



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 12

6 December 2024

Christmas is coming...

We are at that point in the term when everything feels overwhelming and we wonder how on earth we'll get through the next 3 weeks but do it we will and we'll be glad we squeezed it all in when we get there!

Nativity rehearsals have begun in earnest and Year 3 & 4 have done a superb job, spearheaded by Mrs Hughes, of perfecting carols for tonight's event at St Peter's where they have been asked to sing just before the grand light switch on at 6pm. I hope many of you will be able to take in the delights of the community coming together to celebrate the start of Christmas in Stockbridge – there is a lot planned!

We made the decision not to have a Year 4-6 carol concert at St Peter's this year. Year R, 1 & 2 have the nativity as their 'annual performance'. Year 3 & 4 are performing at the Christmas light switch on and Years 4-6 have the summer play, thereby giving each year 'group' a special event. We felt the carol concert was a step too far!

Our school has been turned into a Christmas celebration this afternoon with the tree up outside, twinkly lights in corridors, classrooms and shared spaces and more tinsel than you could imagine!

We look forward to sharing the festive spirit later on today with you.

Mrs Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

Wider development

We may not have reported on it quite so much this last half term but children's wider development has very much been influenced by our visits and visitors. As well as a trip to Milestones to explore toys from the past, Lower School have welcomed visitors to share toys from their youth! Mr Jefferies (senior!) shared his toys and photos from the 1950s when he was a boy and Mr Cameron moved us on with toys from the 80s. Older children made their Anglo-Saxon learning practical with a day in the life of an Anglo Saxon her in school!



Wellbeing & Mental Health

Is the Grinch visiting your house?

Whilst many of us love this time of year, not all children find it easy to cope with. Your house looks different, school activities are often different, food is unusual and people are behaving differently to normal. Children are tired, there are events to go to, clubs are coming to a close. This week's message is about connecting and taking notice.



Take time to notice and flag to your child that you recognise this time of year can be hard as well as exciting. Connect with them about how things could be kept simple & regular.

Christmas events – a breakdown

Fri 13th Dec	2pm Nativity matinee 6pm Nativity Please bring children to the church NO EARLIER than 5.45pm. We will admit children only until 5.55pm when we'll open the doors to the church for family & friends.
Mon 16th	Year R have a Christmas celebration planned at The Grosvenor and Town Hall in the morning. Years 4-6 have been invited to Danebury for a celebration from 11.30am. Santa Dash starts at 1pm with a special visitor arriving later that afternoon.
Tues 17th	Christmas lunch – choices have been made and crackers are ready to be pulled!
Wed 18th	9.30am – Guitar concert with Kev
Thurs 18th	Panto visit – please complete the attached form for lunch choices for those having a school packed lunch.
Fri 19th	Finish at 1pm.

Priority 1: High academic standards

With the fullness of our curriculum, we are conscious not to lose sight of high academic standards. One of the ways we measure children's progress is through testing and I'm sure that it won't have escaped your notice this week, if you have a child in Years 2-6, that we have been testing children to secure standardised scores. This is only one way of measuring progress but it does allow us to see what the children can do independently.

We will share these results with you at the next parent teacher meetings. There is a separate letter tonight for Year 6 parents as they have undertaken different testing.

Testing is one strategy in our arsenal. Other things we will be focusing on to improve academic standards in the new year are:


- Target setting – we'll be sharing targets with you early on in the term
- Sharing of strategies, especially in maths to help children recall and retrieve prior learning
- Higher level thinking skills to ensure children can carry out this learning independently
- A fresh plan for grappling with the division of times tables – this is historically weaker than the multiplication element.
- Reading – see opposite for our first strategy!

Reading

Your child might have come home this week talking about 'brick wall' books and those of you who have been around for a while may remember this from pre-COVID.

Essentially, we have mapped out, with the support of the School Library Service, a selection of fiction and poetry books which are age appropriate for each year group to access. We know that, if children have accessed most of these books by the end of the year, children will have had a broad reading 'diet' and hopefully, will have found a genre or author that they are interested in.

Every child in the school has a new 'brick wall' book to enjoy. Please do share it with them and enjoy! When they've read it, they can colour in the 'brick' on the wall that's stuck in their reading records. As we progress through the year, hopefully the bricks will all be coloured!

 **Year 4 reading challenge**

Colour in the block when you've read a book – can you complete the wall this year?

Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author
Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author
Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author
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Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author
Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author	Read a book by a famous author

Which other 5 books have you read that are NOT on our wall? Fill in the gaps above.

REGULAR



UPDATES

Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

Sport

It's been a bumper fortnight for our children!

George in Y2 plays rugby at Salisbury Rugby Club every Sunday (in all forms of weather!). This week he won the player of the week award! This was given to him for consistently getting 'stuck in' despite wind and rain, scoring the final try of the game, being supportive to other plays and always being ready to take the ball for a pass – well done George!



Thea (Year 5) has been smashing her Ju Jitsu when competing at the Brighton competition after fighting in a weight and age category above her usual and still came out with a 3rd place – fantastic Thea!

Grace in Year 1 went for Gold and grabbed it with both hands in her interclub trampolining event, applying great gymnastic skills to this sport – well done Grace!

Harison in Year 5 was awarded the pink belt for best throws at his judo club this week which shows real determination and grit. It's earned him the right to start and end the next session in Japanese with his coaches!



Safeguarding

There has been a real focus from Hampshire Safeguarding teams on Domestic abuse recently with several of us undertaking training in spotting it and supporting those suffering from it. It's an uncomfortable statistic that 2.3million over 16s suffer from domestic abuse to the year ending March 2024. Think of the number of children this impacts.

Domestic abuse takes many forms and can be physical, verbal, emotional, economic, coercive control and more.

It can feel incredibly isolating for those suffering from domestic abuse and, despite best endeavours, children see, hear and feel the tensions in a home or partnership.

If this might apply to you, please know that in Hampshire, there is support readily available. A helpline for all parts of Hampshire:

Stop Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0330 0533 630 or info@stopdomesticabuse.uk

Emergency refuge accommodation: 0330 0533 630 (general); out of hours Mon-Thurs 0771 125991, Fri – Sun and bank holidays 07501 378314

HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

Recognise it. Seek help.

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
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