



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 10

22 November 2024

Leadership and monitoring

As a school we do so much to enrich children's learning experiences but our eyes are firmly set on the teaching and learning standards and Governors are a critical part of our checks and challenge to ensure we are making progress towards our school development plan. This last week and the forthcoming week is full of Governor visits where they are meeting and talking with staff and children for a range of things.

This year our school development priorities are:

PRIORITY 1

Ensure children are achieving at or above Age Related Expectations in English and Maths

PRIORITY 2

Develop teacher's knowledge and revise the curriculum in DT, Geography, Music and Science

PRIORITY 3

Provide outstanding Early Years curriculum across both pre-school and Year R that is progressive and tailored more closely to children's interests and knowledge base.

PRIORITY 4

Children receive a high quality food offer and make healthy and broad food choices.

More on each of these and our progress this term in the next 4 issues of this newsletter.

Mrs Emma Jefferies
Headteacher



Super sponsoring and fund-raising

WOW!! Thank you to our whole school community for pulling together to raise some outstanding amounts recently. We had great fun on the sponsored walk and you've all worked very hard at collecting the monies in.

Our sponsored walk has raised a whopping

£1664.70

You also pulled through for Children in Need and we have been able to donate £172.20 to this brilliant cause. Thank you for all the cake donations and getting behind the non-uniform too! Pudsey biscuits in Pre-School also raised £27.61.



Wellbeing & Mental Health

Sleepy slump!

We're smack bang in the middle of the term, the clocks have changed and we're noticing this week there's been more and more grumpy children who are getting easily frustrated with others which is not normal for them. Please do take time to chill this weekend and



re-establish some early bedtimes and downtime. Sleep is so important for children to recover from a busy week and avoid things spiraling when they really don't need to.

Clatford's new teacher

I am delighted to announce that Clatford's new teacher will be Miss Morris from January onwards. Some of you with older children may well recognise her from our cluster sports competitions as she has taught at a local primary for many years and co-ordinated the sporting programme across our cluster.

She writes, "I've been a teacher for 12 and a bit fantastic years and am really looking forward to a new adventure at Stockbridge. I thoroughly enjoy working alongside children, developing and nurturing them to reach their full potential.

I like teaching all subjects but have a particularly interest in Maths and PE. I've enjoyed developing children's engagement in PE at my previous school and I strongly believe that it's important for all children to have the opportunity to participate in sport.

When I'm not in school, I love to watch rugby, cook (I'm particularly good at caramel squares), go for walks by the sea and spend time with family and friends. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and working with your children."

Priority 4: Healthy food offer

Michelle and Kelly are working really hard in the kitchen to ensure we are offering the best food possible within the menu we currently have. As we've moved into a new menu after October half term, we are keen to ensure our children know what all of the options are and what they might taste like.

Each day, we will be offering tasters to children; both those who are eating school dinners already but also to those who have packed lunches. There is no requirement for them to have a taster but we are gently encouraging children to be more adventurous in their choices. You never know if you like something until you try it!

This week, we had a veggie bean burrito and BBQ chicken pizza on Wednesday; some children had never tried BBQ sauce, others were not sure on the burrito. We handed out small tasters of both and all of a sudden both the flavoured rice, 6 bean burritos and 5 slices of BBQ pizza had been trialed and results were largely really positive.

We'll keep doing this and will be sending a food survey out for you all next week to gather your views on how we can move forwards to ensure the long term viability of our kitchen and hot meal offer.

Reading

Are you in touch with Santa and wondering what to recommend to him for your children this Christmas? Here are some new releases we think the children will love:



Year R – The Bedtime Boat

A story to help young ones slip into sleep with some mindfulness techniques in amongst a great narrative.

Year 1/2 – Here be giants

Here be giants twists the narrative on gender strength amidst a brilliant adventure story and a gentle intro to old English language.



Year 3/4 – [Choose your own adventure!](#)

Ooh I used to love these books when you can choose how the story progresses. They're perfect for Year 3/4 readers who are emerging into longer chapter books. The heading is linked to an amazon page full of these books.



Year 5/6 – Storm Keeper's trilogy

At this age, it's great to get children into a series and this brilliant magical adventure has won many awards – will help children move on from Harry Potter!

REGULAR



UPDATES

Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

Sport

After a very successful start to our sporting year by children in KS2, the younger children in Years 1 & 2 were determined not to be left behind.

4 intrepid Kurlers took part in the first KS1 competition of the year at Danebury School on Monday and did an amazing job, coming 2nd overall, just 1 point behind the winners. It's not a sport we play frequently in school but it's a great first taster of competitive elements and is a hard floor version of the winter curling game that you see at winter Olympics. The children's take on their experience:



"Grace got us 2 points and I got us 1 point. We got points by trying to roll the stone into the target to get near a circle." The red ones were 1 point – 10 was white but it was a tiny bit inside the blue circle – that was 5 points." Jacob, Year 2

"I'm like my uncle now – he has a medal and so do I!" Charlie, Year 1

"It wasn't scary, I felt good and excited! My cousins were in the audience and they were trying to help me but it made it worse!!" Georgia, Grace & Jacob



Safeguarding

I'm sure you can't have escaped the message coming through many parent forums and conversations, TV programmes and podcasts from a relatively new organisation 'Smartphone free childhood'

There is too much evidence to ignore that smartphones are a harmful presence in our children's lives on so many levels. Access to inappropriate content, grooming, cyber bullying and addiction to high levels of dopamine that the use of smartphones give rise to, are concerns filtering through both parents and educators.

Perhaps at our children's age, we worry most about the content they have to cope with and how to deal with friendship fallouts, navigating requests, ghosting and the social dynamics which they are not yet mature enough to understand or deal with.

Far from banning phones, the charity advocates using non-smartphones for children to keep in touch with you (safety is paramount) but where they don't have to deal with the all issues they are too young to understand and yes, that also includes Year 6! We couldn't agree more.



Diary Dates Autumn term 2024-25

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
Tues 26 th	Guitar players	All day	Kev in for guitar all day
Thurs 28 th	Y6 & YR	9.00-11.30	Height & Weight measurements with the School Nurse Team
Fri 29 th	Whole school	3.15pm	Christmas trail for the High Street Christmas trail comes home – hand in at the Grand light switch on on Fri 6 th Dec between 5pm – 5.50pm at St Peter's Church.
Sat 30 th	All	9.00am-1.00pm	FOSS Xmas tree sale
DECEMBER			
Fri 6 th	All	3.30-4.00pm	Songs around the Christmas Tree
Fri 6 th	Y3 & Y4	5.45-6.15pm	Stockbridge light switch on. Y3 & Y4 to sing at the Church.
Mon 9 th	All		Last week of clubs
Fri 13 th	KS1	2.00-3.00pm 6.00-7.00pm	KS1 & Year R Nativity
Mon 16 th	ALL	1.00-3.00pm	Santa Dash with visit from Santa
Tues 17 th	All	12.00-1.00pm	Whole school Christmas lunch – all children will be ordered a meal unless they opt out
Wed 18 th		9.45-10.15am	Guitar concert
Thurs 19 th	Pre-school	9.30-11.30am	Pre-School party
Thurs 19 th	Whole School	9.30am-1.30pm	Pantomime – The Anvil, Basingstoke
Fri 20 th	Whole school	1.00pm	Finish for Christmas Holidays