

STOGURSEY SCHOOL NEWS

March 2021

Thank
You

Welcome to this month's edition of the school newsletter. It is March and we are yet again returning back to school as the national lockdown starts to end.

I want to take the opportunity to thank parents for their hard work and efforts in carrying out home learning. The feedback I received throughout was overwhelmingly positive and I have written about this in this week's Bridgwater Mercury highlighting our successes as a community together. But I have also heard of the stresses and difficulties in keeping the momentum going. I appreciate and acknowledge that for some parents this was extremely challenging and I want to give recognition to all our parents for overcoming these difficult odds. You are stars!

I want to thank children for the hard work and efforts they put into sustaining remote learning and their dedication to their studies. This is probably now a good time to be coming back to build on all the good things they gained during the lockdown.

I also want to thank the dedication of our staff to keeping the programme going, the teachers for planning well-thought out sequences of online learning and for our support staff for the extra reading they did remotely. We scored highly on the government's Remote Learning Framework and I feel this is down to the hard work ethic we have in the school but especially down to the hard work of parents who have worked with us all and the children to get this right.

I want to use the remainder of the academic year to celebrate all the good things achieved during the lockdown (believe it or not there have been good things!) and to look forward to the future beyond these turbulent two years.

At a recent training, I was inspired by a criticism of the saying that is bandied about, "We are all in the same boat." This is highly inaccurate. They told us to imagine a storm and lots of boats in it. You have the ones around the edges who feel a slight ripple in the water, a few that feel a slight bumpiness and then those who are right in the thick of it and feeling utterly destroyed. This analogy is relevant to the pandemic and it is more accurate to say-



"We are all different boats in the same storm"

There are a lot of people who probably have gained enormously from this and others who feel wrecked by this whole experience. The mental health of everyone in our school is important to me. This is why I would like to announce that this is now my top priority going forwards. Mental Health must come first in the recovery.

Our Senior Staff have now had or are in the middle of Mental Health and trauma training and this new initiative is going to ensure we are bold and radical in our vision of what we can achieve in our school! The training will be given to the remaining staff and the impact of this will be a lasting legacy for our school. This won't be yet another education 'fad' but it is research-based and there's evidence that it will make a huge impact on tackling the national mental health crisis. New developments include:

- A needs-based mental health service within school
- Mental health being treated with the same importance in class as physical health

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- Holiday Activities Club being established with the further development of a breakfast club and an after school club for both wellbeing and/or any required academic 'catch up'.
- A designated mental health lead in the school, responsible for driving improvements to both children and staff wellbeing.

As time goes on, we will update you in each newsletter about how this is going in our school.

It is important, now more than ever that you update your child's class teacher or myself on anything that has affected your child over the lockdown so that we can be highly effective and recover from this well.

If you wish to chat to me about this or anything else, I am usually on the gate or in the office. May the lead up to be Easter be a smooth one and once again, I thank the Stogursey Community from the bottom of my heart for everything you all have done and are doing.

Mr G Tucker
Head of School

NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME

The lockdown disrupted the planned implementation of this and so I will be looking to start this in the summer term. Further details are to follow.

ATTENDANCE

In the risk assessment summary, I set out the expectation that attendance at school from Monday 8th March is mandatory. There are procedures to follow should children or a member of their household need to self-isolate and this is authorised as an absence.

There are other examples like sickness and diarrhoea which require 48 hours away from the school. Again, this is authorised. **Colds are not a reason to keep children off school.** This will be treated as an unauthorised absence as per our attendance policy.

If you are having challenges getting your child to school then the attendance lead is Mr Tucker. Please speak to him to get advice.

RED NOSE DAY – 19th MARCH 2021

We are having a red themed day this year for Red Nose Day. We would like children to come into school wearing something red - it doesn't have to be a full red outfit, a small red bracelet or hairband will do.

Any donations towards this charity will be greatly received.

P.E. DAYS

Just to remind parents that the P.E. days are as follows:-

Monday – Alfoxton and Triscombe
Thursday – Beacon and Triscombe
Friday – All Classes

Children are to wear their P.E. kits on these days.

ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN AT SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. You should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

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- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

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 19 th March	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 31 st March	End of Half Term
Thursday 1 st April	Inset Day
Monday 19 th April	Start of New Half Term
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday

DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE:

Did you know that all households with children should have working smoke alarms?

If households don't have working smoke alarms you are entitled to a free Home Safety Visit. Please see the notices below to book your free Home Safety Check.



Your Fire Service needs YOU!

As we are still unable to visit our schools for the annual fire safety talks, we still want households with children to be aware of the importance of having working smoke alarms.

If you don't have working smoke alarms then you can call
0800 05 02 999 to request a **free HOME SAFETY CHECK**
(quote code : 294)

And if you or someone you know answers "yes" to at least one of these questions:

- is over 65 years old?
- finds it difficult to move around?
- can't hear things very well?
- smokes?
- doesn't have one smoke alarm for each level of their home?
- has NO smoke alarms?

They can also request a free **HOME SAFETY CHECK** by calling **0800 05 02 999**



My Fire Safety Notes



If we had to attend a fire, we want to know that we have the right details and you know what to say and do so we can get to you as quickly as possible. Fill in all these important details and keep them somewhere where everyone can see

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.

I live at _____.

My postcode is _____.

I have _____ working* smoke alarms in my home.

The smoke alarms* are in these places: _____

We test our smoke alarms, once a month on a _____.

I know that if my clothes catch fire I need to S _____ D _____ and R _____.

I know the number to phone for the emergency services is _____.

I have told these people in my family all I know about how to keep safe and stop a fire starting: _____

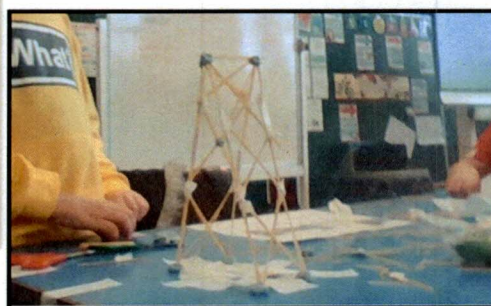
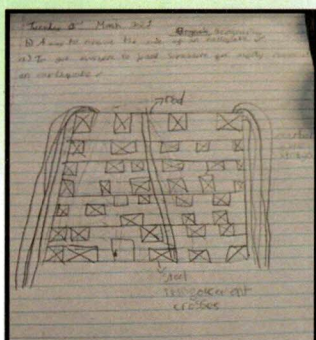
*Don't forget to tell your grown-ups that if you do not have working smoke alarms or you do not have any smoke alarms they can call **08000 05 02 999** for a **FREE Home Safety Visit**.

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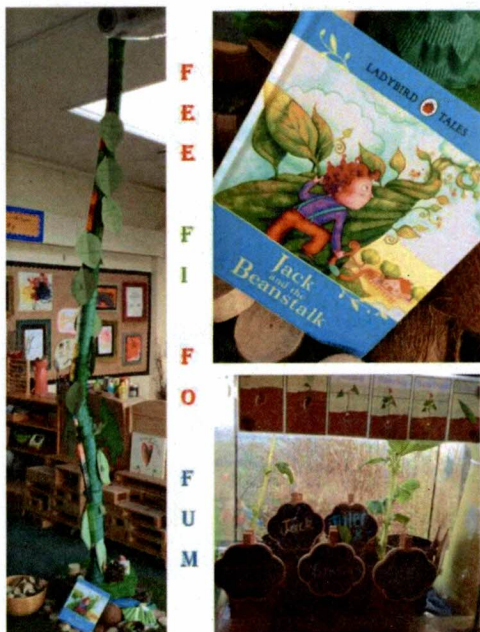
NEWS FROM AROUND SCHOOL

BEACON CLASS

Beacon Class have been learning about earthquakes this week. They have designed and built some earthquake proof buildings inspired by designs from around the world!



Hello from Lianne and Sarah at Little Acorns Preschool @ Stogursey School



With Spring around the corner, blossom on trees and daffodils blooming it is probably our favourite time of the year because children naturally become curious in the changes around them. Jack and the Beanstalk has been our favourite story this term which led to a giant beanstalk growing each day in the classroom. "Look Sarah Look Lianne" the children would shout as they enter the class each morning, excited that the 'bean stalk' has magically grown. The children enjoyed planting their own beans which has provided some great opportunities to chat about changes. We are now looking at life cycles which has led to a favourite story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and 'Monkey Puzzle' by Julia Donaldson.

Beach Schooling...

You may have heard of Forest School... watch this space for Little Acorns Beach School! We were excited to be able to take a trip to our local beach. The children absolutely loved it and we can definitely see the learning opportunities in beach schooling to make this a regular trip for Little Acorns.



Where learning takes place in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.



**Little Acorns Pre School
Stogursey School**

@stogurseylittleacorns · School

Follow us on Facebook

Spaces available for children from two years old. Two-year funding (if certain criteria met) and three-year-old funding available. If you would like to register your child or receive an application pack, please contact Sarah on the preschools email:

Preschool316@educ.somerset.gov.uk

For more information about funding please go to the school's webpage under the preschools tab.

Dual placements possible.