



Stone Church of England Combined School

Newsletter – Friday 14th October 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians

I feel that I must share with you information about our energy bills for the coming year. We have been quoted £42,331.21 based on last year's consumption. This includes the cap which has been published in the news and strong negotiation by Buckinghamshire Council on our behalf. Last year we paid £8925. Clearly this will have a huge financial impact on the school.

Therefore, like everyone else we are looking at ways to reduce our energy consumption without allowing the children to be cold. We have started with reducing light use by ensuring lights are turned off in all rooms when not in use. We are now asking that children and staff wear an additional layer of clothing to help keep everyone warm this winter. We will be turning the heating on, when required, but may be turning the thermostat down! Please remember to send your child with a warm coat in the winter.

You may have seen my email earlier in the week thanking everyone who has volunteered to join the PTFA, particularly those who have shown an interest in becoming a Chair. If you were considering joining the PTFA before I sent my email, please still do join up as the more people we have, the more exciting activities and events can be offered. I really am excited to move forward and to work with all our new members. The next PTFA meeting is on Tuesday 1st November at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome and I hope to see you there.

Mrs D Morrison
Headteacher



COMING UP

Monday 17th October – 9.00-10.30am EYFS Stay and Play
Tuesday 18th October – 10.00am Tour for Prospective parents in Class R 2023
Wednesday 19th October – Final of Talent Show/Bottle Mufti/Hot Dog Lunch
Thursday 20th October – Diwali celebrations in school
Friday 21st October – Class 6 trip to Windsor Castle. Break up for Half Term 3.15PM finish



Child of the Week

EYFS:

Oscar C for always being relied upon to make good choices and for being a role model.

Year 1:

Albie G for amazing phonics work.

Year 2:

All of Class 2 for being so supportive and motivating others in the talent show.

Year 3:

Oscar K for identifying which zone he is in and trying to regulate his emotions.

Year 4:

Charles B for having an infectious enthusiasm for learning.

Year 5:

Princess for her positive, thoughtful and supportive comments during the class talent show.

Year 6:

Sharmi R for making excellent contributions in class.



Stepping Stones to Success

Respect: Hattie S (Class 2) for showing others how to be respectful at carpet time.

Maisie S (Class 4) for showing respectful listening at all times and being keen to succeed.

Community: Janelle B (Class 5) for always being helpful, having beautiful handwriting and always trying her best.

Perseverance: Sophie I (Class 3) for perseverance with her hand writing.

Jackson L (Class R) for persevering with class routines so well this week.

Kaiden E (Class 6) for perseverance in his spellings.

Eden J (Class 1) for excellent perseverance in writing.



Special Acts of Kindness



The following children were nominated for their acts of kindness this week. They all received a special pencil and had hot chocolate with Mrs Morrison

Oluchi A – Class R, for supporting a friend who was shy during the Talent Show, Owen W- Class R, for always showing kindness to his friends with a smile, Hope J – Class 1, for helping her friend when she was sad, Noah R – Class 2, for saying kind things to and about others, Sienna C – Class 3, for always being very kind, Grace C-B - Class 4, for helping others understand a task in P.E, Dillon C – Class 5, for always being kind to everyone and Ethan W – Class 6, for being the nicest friend.

We would like to apologise for an error in last weeks newsletter. The child who was nominated in class 1 for kindness was Ellie-Mae C.



Good Learning

This is a termly award. If your child has work displayed please come into the hall after school on Monday to see it. Well done to everyone listed below:

CR – James D, Noah M, Mahmood O and Evie M.

C1 – Eden J, Benjamin F and Hope J.

C2 – Thisandi W, Luke D, Tianna D, Kyra K and Zach D.

C3 – Amelia C, Sidarth P and Oliver A.
C4 – Ellie A, Isaac J, Chloe T and Jace M.
C5 – Imogen B, Jacob C, Charlie B and George H
C6 – Ava P, Eloise H, Daniel P, Kai D, Shaya H, George S and Zakiah B.



Trip Money

Just a gentle reminder that trip monies for this term are due by Friday 21st October. You can pay in full or termly via Parentmail or by cash/cheque payable to Stone School. If we do not receive sufficient donations some of the trips may have to be cancelled. Thank you for your support.



Healthy Eating Lunch Idea

Cheesy Black Bean Quesadillas

Ingredients

400g can black beans
50g cheddar cheese
2 spring onions
small handful of coriander
¼ tsp ground cumin
½ tsp smoked paprika
2 large tortilla wraps

Method

Rinse the beans under cold running water and drain well. Mash the beans with the potato masher to make a lumpy texture. Grate the cheese and add the cheese to the mashed beans.

Peel the papery outer skins off the spring onions and cut off the roots about 2cm from the other end. Snip the spring onions into small pieces, about the size of a pea. Add the spring onions to the mixing bowl. Cut the coriander into small pieces and add the coriander to the mixing bowl. Add the cumin and paprika. Season the ingredients with salt and pepper and mix everything together.

Place a wrap on your board. Scoop half the bean mixture from the bowl onto one half of the wrap. Spread it out in an even layer, making sure you only cover one side. Close the wrap like a book, to cover the filling inside and make a semi-circle. Do the same with the other wrap and the rest of the filling.

Put a medium-sized frying pan on the hob. Lift one of the wraps into the pan, then turn the heat to low-medium. After 2 mins, use a fish slice to lift the wrap and check underneath. If it's golden brown, it's time to turn it over, if not, keep cooking, checking every minute or so until it's ready. Use the fish slice to carefully flip the wrap over, then cook for another 2-4 mins on the other side until toasty brown. Turn off the heat and slide the quesadilla onto your chopping board. Use a pizza cutter or knife to cut it into wedges, then tuck in.





Birthdays

A very happy birthday to the following children:

CR – Evelynne B
C1 – Peyton B
C3 – Ostyn G
C5 – Charlie K
C6 – Lucy N



Skills for Life

This week, we have been learning all about our 'gloomy specs' - when we are focusing on the negatives rather than the positives. Please see the Powerpoint attached which we shared during our collective worship. We were thrilled to have the children in our reception class joining us for the first time on Monday!

We also spoke about World Mental Health day - what it is and why we have it. We agreed that it is great to raise awareness of mental health and that it needs to be a priority for everyone, everyday. This is why at Stone we do so much to promote positive mental health every day, including:

1. Weekly collective worship focusing on life skills, including positive mental health education
2. Talking about mental health and wellbeing in daily interactions with children, supporting them to challenge unhelpful thinking habits
3. Daily mindfulness
4. Daily mile
5. A rich PSHE scheme which includes mental health education for all year groups
6. Miss Durham, our pastoral worker, who supports children identified as requiring additional support
7. An Education Mental Health Practitioner who works with us to support the mental health of our community
8. Access to the Mental Health Support Team, who provide additional support to families of children experiencing mental health challenges
9. Mental Health Heroes - our year 6 children are given the opportunity to train to support the mental health of their peers through playtime drop-ins, resource creation and speaking in collective worship - watch this space for an advert which will be coming to year 6 soon!

Mrs S Hale (Deputy Head) will be leading a Skills for Life workshop at 2.30pm on Monday 31st October (the first day back after half term). If you would like to attend to find out more about how we teach our children about important life skills (including mental health and wellbeing, growth mindset and learning), as well as what you can do to support your child at home, please complete this quick Google Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqlaiKQCjC1eGoJCknVzESUCLJ_IkD-YR8hEVv39r2f0fJMg/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you are concerned about your child's mental health, please do not hesitate to talk to their class teacher or further support can be found here:

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health/your-childs-mental-health/self-help-information/>

If you are struggling with your mental health, support can be found by following this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/mental-health-services/>



Focus on Inclusion

We are an inclusive school and our aim is for every child to feel positive about themselves and a part of our community. We strive for every child to reach 'their star' - their potential. Each week, we will be including information about different areas of **inclusion**.

This week, we are including information about Splinx, who provide links to free online training courses for parents.

These courses cover a range of subjects, such as Autism; ADHD; Global Delay Development; Social, Emotional and Behavioural Disorders; Classroom Management; Parenting; Sensory Integration; Intellectual and Learning Disability; and Hearing Loss:


<http://splinx.co.uk/Online-courses-for-parents-and-professionals.html>

Recommended resource

Have you tried asking your child how their day was at the end of a school day only to get a one word answer or no response? Sometimes vague questions can be overwhelming, especially after a long day. Try asking one of these specific questions instead. If they aren't ready to share, try later on when they've been fed and had some down time!

Instead, try asking...

- "Who did you play with today?"
- "Who did you sit with at lunch?"
- "Tell me about a time you felt the happiest today?"
- "Who did you help today?"
- "What challenged you today? What felt hard?"
- "What did you have the most fun learning about today?"
- "When did you feel most proud of yourself today?"
- "Tell me about a high and low (or roses/thorns) from today."

 @themompsychologist



Parent Support Group

Please find the 'Walking With You' flyer below. 'Walking With You' is a parent support group for anyone supporting children and young people up to the age of 25 experiencing mental health difficulties.

It is a safe space where you can talk freely among people who are walking the same path as you. The support group is parent led alongside a Participation Lead from CAMHS.

At each session, a representative from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health service) will be available to answer any questions you may have and to support/signpost.

The sessions are currently being run via Microsoft Teams, the meetings are not recorded.

Please see attached flyer with Autumn dates for further information.



Events during Half Term at Wycombe Museum

Please find attached a flyer regarding the activities that Wycombe Museum are offering over half term.



Phonics at Stone

We want to thank Mrs Gulliver, our Reading Leader, for delivering an information session to parents last week about the Phonics program we deliver at school.

As a school, we are really keen to understand how we can best deliver training and support to our parents and carers around Phonics and Reading. Please complete this short questionnaire so we can understand the best way to deliver information around supporting your child/ren with Phonics and Reading at home.

<https://forms.gle/5V1QP71WHoMDibEv7>

NO PENS DAY

Class 2 had a terrific day doing a variety of activities on No Pens Day.



NO PENS DAY!

This afternoon, we took part in a class talent show! We had so many unique talents and it was great to cheer our friends on to succeed. From magic, to stand up comedy, to singing, dancing and gymnastics, it was a great show!

13.10.22

Congratulations to our class winner Krya!

NO PENS DAY!

In the morning, children went outside in groups to explore maths in nature. Each group had different challenge cards, such as predicting how many steps from one tree to another, building a balanced tower of sticks, finding numbers in nature and making patterns with natural objects.

13.10.22

PIC•COLLAGE

CLASS 5

In topic, we have been learning about Brazil and have linked our learning to DT. We found out that there is a 30m statue in Rio de Janeiro called Christ the Redeemer! Therefore, we have been very busy lately scurrying around collecting junk to make our Christ the Redeemer Statues! Here is the outcome!



Recommended Read

This week on Monday 10th October it was World Mental Health Day and we have discussed the importance of looking after our mental health. In assembly the children shared some wonderful strategies to use when facing particular challenges that may cause us to feel some of those harder to manage feelings such as worry, disappointment, anger and confusion. We have also discussed the importance of looking after our mental health every day, and not just on one day of the year.

Books can be a wonderful way in to discussing some of these trickier feelings and can support in identifying different things that can help us to overcome them.

Please find a range of possible reading that may be useful for you to explore further using the following link:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/m/mental-health-awareness/>

Happy reading!



Spotlight on Safeguarding

Please see the attached Parent Factsheet regarding keeping your child safe on Instagram.



House points

1st – Green House/St Patrick's = 404 Points

2nd - Blue House/St Andrew's = 316 Points

3rd – Red House/St George's = 166 Points

4th – Yellow House/St David's = 125 Points



Pupil Premium

Your child may be entitled to pupil premium funding to support your child's learning and development in school if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (not contribution-based)
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Universal Credit (annual net earned income of no more than £7,400)

Please email office@stone.bucks.sch.uk confidentially if you are receiving any of the above benefits and ask Mrs Loxley to check if you qualify. As well as the school receiving money to support your child's learning, your child can benefit from Free School Meals.



Behaviour and Bullying

We aim to establish and sustain high expectations of behaviour for all pupils, built upon relationships, rules and routines.

We never tolerate bullying. Therefore, if you have any concerns that your child is being bullied, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance who will carry out a bullying investigation. If, following the outcome of this, your child is still reporting concerns, please contact Mrs S Hale who manages behaviour and discipline.



Dates for 2022/2023

Autumn Term

Tuesday 6th September to Tuesday 20th December 2022

Half Term

Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2022

Spring Term

Wednesday 4th January 2023 to Friday 31st March 2023

Half Term

Monday 13th February 2023 to Friday 17th February 2023

Summer Term

Monday 17th April to Thursday 20th July 2023

Half Term

Monday 29th May 2023 to Monday 5th June 2023

Inset Days

Monday 5th June 2023

Friday 21st July 2023