



Stoke Hill Junior School

Autumn Update 3

12.11.21

Reflections

There are some things that cannot be avoided and one of those things at the Junior School is mud! The children are not allowed to play on any grassy areas now, but with the school grounds being on a hill, when it's very wet, inevitably some of the mud gathers around the edges of areas that children play. This can lead to quite muddy shoes at times, so sorry parents if this means extra cleans of shoes each night. As the weather starts to become colder and wetter, we continue aim to take the children outside whenever possible, so don't forget to check the weather forecast daily and ensure that your child has their coat in school each day. If your child has specific outdoor activities on Thursday or Friday, it will be worth while sending your child in with some extra footwear in case their feet get wet as they explore the great outdoors!

Coming up soon

There's lots to look forward to over the next few weeks,

- November 19th – Children in Need – see the attached details for both schools
- Week beginning November 29th – Year 6 Bikeability
- December 2nd – 5.00pm - 6.00pm – an opportunity to meet our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Hammerton-Jackson
- December 3rd – You will receive a report on your child's progress through the term

Attendance

Great teaching and learning only occurs if your child is actually in class rather than absent at home.

2 sessions a day means there have been 88 sessions of school for Y1-6 since we started back in September. Doesn't time fly! Half a day a week off school would, at this point in the term mean an attendance of only 90% and we have many children across the Federation whose attendance is much lower. Our aim is for all children to be at school at least 95% of the time. We know there are times when children are just too poorly to be at school, or that the decision is taken out of your hands by Covid, but it is really important that your child is in school whenever they are well enough to be. If you are experiencing barriers in getting your child to school, please talk to their teacher or our Family Support Worker, Jo McCarthy.

If your child is unwell then do let us know before 9.00am on the day. You can leave a message before 8.30am on 01392 667830 or email us on junior.admin@stokehill.devon.sch. We have a duty of care and if a child is not in school then we will contact you to find out why. In a school of 350+ children this can tie up the admin team for several hours, so do contact us with a brief reason for the absence.

As a result of the pandemic, many dental appointments were missed and there has been a frantic catch-up period. I am reliably informed that most dental practices are now back to offering the usual range of appointment times. With this in mind, can we remind all

parents/carers that dental appointments should be made for after school or during the school holidays.

Thank you for your support and consideration in these matters – Claire McKimm (Head of Inclusion)

Covid Update

Devon remains above the national average for positive covid cases and at the Junior School we continue to have a steady number. In the last 10 days we have had 14 positive cases in the school. The staff continue to work hard to make things as normal as possible for the children and where staff absence occurs, we try to book the same cover for the whole absence. The other teachers in the year group ensure the work is the same across the year group. Please continue to book PCR tests as soon as possible if your child is showing any symptoms and contact the school with the result.

School Bus

For several years, we have had a Reading Bus at the Junior School. It's a great place for children to go and read quietly or for teachers to take their whole classes. Over the last 18 months we haven't been able to use it as much as we would like and so it's time for a rebranding! There are a group of 20 year 6 children who are overseeing this, and they've asked me to tell you what they need to see if you can help. They were worried that not many children were using it and so it has been re-named 'The Stoke Hill Hangout'. It's going to allow children to read, chat, play small board games, do art activities, and listen to music during the lunchtimes. The children would appreciate donations of the following items to help them make it a lovely, special place for all children.

- Cushions (good quality and clean)
- Travel sized board games or playing cards (there are not tables to play big games)
- Fairy lights
- Second hand reading books (suitable for ages 7-11)
- Beanbags (good quality and clean)

If you're having a clear out and think you can donate any of these items, please bring them in from Monday and leave them on the stage in the hall.

Trading Cards

We are currently in a phase at school where the children are bringing cards to school. It's lovely to see children of all ages interacting and trading cards at break times. There is so much learning that can be gained from this social interaction and I'm blown away by the knowledge they have. The thing that worries me is the amount being brought in. I know that the collection of cards can cost a lot of money. Can you please make sure you know and are happy with the number of cards your child is bringing to school? No other toys should be being brought to school unless a prior arrangement has been made with a teacher or a child has a specific reason for that toy to be in school.

School Awards

Each week our teachers choose a star reader, writer and mathematician from their class. The children receive a trophy which they bring home over the weekend and then return to school on Monday to be displayed. We also have 3 children that win school awards for the

same subjects. Congratulations to George, Amelia and Millie who were this year's first winners.



Wishing you a great weekend!

Jamie Sullivan ~ Head of School