the outcome and then contact you for a volunteer briefing.

**THANK YOU!**

## Reading

Our librarians have been planning an assembly to share with the children in their first week back after half term. They've undertaken their role with great enthusiasm and helped transform the library with their inventive displays – we'll put some photos in the next newsletter!



## Talent Show

Our annual talent show has been launched with all details on Google Classroom. We will be holding it virtually again this year which should provide greater opportunities for your children to share all of the wonderful things they enjoy in their spare time. The deadline to upload videos is 4pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March which gives half term and a few extra days to perfect them.

