**November 2019**

Welcome to November’s edition of the Stogursey School News. What a busy term we had! The children settled into new classes really well and we had a slightly different start to school with the launch of new initiatives such as Talk for Writing, Working with Alice Maddicott from Halsway Manor and the expansion of our enrichment activities. Right at the end of term, we had the Head of School interviews and I am delighted to have got the post. Not only does this show the governors and the Quantock Education Trust have faith in what I have to offer to Stogursey, but also it ensures continuity and stability for the children going forward.

Last term, we worked on the inspiring work of Jesus’ apostles and how they didn’t believe in themselves to bring about change but nevertheless, they showed resilience and established the Church and grew it from there. We have been working as a school on a radical new idea called ‘The Smart School Council’ in which all 74 children have now been elected School Councillors and will be taking part in a very smart online system in which they will be making decisions to bring about change in the school. We are in the process of setting this up but I am sure you will start to hear about this exciting new development from the children as it gets going! Thank you to FOSS for funding the fee for this year.

We have changes afoot lower down the school in Pre-school and I am so delighted to be working with colleagues from Bridgwater & Taunton College in enhancing our Early Years provision.

I can’t believe we are almost at Christmas already and how quickly time is moving on!

Once again, I am always on hand if you want to chat or have an idea to get involved in the school. I am usually at the school gate at the beginning or end of the day or you could make an appointment through the school office.

Mr Tucker

**WELCOME TO NEW STAFF**

I’d like to warmly welcome Caren Egan who has been seconded from Bridgwater & Taunton College to run our Pre-School up until the end of this term. Caren is very experienced and has been getting to know the children and parents in Pre-school. We also have Kate Barrett (Mondays to Wednesdays) and Leanne Hill (Thursdays and Fridays) assisting Caren.

Caren has made a mark quickly bringing staff in to improve things. Already, her staff have been reintroducing Forest School with the hope that this can be extended across the school making better use of our wonderful outdoor space.

I am sure we will gain so much from this arrangement and we will have permanent arrangements in place for January. More details to follow soon.

**PARENT FORUM**

This is back on for Friday 29th November at 2.15pm. Refreshments will be provided and we look forward to seeing you there. The online link to Parent View is here. These are often gathered around an OfSTED inspection but governors have asked that the link be published so parents can use this at any time. It is <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

**ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENTS**

Although our attendance has dropped due to sickness bugs doing the rounds, our attendance is still in line with similar schools. We are on 96.3% at the time of writing. Our work with West Somerset Attendance Officer Elaine Detain has obviously worked and parents have also been working hard to improve this.

Our attention will now turn to punctuality. We will be monitoring this closely. If you struggle to get your child to school and/or on time then please don’t hesitate to make an appointment through the school office so we can help with this.

**FRIENDSHIP WEEK/ CHILDREN IN NEED**

This second week of November is Friendship Week. On Friday we will be having a special assembly looking at the work the children have done around friendships, conflict resolution, and bullying- what it is and is not. Parents are welcome to attend this and it is at 3pm.

On the same day, it is Children in Need and we will be raising money for this by having a non-uniform day. A separate note has gone out about this.

**Y6 BIIKABILITY ![C:\Users\donna.carter\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\CWVKNBB1\bike9[1].gif]()**

This is on at the end of the second week of November- Thurs 14th and Fri 15th for Year 6 only. It is an important part of life skills and character building. A separate note has gone out about this.

**NO Y6 CLUB- WEDS 13th NOVEMBER**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Year 6 club is not on Weds 13th November. Year 6s do have 3 pieces of online Quizizz homework to complete before the following Wednesday so there’s plenty to do! Any problems, please let myself or Miss Day know.

**WE ARE RECRUITING**

We need a Pre-School Assistant. The advert for this job is on the QET website at <https://www.quantockedtrust.co.uk/vacancies>

This is an exciting opportunity to take part in our exciting work on enhancing our Early Years provision and be part of a wonderful team. Details out on the same webpage. If you know anyone or are interested yourself, please either check the website or pop in to have a chat with Mr Tucker or Miss Day.

**MATHS WITH PARENTS WORKSHOPS**

I am looking to do another couple of sessions to fit around working parents on this. If you are new to our school or fancy a refresher then let myself or Miss Day know and we will schedule a time for this. We have one family interested at the moment.

**FOSS- FIREWORKS ![C:\Users\donna.carter\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\CWVKNBB1\fireworks_PNG15694[1].png]()**

I was absolutely blown away by the sheer numbers of people coming to see this last Tuesday. I noticed quite a few residents from Nether Stowey came over as well.

Thank you to FOSS for organising this and I am sure we will hear about how much was raised very soon. Thank you for your support in helping raise money to benefit our children.

**‘SHINE FEST’ LAUNCH THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER**

It has been so lovely to see the high-quality creative work being produced with Alice Maddicott, from Halsway Manor. She has been working with the community on this inspiring project (funded by EDF) and it culminates in the unveiling of the community archive in our school on Thursday 5th December at

3.45pm. Representatives from EDF will be there as well as members of the community. We will have refreshments and it will be a chance to see the work the children have produced being professionally displayed. This will launch the start of a two day end of topic celebration called the ‘Shine Fest’ in which children can let their lights shine through the Arts. We hope to see you there!

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOP WITH ALICE**

Alice Maddicott has been able to put on a wonderful creative workshop in Stogursey and it is FREE!

Art Workshop – Monday 18th November at the Church Rooms 12.00 – 4.00

If you would like to attend please email

creative@halswaymanor.org.uk to book your place

 **CHRISTMAS EVENTS **

From the 9th December, our Christmas activities begin. More details on this next month but please pencil in the dates below in your diary for our usual evening Christmas services and the Christingle the day after. Both are to be held at St. Andrew’s Church.

**COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

We have switched our communication to Arbor from Parentmail, if you are not receiving emails please check your spam, if still not receiving them please contact the school office.

Newsletters will be sent out in the second week of every month. Please see the website for more information.

These are the dates for this term. We try our best not to change them but sometimes circumstances require us to.

**DIARY DATES**

Mon 11th-15th Nov Friendship Week

Thurs 14th &

Fri 15th November Y6 Bikeability

Fri 15th November Friendship Assembly/

 Non-uniform Day

Fri 29th November Parent Forum

Tues 3rd December NSPCC Assemblies

Thurs 5th/ Fri 6th Dec ‘Shine Fest’

Mon 9th Dec Christmas topic begins

Weds 11th Dec Y5/6 NSPCC Workshop

Fri 13th Dec FOSS Disco

Thurs 19th Dec Church Service-6pm

Fri 20th Dec Christingle at Church-2pm

Fri 20th Dec Last day of Term 2

Mon 6th Jan Term 3 starts