

STOKE HILL INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL



AUTUMN TERM, ISSUE 1 October 2022

DATES

**28th & 29th
September**

**Premier Sports
clubs start**

**17th & 18th
October**

**EYFS Explore and
Create sessions
for parents and
carers 2:15 to
home time**

**22nd October
Last day of half
term**

**24th –28th
October
Half Term**

**1st & 2nd
November
Parent's Evening
3.30-6.00pm**

**2nd November
Individual, sibling
and family
photographs**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're a few weeks into the new school year and there has been plenty going on. I hope that you enjoy the new look newsletter that will be sent to you at the beginning of each month. We've taken on board the various bits of feedback and hope that this strikes the right balance between key information that you all need to know and an update of events that have happened or are coming up over the next few weeks.

It's been a busy and exciting start to the term at the Infant and Nursery School and the children are settling well into their new routines and expectations. We have done lots of work on expectations around Ready, Respectful, Safe, our school rules, and have been teaching and reminding children about using Kelso's Choices to solve small problems.

After the last few years, a 'normal' start to term has been a joy to see, with all staff going above and beyond for the children every day. This term we have welcomed a number of new members of staff, all of whom are settling in really well and who have already become part of our Stoke Hill Family. Miss Hearle, Mrs Hammerton-Jackson and I are enjoying getting to know our children and families, visiting classrooms, supporting lunchtimes and seeing you at the school gates each day. I have been showing families around who are looking to apply for Reception places for 2023 and I am so proud to show and talk about our amazing school and all the exciting things happening. It's going to be a great year!

Claire McKimm, Head of School

Our new and improved Reception space

We're delighted with our new outdoor area for the Reception classes. The new Astro-turf will make it an area for play and learning all year round and there's still plenty of room to dig!



Apple Juicing

Last week the Year 2 children took part in an exciting lesson learning how to make freshly pressed apple juice. Kevin from Organic Arts visited the school and brought a range of locally grown apples and an apple press with him.

Each class had a turn at preparing the apples and then watched them transform into apple juice before their eyes. They enjoyed Kevin's storytelling throughout their lesson and even got to drink their apple juice at the end. Everyone held up their drinks and called out 'Wassail' to wish everyone good health. What a great experience!



Tapestry update for Reception

Thank you to the families who attended the Tapestry meeting last week.

Miss Marsh will be sharing a recording of the meeting soon. We have started to upload your details to the app, please check your junk mail for emails from Tapestry and download the app to your phone. Have a go at creating an observation by clicking +, your child's name and then sharing a picture/comment/ video.

Any problems, Miss Marsh will be ready to fix them at the Explore and Create sessions on 17th and 18th October!



Autumn is here

As part of their Science learning, Year 1 have been using our school grounds to look for signs of Autumn. They were super detectives and found lots of interesting things, including brown leaves, pine cones and even a squirrel!

The children in the Nursery have been sweeping and raking the leaves in the woodlands and getting the allotment in the garden ready for planting. They are looking at shapes and patterns in nature and learning some poems about Autumn.



School Office Notice

A reminder to parents that the school has now moved over to School Gateway and that ParentMail is no longer being used. The new app allows you to

- Order your child's lunch (must be before 8.00am on the day)
- Report absence
- Make online payments

If you are still having problems pop in and see us or call 01392 258894.



No Nuts and Sesame

A reminder that due to a number of severe allergies, that we are a no nut and no sesame school. To help us keep our children safe, please ensure that your child does not bring food containing these ingredients to school in snacks or packed lunches. This includes houmous. Thank you for your support.



Community News

Food Packages

At this time of year we are proud to support local charities with food donations, who then distribute to many of our families. The current economic climate is making it very challenging for families to ensure there is enough to go round. At Stoke Hill we would like to be able to directly help these families and so we would like to try and set up a new initiative that we can all be part of. In the lead up to holidays we will be asking for donations of certain items that we will ensure make their way to Stoke Hill families that really need it. This will be coordinated by our Family Support Worker, Jo McCarthy, who will also be seeking volunteers to help sort the packages and offer to deliver where appropriate. Think Stoke Hill families helping Stoke Hill families. Please see the attached flyer for more information and a list of examples of goods that can be delivered to either school. All of these new initiatives start somewhere, but its potential is huge.



Road Safety Message from Mr Sullivan at the Junior School

Once again I must ask you all to take extra care when travelling to and from school. This term we had a very near miss, with a child being pulled back from an oncoming car. I am yet to hear back with regards the possible crossing outside the school, which I encouraged you to air your views on before the holidays. We will continue to push for the best provision, but in the meantime,

- Drive slowly around the schools
- Can you car share and reduce the traffic?
- Park legally
- If children walk to school by themselves, talk to them about road safety and for the older children making sure faces are looking for traffic and not at screens
- Ask yourself whether your child is old enough to cross the roads by themselves or whether you still need to be bringing them to school.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

SETTING UP

1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.

3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

Advice for Parents & Carers

REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction - which can potentially lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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Stoke Hill Collection



Why are we starting this?

Stoke Hill prides itself on supporting the local community. The current economic climate is making it very challenging for some Stoke Hill families and we would like to ensure that as one big Stoke Hill Community we can all help each other.

How can you help?

We are asking for donations of certain items to help create parcels which can be directly delivered to families that will really benefit. Everything you donate will go to someone in the school community. Take a look at the list of items below and see if you have got something spare that you could donate. The list is by no means exhaustive, but is a starting point. The aim is to support families through holiday periods, when children are not in school and having meals each lunchtime.

Where do I take my donations?

They can be dropped off at either school, preferable in a box or bag, which can then be recycled to help deliver the goods.

I'd love to help with this initiative

That would be fantastic, we'll always need people to help sort the items and possibly deliver. We'll work out the best time for you to help with other parents and then come in and have a natter and a cup of tea at the same time!

Mrs McCarthy

Our wonderful Family Support Worker, Mrs Jo McCarthy, who so many of you know, will be overseeing this. If you can help in anyway or feel you may need the help in anyway she can be contacted on joanne.mccarthy@stokehill.devon.sch.uk

Items

cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses,

tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, fruit juice, squash

Other Items

Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes

Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid

Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food

