

Stoke Hill Federation

Newsletter



Thursday 15th March 2018



Federation Home Learning

Spring seems to be a long time coming and so we are planning to bring some spring into our schools with our Federation Home Learning.

We are passionate about providing an inspiring curriculum and so drawing, painting, collaging, photographing signs of spring we hope will interest every child living in this beautifully seasonal part of the world.

The Home Learning poster is attached again this week to inspire you. However, if you are finding it difficult to open the poster on your device then there are always paper copies on the parent information tables in both schools and the nursery.

Professional Development

This week the Federation hosted a training session for all the teachers in the **River Exe Learning Partnership** www.riverexelearningpartnership.org

Altogether, over 50 teachers were involved. We all took part in a variety of workshops designed to help develop our art skills, which will in turn lead to a wider range of opportunities for the children as part of the Art curriculum.

The benefit of being part of the Partnership is that we were able to offer this opportunity to our teachers at virtually no cost, using the expertise already present within our schools. It was also great for teachers to talk to and learn from each other about the approaches they use when teaching Art.

'It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child' said Picasso.

What did we learn at Cricklepit Mill?

The children in the Foundation Stage have been learning the traditional tale of the 'Little Red Hen'.

This week they set off to visit Cricklepit Mill near Exeter Quay to discover more about the ancient technology that has ground wheat into flour for hundreds of years. Four volunteer millers showed the children how this 'marvellous machine', powered by a water wheel, changed the tiny hard grains of wheat into silky soft flour for making bread. It was just like in the story!

The mill building is now the head office of the Devon Wildlife Trust so we couldn't pass up the opportunity for a spot of bug hunting and drawing whilst we were there!

Amy Bickford, one of our school governors came along too. 'The children loved finding out how flour was made. They asked some brilliant questions. It was great to see learning in action.'

'Thank You' Caroline

A big thank you to Caroline Wragg, Mum of Conrad, for her tireless work as Chairperson of the Infant and Nursery PTFA.

During her time leading the PTFA Caroline has organised very many activities and raised literally **thousands of pounds** for Stoke Hill children, as well as providing that extra sparkle PTFA events bring to each season + of course the endless tea and cake in the playground on Friday!

As Caroline resigns as Chairperson, we welcome Simon Jones, Dad of Jessica to this much appreciated role.

Parent Teacher Meetings

We were pleased to see so many of you at the Junior School Parent Teacher Meetings this week. We hope you have found the online booking system that we're trialing easy to navigate, and a useful way to ensure you get an appointment at the right time. If you didn't manage to book a time slot, please see your child's class teacher and we can arrange an alternative time for you.

The Infant School KS1 Parent Teacher Meetings are next term, and our Open Afternoon for KS1 is coming up next Tuesday afternoon March 20th from 2.30 – 4.30pm

'Learning Journey Shares' for Nursery children are next week! Just pop into the nursery to share your child's Learning Journey book with them at drop-off or pick-up time.

The Reading Bus

A massive 'thank you' to Mr Ison, who spent the whole of Tuesday doing some technical work to the Reading Bus.

He has made sure it will stand safe and level for years to come.

The next stage will be to install the curtains and cushions, which are being funded by a grant sourced by Mrs Finning.

If your child gets a bit chilly at lunchtime, why not remind them that they can join the group on the Reading Bus – the only entry ticket is to **bring a book!**

'Reading is the rocket that will take you to infinite worlds. Jump aboard.' Maz Evans