



# Stoke Hill Federation

# NEWS



## ***Feeling Hungry?***

For those children who like a mid morning snack, this is a reminder that snacks across the Federation are these:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Cheese

These are great snacks and do not leave crumbs for those pesky Stoke Hill seagulls!

Grown ups, please do not send your child in with anything in a wrapper, nor any processed food such as cereal bars, cheese strings and similar.

No nuts are permitted and recent advice to schools says that for small children grapes should be cut in half to reduce the risk of choking.

Making playtime and snack times straightforward helps our schools run healthily and smoothly.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## ***Autumn is coming!***

We have had a beautiful summer, and we're so lucky that is stretched so far into September. It won't be long, though, before the children will need to be bringing coats and other warmer clothes to school.

We try to get the children outside wherever possible at break and lunchtime, and we make use of our beautiful outside spaces during the school day. There are also days when we take the children on local trips.

The weather at this time of year can be unpredictable, and looks to be reasonably OK in the short term. Please keep an eye on the forecast, though, and remember that **even if your child comes to school in the car, or it is not far to walk to school, make sure they have a named coat with them in school.**

**A job for the weekend** – make sure your child's name is clearly written in their coat (and other school uniform). It's amazing how many look the same and how easy it is to get in a muddle.

**Discover a new skill, a new friend a new club.** Please find information about extra curricular clubs for the Infant School attached to this letter. Junior School Club information has already been circulated.

**Individual Photographs are due to be taken on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> at the Infant School, (8.30am for family photos).**



## Accelerated Reader

One of the key aims we had when we introduced Accelerated Reader was to enable more children to become confident, readers who choose to read for pleasure. The Reading Agency brought out a report in September that said 'everything changes when we read' and that 'there is a strong link between reading for pleasure and educational outcomes'.

We're so pleased to see that so many children have launched themselves into Accelerated Reader this term – as a school the children have already read over 2,000,000 words since the start of term!

**Top readers this week are:** Frankie, Chayton, Bethany Kelly, Lucy H, and Molly J.

**The top classes this week are:**

Y3 – 3B                  Y5 – 5PW

Y4 – 4M                  Y6 – 6M

## Year 2 have just begun to enjoy marvellous afternoons with the Devon Wildlife Trust

To enrich our curriculum we have invited the Trust to work with Year 2 for one afternoon a week, whilst their teachers have their Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA).

This half term is the turn of Class 2E.

This week, spending a whole afternoon in the Wildlife Area with three wildlife experts was hugely inspiring, where learning in science and English was all rolled into one.

Children in 2E listened carefully and thoughtfully scavenged for natural objects that were dead, alive, 'had once been alive' and 'had never been alive'. They thought really hard about this and worked out how to explain quite complex thinking and reasoning.

Each Year 2 class will have the amazing opportunity of two half terms of outdoor learning with Devon Wildlife Trust this year. What guardians of the future they will become...

## Year 3 Outdoor Survival Day

This week Year 3 spent a day in the School Woods to help them understand what our body needs to survive. Issy and Isaac from 3MA told me all about it:

*'The day started with a safety briefing in the classroom. Everyone listened really well. We then went outside for our activities.'*

*First we built shelters using tarpaulins and string. Isaac's group was like a defence, and Issy's group built theirs between three trees. (Isaac would have happily spent the night in his – Issy wasn't so sure!)*

*Then we went foraging, which means looking for food. We found blackberries, plums and a huge pear. We didn't eat them because another class was due after us. We also made colour bands, which means looking for things of different colours and putting them in order.*

*Finally we went to the fire pit and toasted marshmallows. Some fell off, some got stuck to the stick, and some people almost had to drink theirs. Some people got really sticky! We loved watching the fire and it was nice to warm up.*

*In the afternoon we made beautiful pictures with things we found in the woods.*

*We really enjoyed the day and it will help us to do some brilliant writing.'*

Please come and have a look at their writing next week – you'll be really impressed.