

Stoke Hill Federation

Newsletter



Thursday 25th January 2018



Just Draw

Jobs for artists are as varied as the color wheel itself. If you love to draw, your passion could very well sketch out an impressive career path, and you'd be in good company - some of the most notorious doodlers in history became famous and influential.

In contrast to long-held popular beliefs, doodling actually improves concentration and can spark creativity, according to recent research.

So sharpen those pencils (or computer skills), and get ready to draw.

You can never be too young or too old to draw for pleasure or for the job you dream of, perhaps graphic designer, illustrator, designer, makeup artist, hat maker, engineer, architect, animator, set (film) maker and many more...

www.commonsemmedia.org

As you will know, the online and gaming worlds are really accessible and attractive to our children, and it is sometimes difficult to know whether or not particular games or websites are appropriate for them.

Commonsemmedia.org is a really useful website, giving parents answers to questions such as '**how much tech is too much for toddlers?**', '**Is it OK for my child to start her own YouTube channel?**', and '**What should I do if my child is bullied online?**'

Their Family Guide also suggests appropriate games and websites for all ages. Please also look at age ratings on games before letting your child loose on them – they are there for a reason.

How many steps?

On Monday, half of our Y2 children walked from school to the Quay, to visit Cricklepit Mill, the headquarters of Devon Wildlife Trust www.devonwildlifetrust.org (pew that was quite a walk!)

Unfortunately, wind and rain prevented the rest of Y2 visiting on Wednesday. However, once volunteer 'millers' can be arranged again, the rest of Y2 will also walk to the Quay to witness Exeter's historic watermill powering the mill that ground wheat into flour, in much the same way as it did 100's of years ago.

As part of Y2's project titled 'The Elements,' children are exploring the properties of materials, especially water. With a new water feature soon to be constructed in our Sense Garden Y2 are sure to become our water experts!

Eggs for Tea?

If you like a freshly cooked egg or cakes that are light and fluffy, then you will need to pop into the infant school to buy some of our organic, free range eggs.

Our trusty flock of 6 chickens are beginning to lay again now that the days are becoming lighter. Did you know that when the days are short and dark chickens do not produce many eggs?

Well, our 'girls' are in good form now and for a very reasonable 90p you can buy 4 lovely eggs. Whilst you do this you will also be helping the young sellers from Year 1 work out your change.

Green Team Meeth Quarry Trip

On Tuesday the 16th of January, Year 5 and 6 Green Teamers went to Meeth Quarry to learn more about conservation, and practical things we can do to help the environment. We were given some potentially dangerous equipment so we had to be very careful and be mindful of our surroundings. We had to clear thick brambles and trees (that were not oak). The Devon Wildlife Trust burnt all of the unwanted brambles/trees.

After clearing everything, we went to a shelter and had lunch. Whilst everyone was eating lunch and drinking hot chocolate (given to us by Mr. Poustie) a sudden burst of hail appeared! After the hail stopped, Mr. Poustie cooked some sausages and half of the group went on a tour around the area, including the lake and the HUGE clay mound (It was so big that some people got stuck!). Whilst the other group were on the tour, our group whittled some sticks and roasted marshmallows. Before we got back on the bus, there was a huge outburst of thunder and lightning, and then there was a horrendous hail shower – again! We ran to the safety of the minibus and set off on the journey back home.

It was the best day ever – we learnt lots and were inspired to become more active in improving our local environment. We want to do it again!