

STOGURSEY SCHOOL NEWS

December 2020



December is here and the festivities have started! As I write this, I can hear the children of Triscombe class preparing for their nativity play that is being filmed. It seems very strange that we would be doing the nativity two weeks early but it is needed so that a film can be put together in time for the end of term. It seems very peculiar that we won't be having a church service of doing the play in front of parents but modern technology has meant we can put on the usual services but in a slightly different way!

With the great news that the vaccine is being rolled out this week, I am hoping that soon enough, we may start to return to some normality but as the Prime Minister has said, it will still take some time for this to happen. Any changes I make to our arrangements have to go through strict safety measures and included on our risk assessment which is then scrutinised by our governors and final approval given by the trustees.

I look forward to what lies ahead in 2021. I am sure our school will continue to grow in the rich experiences and the children will grow in confidence making excellent progress and as restrictions inevitably start to lift, I hope to see more of the community getting involved and playing an active part

in our school community. COVID may have derailed things a bit but I feel things are getting back on track.

On behalf of the staff, governors and the trust, we wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.



Mr Tucker

STAFF NEWS

We have had to say a sad farewell to our temporary Office Manager, Janine Collins who stepped in at the start of this half term. She has brought new insights into our office setup and we have enjoyed having Janine about. The children will certainly miss her cheery disposition as she enters and leaves the building each day! Welcome to Michelle Thomas who is stepping in as Office Manager until the end of term. After this, our permanent Office Manager, Alison Pear begins. She has started to work with us on her days off so that she can take up her post on the first day back.

A very warm welcome to Felicity French, who has started with us as Triscombe Class Teaching Assistant, job sharing with Mr Law. Felicity will also be doing some intervention work on Mondays assisting Ms Dunwood. Welcome to the Stogursey team!



CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

With the restrictions in place, things might be done in a slightly different way this year. We hope to send out details of activities happening for this final two

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weeks of term in a separate email. We aim to have the Nativity play and service on our YouTube channel by Wednesday 16th December.

POPPY APPEAL

Many thanks for all your donations. We raised an amazing £103.86 to the Poppy Appeal.

MESSAGE FROM FOSS

Did you know that we're registered with easyfundraising and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself? Since our fundraising events are on hold, this is a great opportunity to keep raising much needed funds for Friends of Stogursey School. When you shop online, with over 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, notonthehighstreet, you will raise FREE donations for Friends of Stogursey School.

If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway - simply shop online as normal. This will be an enormous help to the school, at no extra cost to yourself.

Visit our easyfundraising page to get started:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofstogurseyschool/

REMOTE LEARNING

We have had some children off school with symptoms of COVID19. Luckily, we have had no positive cases. It is required now in law that anyone self-isolating either through a positive case or awaiting test results should continue their education at home through Remote Learning provided by the school. Our new Chromebooks have arrived and they are being loaned out to certain families the staff have identified as being able to benefit from having them (this could be due to having older siblings taking up computer time or for other reasons). All work (except for Triscombe

class) should be done online in Google Classroom. We will set out more details about this but the main expectations are:

1. Work should be for at least **3 hours per day**
2. Remote Learning should be done to the same high standards as we have at school (good presentation, care taken with it)
3. Any remote learning packs are to be brought back upon your child's return to school
4. A requirement to meet deadlines set by teachers
5. Your family bubble should NOT be seen out and about whilst self-isolating. This is now against the law and can incur big fines.

We appreciate that switching like this can be very challenging but please know that our teachers are working extremely hard to ensure work is provided and then for children to 'slot back in' upon their arrival. This is such a challenge for teachers to do and so if you don't understand something about Remote Learning, then please do contact us at the school.

HAYGROVE'S VIRTUAL FAIR

Haygrove are holding a Virtual Christmas Fair that includes 11 fun and festive activities such as a Christmas bake-off, an opportunity to perform a song or musical piece, colouring competition and a Festive Pet Show!

All details can be found here:

<https://www.haygroveschool.co.uk/personal-development/virtual-christmas-fair.htm>



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CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



This is to be held on Friday 11th December. Children may wear a Christmas jumper and bring in a donation for Save the Children. The suggested donation is £1.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Children may pop any Christmas Cards into our lovely new Christmas Postbox at the front of school. Please ensure the recipient's name is clearly on there and their class as well. For obvious reasons, do not lick the envelope, fold it down instead. All cards will then be delivered on the last day of term having had a sufficient period of time to be 'quarantined'. **Final posting date will be Tuesday 15th December.** This is when the box will be removed and no cards will be allowed to be given out.



CHILDREN IN NEED

We raised the sum of £59 for this and we are so glad to have supported this worthy cause.



TUTORING NEXT TERM

You may have read that a National Tutoring Programme has started to address the inevitable gaps that emerged due to the six-month lockdown period. We have decided to engage with this programme. We are in the process of being matched with private tutors and teachers will be in touch with certain families about engaging with this. The sessions will be for a 15-hour block of 1 or 2 hours after school and are for children we deem require it. **There will be no cost to you.** This is being paid for by the government. All we ask is if you choose to engage with this that you are reliable with attendance at these sessions. They will be in the school building and start when the risk assessment allows for this to happen. Our current thinking is that this would start in February at the earliest or if Somerset's tier rating improves then in January. The sessions will be face-to-face, supervised by a member of staff and all Private Tutors are DBS-checked and qualified teachers. The tutors will ensure correct distancing and follow the measures set out in our risk assessment. Teachers will start to have phone chats with you to gauge interest but further details will be announced at the end of term. We really hope you take up this offer.

PE DAYS

Please remember as part of the plan, children may come to school in a tracksuit on PE days. These days are outlined below:

Triscombe (Rec/ Y1)- Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays
Alfoxton (Y2/3)- Mondays and Fridays
Beacon (Y4/5/6)- Thursdays and Fridays

NEWS FROM AROUND SCHOOL

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SMART SCHOOL COUNCIL RECONVENES

The Communication Team of the Smart School Council reconvened in another sign of things returning to some normality after it stopped during lockdown.

Connie was elected Chair with Olivia elected as Secretary. Newcomer Saul and Cody were elected to website work and newcomer Kaycee, Harry and Jacob were elected as group workers.

We look forward to seeing how well they work on providing enrichment in the current restrictions. Already, 3 requests for Action Teams have come in and so this is obviously exciting. Will there be another drama club? Will there be any charity or social activism this? We will have to wait to see what happens...

MONMOUTH REBELLION IN STOGURSEY??

The children in Beacon class drew up battle plans and wrote directions as battle commanders for a forthcoming rebellion. They went on to test their plans to see if they were up to scratch.

Some of the children were enlisted in James the second's Royalist army and the others were an ill-disciplined bunch of traitors attacking the throne of England in a futile attempt to change the line of succession.

Kaycee played the role of James Scott, the Duke of Monmouth, and spied the Royalists from the St Mary's Church tower. She attacked two times by testing Commander Riley and Commander Isaac's battle plans. Unsurprisingly, both attempts failed.

We are discussing it tomorrow and find out what Monmouth's actual battle plan was. We will also discover whether it worked or not and why.

Fun was had by everyone!

MATHS NEWS



Congratulations to Olivia, who won the most number of challenges and won herself a huge bar of chocolate!



The winner of our termly competition will be announced at the end of this week so keep an eye out for an email or on our website for this exciting news!

LEARNING EXPEDITIONS FOR SPRING TERM

The Pre-School will be learning all about the Spring season as well as topics that interest them.

Triscombe class will be doing a topic around two traditional tales- The Elves and the Shoemaker and Jack and the Beanstalk.

Alfoxton will be learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings.

Beacon class will be doing a Geography depth-study on natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis.

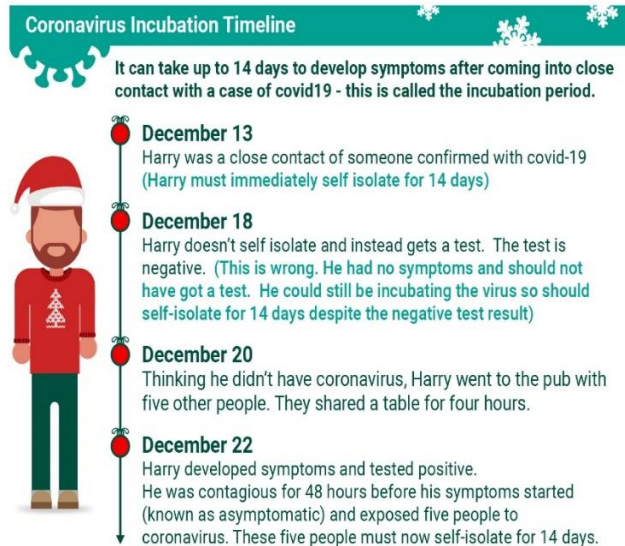
Any wider reading or days out (if possible) would be massively appreciated and benefit your children.

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CORONAVIRUS INCUBATION TIMELINES:

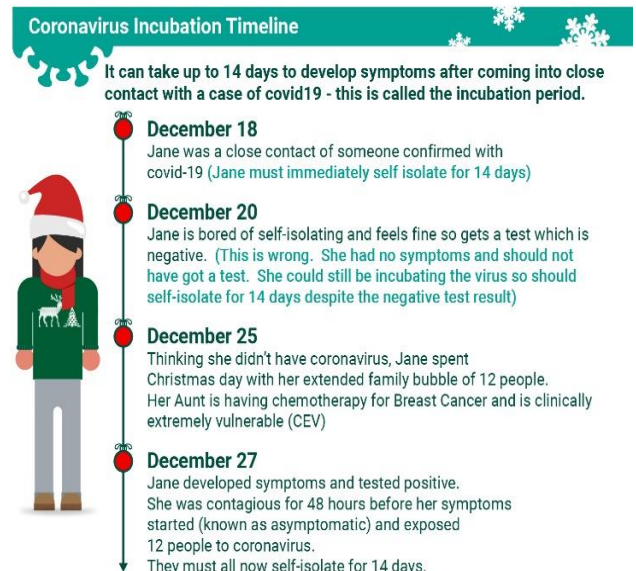


Highlighting different situations, please see below the timelines that we have received from NHS England, this is in the help to protect and keep us all safe.



They are all in self-isolation over Christmas

If you are a close contact of someone with coronavirus, you MUST complete your full isolation period, even if you feel well



Jane feels better after a few days, but her Aunt becomes extremely unwell and is taken to hospital where she is placed in the Intensive Care Unit.

If you are a close contact of someone with coronavirus, you MUST complete your full isolation period, even if you feel well



DIARY DATES

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

Mon 7th Dec	Christmas topic begins
Fri 11th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Performances (on YouTube)
Fri 18th Dec	End of Term
Mon 4 th Jan	Spring Term Starts