



Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School Update 12.3.21

Welcome back to our fully open school and nursery ~

It's been lovely to see all the children back in the school and nursery this week, and to hear their happy voices around the place. We have all been really impressed by the way our home learners have settled back in and to appreciate how children who have been at school during lockdown, are adapting again to a fully open and busy school.

Thank you all for the enormous amount of effort it has taken to make this happen and for helping us keep everyone as safe as we can by following the COVID arrangements we have in place, we really appreciate it.

A Digger

Is what we need, a 'volunteer' digger and driver...!

Just a mini digger to scrape a shallow pathway of about 20m length which we can line and fill with gravel.

This would be to enable children in Year 2 to access their outside area more readily and less muddily! It will also provide a great border to sow wildflowers, similarly to along Prince Charles Road. We just need a layer of grass scraped away so we can get going. If you know anyone who might offer to do this good deed over the holidays, after school or of a weekend - please let me know - we'd be so grateful...



Parent/Carer Meetings and Annual Reports

Due to the unusual circumstances of the last few months, we will be sending annual reports home for children in Year 1 and Year 2 next term rather than at the end of this term. Foundation Stage Reports and Transition reports for Nursery children will come home as usual in the summer term. We will also arrange a parents' consultation meeting to early in the summer term.

Governor Update from the Co-Chairs

As you know, Mr Souter and Mrs Mackay are leaving the Federation at the end of the summer term. As a governing board, we have undertaken a process about the future of the Federation which involved consulting staff, having conversations with the local authority and speaking to other federations who have undergone a similar change.

Following this, we have decided to recruit an Executive Headteacher who will have overall responsibility for both schools. We realised that this will be a change for the schools but it is one that we are very excited about as we think it will bring some great overall benefits to all our children.

This new structure has a number of advantages including: developing more consistency in the curriculum between the schools; adopting and promoting consistent teaching practices; increasing the integration of staff across the schools and permitting financial savings to be made so as to allocate resources more efficiently and effectively.

We also recognise that the children, parents and staff have all benefitted from having a single figurehead at each school. It is our hope that we will be able to retain this in due course by introducing Heads of School for each school to work with the Executive Headteacher. However, we will not make any decisions about this (or make any appointments) until the Executive Headteacher is in place, as we will value their input.

We advertised the post of Executive Headteacher before half-term and have been delighted by the response from candidates from all over the country who can clearly see what a fantastic place Stoke Hill Federation is. We will be conducting interviews later this term and we hope to have someone appointed by Easter. We will keep you updated in due course.

Amy Bickford and Tom Urwin Co-Chairs of Governors

COVID UPDATE

A message from Devon County Council: Regular Asymptomatic Household Testing

The government has confirmed twice weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles. It's because one in three people with coronavirus show no symptoms and potentially spread it without knowing, so targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe. The twice-weekly testing can be carried out using home-testing kits which can be collected from NHS testing locations or ordered online. Please note they cannot be collected from Devon County Council community testing sites at the moment.

Community testing sites are only able to carry out on-site tests, which [must be booked in advance via the website](#). As well members of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of school and college staff and pupils, this facility is also available for anyone whose job or volunteering work requires them to leave the house and be in contact with others, anyone who cares for others, either paid or voluntary. The government policy and guidance around testing is changing rapidly – Devon County Council host this information and will [keep their website updated](#) to reflect any changes.



Have a good weekend everyone, Sarah Mackay Head Teacher