

STOGURSEY SCHOOL NEWS

May 2021



Welcome to this month's edition of the newsletter. I hope you are enjoying the gradual lifting of restrictions. I am really hopeful that with the vaccination rollout being so successful, some sort of normality will resume from next month for us all. The children continue to astonish me with their work ethic and enjoyment of learning in our school. I thought I would use this month's newsletter to outline how we are doing our bit for the recovery and continuing to change the school, reflecting the new vision the governors and the Trust have set us to achieve.

The other day, I felt so proud to be the Head of Stogursey when I was listening to children talking about their learning. Year 4/5/6 have been writing formal letters to ask for more funding for their play. They obviously want this to be a huge success and care deeply about it. I could see this in their writing. I enjoyed pretending to be a concerned dog owner in the role play corner as Ava was role-playing at being a vet. She took good care of my sick pet and only charged 10p for it! It was delightful having birthday cakes being made for me in Pre-school with pretend candles on (it wasn't my birthday!) but the youngest learners were counting the candles before singing me Happy Birthday! The very next day, it was delightful meeting newborn children and toddlers and their Mums doing a messy play session. I didn't stay for this but will do next time! My thanks to Lianne in pre-school who has volunteered to run this provision. It has already had a great response and I'm looking forward to how this develops. Our Year 2/3 class has been really enthusiastic in my outdoor assemblies talking about communities that they belong to. It is so nice to see children at all ages getting back into their learning and putting the pandemic behind them.

As we grow in what we offer and what we do, it is nice to mention the staff as well. I have seen how the teachers have made the transition back to classroom teaching from remote learning and having brilliant discussions about planning and children's work. It is great to see Mrs Payne and Mrs French using their training in mental health and speech and language to massively benefit our children's recovery. It is also fab to see the outdoor areas being improved by the Early Years Team as they grow in what they learn from their courses. There is definitely a positive, 'can-do' atmosphere in school and our work in our school is getting noticed. I have had quite a few enquiries about families wanting to move children to our school. This is obviously brilliant news and makes for a bright future!

Children have struggled a little with the social aspects in unstructured times as is the case in every school following the huge disruptions. We have made it our mission to support our children in gaining the important life skills of developing and sustaining friendships, conflict resolution, and using the outdoors for developing strong mental health. I have been out playing games as have other members of staff and the children have responded really well to this. Children get on and fall out all the time and this is normal. I don't know of any siblings who haven't ever fallen out. It is our job as a school to use these moments as important learning points. Previously, schools would just focus on academic learning whereas our vision at Stogursey is more about academic and non-academic things. We want children to learn how to get on with each other, develop friendships, manage feelings well and handle conflict. This is a work in progress and next year, our mental health lead Miss May will have completed her extensive training on this and would have started some really visionary work on mental health that will benefit everyone. You should notice a real change.

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As ever, if you wish to chat, I'm usually on the gate daily, pop in or arrange an appointment if you wish to discuss something or lend your time to our school. We are so pleased to have volunteers back so please get in touch if there's something you can help us with.

CHESS SETS

One of our older children wishes to start up a school chess team. Mr Tucker spotted a set in a charity shop for £1.99. Could we ask for any donations of chess sets to be given to the school office so that when the time comes we can have a team and take on other schools? Many thanks.



HAPPINESS HOLIDAY CLUB



This was a great success and I am sure you have read all about it in the Stogursey News. My thanks to Lianne and Charley who ran it and to Caroline Hawkes (one of our governors) who gave up her time to help bring this together. A very extra special thanks must go to the Stogursey Community Network volunteers who also gave up a lot of their time to do the cooking for the children and made this a reality. Thanks also must go to the West Somerset Opportunity Area who subsidised places. We are finalising the application for the Summer Club, where we hope to make greater use of Kilve Court. The children enjoyed their day there so we will make use of it. West Somerset Opportunity are will continue the subsidy until this time next year so please make the most of it. If you want a discount on fees, please approach Mr Tucker when the time comes. The OA also wish to fund trips to exciting places as well so this should really make the Holiday Club varied and not to be missed! This time round there should be up to 4 weeks of sessions, 4 days a week.

On a separate but related note, we are now applying for funding to create a 'Happiness Breakfast Club' and 'Happiness After School Club'. We will keep you updated on its progress but if we are successful, this will be a huge asset to our school and I hope parents/carers will support it by sending their children to it.

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENTS

Thank you to all the parents who have returned their new home-school agreements. There are still a number outstanding please can you return these signed to the office or alternatively you can consent to this via the Arbor App we have recently launched.

FACEBOOK POSTS

Our publicity on Facebook and local newspapers is getting noticed. Please play your part in this and share our content. We send new items out at least 3 times a week. It is all very positive and shows what we are about as a school in a convenient way.

ARBOR PARENTAL PORTAL



The Arbor App is here!

We are pleased to launch the Arbor Parental Portal. You should have been sent an email to enable you to set this up. You will need to set this up via a PC or laptop. Once you have logged in you can download the app to your phone.

If you need any help or have not received an email please contact Mrs Pear in the Office.

NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME

This starts very shortly. The tutors have been recruited and are in the process of being vetted. Letters will be sent out to children doing this after school with further details in due course.

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BABY ACORNS TODDLER GROUP

We are pleased to announce Baby Acorns Toddler Group. If you are a mum or dad or carer for a little one please join us. The group meets on a Friday 10-12 and 1-3. Meeting other families and encourage your baby or toddler to socialise! £3 per session per family. Please contact Lianne via the Baby Acorns Toddler Facebook page to reserve your space. Booking essential due to COVID regulations.

PUNCTUALITY

As restrictions lift, we will soon start to remove the measures in our risk assessment, no doubt. I am hoping to end the staggered starts and ends when it is possible. We anticipate new DfE guidance at the end of June and will follow this. I have noticed a few families arriving later than the times set out recently. Can I ask that we make a concerted effort to arrive on time, especially as the times will be going back to normal soon? Arriving late after 9.15am will result in an unauthorised absence as set out in our school attendance policy.

VOLUNTEERS READERS

We are very excited to be able to open the school back up for volunteer readers once again. We will of course be using our risk assessments to ensure everyone is following our latest COVID safe practices.

If you feel you can offer some time each week to come and listen to our children read, we would love to hear from you.

Reading is a key life skill and is a priority for all of our children. The more chances we can provide to practise the better our children progress. Our volunteers play a vital role in this.

All volunteers will have a short training session to ensure you can feel confident with your readers. If you wish to discuss this with me or a teacher, please contact the school and we will be happy to talk through the role. Thank you, Lisa Dunwood

THE 5p CHALLENGE IS BACK ON!

FOSS are pleased to announce that the 5p challenge is back on! Before the lockdown we counted the 5ps and found Triscombe class were in the lead and Alfoxton are just a few pounds behind. Can Beacon class catch up? Who will win the grand prize of £50? Come on everyone, bring in those 5ps and let's find out!

INSET DAYS 2021/22

Monday 6th September 2021

Wednesday 29th September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021

Friday 18th February 2022

Monday 25th July 2022

Tuesday 26th July 2022

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.

Friday 28th May 2021

Last Day of Term

Monday 31st May - 4th June

Half Term Break

Friday 23rd July 2021

Last Day of Term

Monday 26th July 2021

Summer Break