



Stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 1

8 September 2023

A sunny start

What a brilliant start to the academic year we've had this week. Not only have we had brilliant sunshine (much welcome after weeks of on/off rain), the children have come back ready and raring to go as have the staff!

We have quite a few new faces on both the staff team and amongst the children and it's been good getting to know them all and welcome them to our 'Stockbridge Family' this week; look out for staff introductions on p.2 of this newsletter. A very special new welcome though to our 20 new Year R children and their families – there wasn't a single tear at drop off on day one which is brilliant and they have managed so well with learning the new routines and routes around school. Buddies have been brilliant too.

In assemblies this week, we have been focusing on our school value of 'Collaboration'. We've begun thinking about this one first as it can often take a little while to settle back into larger friendship groups after time apart and working together in class is a big part of our provision.

We have learnt about turn taking and how to initiate a go.

We've also learnt about compromise – a big one that is challenging!! We've explored phrases for children to use when trying to compromise;

- "next time could I..."
- "wouldn't it be fun if..."
- "I understand that but..."
- "I'd like to..."
- "Please can I/we..."
- "Maybe we could..."
- "would you like to...?"
- "what do you think about...?"

These will be displayed in class and outside to help children learn independence in negotiating compromise.

Welcome to 2023-24!

Mrs Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

Food in school

Many moons ago, the 'big thing' in schools was working towards a 'Healthy School' status with fantastic guidance and a recognized national award scheme. This has fallen away somewhat but we'd like to resurrect it! We want our children to make healthy food choices, positive mental health moves and be healthy citizens who can make informed and positive choices for their long term physical and mental health. As a result, we are making changes for the whole school!



For breaktime snack, children should bring fruit or veg snacks or a healthy breakfast bar type snack (without chocolate chips or chunks!).

Haribo, sweets, crisps and chocolates are not suitable snacks for breaktime and we'll be able to offer children a snack instead of this from the fruit basket outside Redbridge instead.



We are a **nut free setting** – some of our children have serious nut allergies to all forms of tree nut and peanuts and we don't wish for anyone to have a reaction in school so manage this carefully. Please do double check breakfast bars for nuts – they sometimes sneak them in.



Water

Thanks so much for having water bottles in this week, it's been great & children have refilled and refilled! Please make sure it's water only, not squash as only water properly hydrates you.

Birthdays

We will be celebrating birthdays in school assemblies from hereon in. This should save every family money on sweets and treats usually provided at the end of the day (& allow more room for cake at home!).



Old faces in new places

Whilst we welcome a number of new staff, we are also having a shake up with faces you'll already be familiar with:

- Shawn will be our new bus driver at the beginning & end of the day.
- Mrs Holden joins Miss Hatt in running breakfast club.
- Mrs Tanner is splitting her time between pre-school and school and Mrs Holdich is in Year5/6



Mrs Hughes

Mrs Hughes is no longer an LSA here but she IS a trainee teacher! She has worked so hard to acquire a First Class Honors degree and takes up a place on the School Direct route for trainee teachers. She'll be teaching Horsebridge alongside Mrs Dodman.

Mrs McClue

Mrs McClue takes over the mantle of SEN from Mrs Whittington who is on maternity leave. Having done the job before and taught all of last year, she is perfectly poised! Her SENDCO day is Thursday.



REGULAR UPDATES



Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school



Welcome!

You may notice new faces around at the beginning and end of day and we'd like to warmly welcome all of these lovely new faces to our team. They've already made themselves at home and feel part of the family already!



Mrs Thomson

Having lived and worked in Copenhagen for the last 4 years with her family, Mrs Thomson has now resettled back here in the UK. She is hugely experienced in Early Years having set up a 'pre-school' for children aged 0-7yrs old. She is now leading Sprat & Winkle and we look forward to great things!

Miss Hatt

Miss Hatt is the 'Robin' to Mrs Thomson's 'Batman'! She is the right hand lady in Sprat & Winkle and has joined us having led rooms in a Winchester pre-school and also experienced school life working 1:1 with a child in a Winchester school. She will join Mrs Holden in leading breakfast club too this year.



Mrs Skipwith

With a previous career in competitive cycling and having competed for Great Britain in the past, Mrs Skipwith knows a thing or two about resilience and pride! She has three children and has already begun the steep vertical curve of learning about life working in a school with us, taken to it like a duck to water in Redbridge class!

Mrs Dodman

Many children in Andover have benefitted from Mrs Dodman's care and kindness over the last 15 years and we've luckily snagged her to lead Horsebridge class here too. With much experience of safeguarding, leading subjects and working with parents, we are lucky to have Mrs Dodman on our team.



Mrs Freeman

Having worked for many years in schools, Mrs Freeman took a break but the lure of a pre-school role with us and our lovely little people in there pulled her back and she's dived straight in! With grown up children of her own, Mrs Freeman is loving being back in with the little ones as they've rejoined pre-school this week.



Parking

Our lovely neighbor in the Coach House this week was verbally abused by a parent who had knowingly parked across her driveway. This driveway has a dropped curb meaning that it is actually illegal to park here.

This is NOT acceptable and a dreadful role model for our children. I hate to have to deliver this strong message publicly but there are only so many times it can be done politely.

We have a huge number of places to park and safely get your child into school – many more than most city schools and indeed many more than local rural schools.

DO NOT DROP OFF ON ZIG ZAGS (or immediately after or before them) – this is also illegal.

I have to admit for failing my first driving test for parking too close to a corner so I know first-hand that no one should be parking or stopping on the corner of Old London Road off the main road.

Minibus

You might have spotted a new addition to our car park – a lovely new minibus for us to use! We have linked up with the brilliant Minibus Spend2save scheme with Hampshire County Council and we are now able to offer a lift to and from school to children who live in our catchment and have no safe access to school ie. no pavement. We have 16 children already signed up and the service will start on Monday.



We are also lucky to be able to use the bus during the daytime for trips, visits and sporting fixtures and as you can imagine, we already have big plans and this should help save everyone money in the long run as it's so costly nowadays to hire a coach. What fun!



Sports

We have a packed sporting calendar lined up for this year! Our first event is Cross Country at Wallop School on September 26th at 4pm. Teams will be chosen and letters out to those on the team at least a week before the event.

Mr Warland will be back in on Monday so, if they aren't already in, please make sure your child brings their PE kit in for Monday morning.

We have also adjusted his timetable so each Monday, he will have time with children who are going to be part of a team that's up for competition to ensure children fully understand the rules and nature of the game.

Music

On bank holiday Saturday, some guitarists from Kev's group played to a real live audience at a music festival in Wiltshire. Swanfest gave them the perfect opportunity to be on a real stage with a real audience that was not just their parents! With full sound and lighting kit, they performed for an hour and sung to all their tunes – they were quite simply amazing and I must confess to a little tear or two of pride!

We continue with our musician of the half term and this time, we'll be enjoying the music from a seminal 90s band,

OASIS

PE Kit consists of:

Summer kit March - October	Winter kit November - end February
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black or navy blue shorts – lycra shorts also allowed• Red logo t-shirt• An unlabelled t-shirt in their family colour• Socks• Trainers - no plimsolls please	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black or navy jogging bottoms – plain• Red logo t-shirt• An unlabelled t-shirt in their family colour• Spare logo red jumper• Gloves, hat, scarf – we are out in all weathers and temperatures!• Socks + a spare pair• Trainers – no plimsolls please

Diary Dates Autumn term

These are diary dates for parents for the next fortnight until the next newsletter is out.

Our website is also updated with all of these new dates and will now be up to date as we've bravely moved to an online diary for all staff!

Date	Who does it apply to?	Time	Notes
w/b 11 th	Years 1-6	3.15pm	Clubs begin – club letter will come out on the first day back
Wed 13 th	STAFF	3.30pm	Twilight 1 INSET
Thurs 14 th	Upper School (Years 4-6)	All day	School trip
Mon 18 th	Year R	All day	Stay all day
Tues 19 th	All	Am	Individual school photos
Wed 20 th	STAFF	3.30pm	Twilight 2 INSET
Thurs 21 st	Year R parents	9am (in person) & 7.30pm (virtual)	Phonics workshop for Year R parents and Year 1 parents are welcome to join too
Tues 26 th	Team (TBC)	4pm	Cross Country event
Fri 29 th	All	9am	Macmillan Coffee morning
w/b 2 nd Oct	Year 6	All week	Wales residential
Mon 9 th	All	Daytime	Parent teacher meetings
Tues 10 th	All USch team	Evening pm	Parent teacher meetings Girl's football festival
Fri 20 th	All	3.15pm	Last day of school before October Half term holidays

Reminder of INSET dates for next year so you can book holidays around these:

Day 2	Monday 13 th November
Day 3	Monday 19 th February
Day 4	Monday 22 nd July
Day 5	Tuesday 23 rd July