



Stone Church of England Combined School

Newsletter – Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents & Guardians

It has been a very wet but enjoyable week. It was lovely to see so many parents joining us in Class R for our Stay and Play morning on Tuesday - you will see some lovely photos of this later in the newsletter.

Since the children have returned after Christmas, naturally the talk has been about all the lovely presents they were fortunate enough to receive. Some of this conversation centres around PlayStation games, devices etc. which as you are aware can allow access to the internet and expose children to voice chat, text chat and photo sharing with complete strangers, all of which present safeguarding risks.

This year, for children fortunate enough to receive a VR headset, is the additional risk associated with children accessing the metaverse. As a result, the NSPCC has published 'Virtual Reality' safety advice to support parents.

It is reported that counsellors at Childline have also heard from young people with experiences of virtual reality and who are increasingly aware of the isolating nature of the headsets and the ease at which predators can take advantage of the anonymity this unregulated online platform offers.

If your child is using a VR headset, I would recommend that you read the NSPC information which will help you to keep your child safe when using virtual reality including utilising the device's safety features and supervising children's use as they navigate both the virtual risks and physical space around them.

The information can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/>

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Morrison



COMING UP

Monday 16th January – In class Speech competition
Wednesday 25th January – Year 3 trip to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Friday 27th January – Final of Speech competition



Child of the Week

EYFS:

Evie M for excellent participation and effort in Phonics this week.

Year 1:

Eden J for an amazing attitude to his work.

Year 2:

Mannat D for writing fantastic expanded noun phrases in English.

Year 3:

Sophie I for trying her best with her handwriting.

Year 4:

Katie N for amazing effort in science when making circuits.

Year 5:

Madeleine S for always participating with an excellent learning attitude and a big smile.

Year 6:

Taylor B for hard work and an excellent attitude to learning.



Stepping Stones to Success

Responsibility: Ava P (Class 6) for working well and sharing her reading with children in reception.

Elsie G (Class 3) for her wonderful ideas in English, taking responsibility for her learning.

Jacob I (Class 1) for being responsible for all his learning.

Community: Connor B (Class 2) for taking notice of others and supporting/encouraging them when needed.

Sophia H (Class 4) for settling so well into our class community.

Phoebe W (Class 5) for always participating and being helpful with a smile.

Perseverance: Finlay M (Class R) for persevering to sort different dinosaurs and asking inquisitive questions.



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

James D – Class R, for sharing toys with a friend who was sad, Peyton B – Class 1, for clearing and tidying someone else's mess without being asked, Hattie S – Class 2, for showing empathy and encouragement to her table partner and supporting him with his work, Olly H – Class 3, for being kind, Bethany G – Class 4, for making her friend smile, Kami B – Class 5, for always making a class mate laugh and Max S – Class 6 for helping a friend with equipment.



Healthy Eating Lunch Idea

Chicken Taco Salad

Ingredients

¼ tsp olive oil

2 tbsp low-fat soured cream

1 tsp white wine vinegar

1 baby Gem lettuce, shredded
50g sweetcorn, drained
5 cherry tomatoes, halved
75g cooked BBQ chicken
juice 1 lime
½ small avocado, peeled and chopped
1 corn taco shell, broken into pieces

Method

STEP 1

Make the dressing by combining the oil, soured cream and vinegar. Keep in the fridge.

STEP 2

Put the lettuce, sweetcorn, tomatoes and chicken in a lunchbox. Stir the lime juice into the avocado and put on top. Pack the dressing on the side.

STEP 3

Scatter the taco over the salad to serve.



Skills for Life

We are excited to be launching the Mini Duke and Junior Duke awards at our school.

In a busy world, it's too easy to do things for children, but when should they begin to take responsibility for themselves?

Introducing Capable Kids, founders of the Mini Duke and Junior Duke Awards - an award scheme for primary-aged children to encourage and develop valuable life skills.

In 2006, Dawn Waugh, a primary teacher from Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow began to develop an award scheme to help children to become independent learners. Since she began teaching in 1994, she had noticed that children depended on their teachers and parents for simple tasks they could have done for themselves. She felt they needed to be encouraged to learn to do things on their own.

Formation

Having loved earning badges as a Brownie then later as a Guide, she started thinking about simple life skills children should be able to do and began to make up lists. By the end of the summer holiday of 2007, she had 40 challenges and created four progressive booklets. The booklets for each year group contained challenges which develop important life skills. These skills included First Aid, swimming, cookery, domestic tasks, public speaking, caring for others and puncture repair etc. Many of the challenges from 2007 still remain, but many have been replaced or have morphed slightly over the years. She makes changes to the booklets each year.

Inclusive

The Award Scheme is inclusive; whilst high achievers may take on the award as an extra challenge to push their knowledge and skill base even further, those who perhaps have more practical strengths strive to finish the award taking great pride in its completion. It is something exciting and different from normal school work.

Challenges

Each child chooses seven out of the ten challenges in each of the booklets. When a child completes their seven selected tasks, he or she is awarded a certificate and badge and gains 'House Points'.

Mini Duke

Since its inception, the award has developed further to include a Mini Duke Award for younger children. Life skills at this age include learning the safety rules of an open campfire and toasting marshmallows, washing a car, climbing a hill carrying their own rucksack, polishing their shoes, making a sandwich, reading Scottish literature, playing Monopoly or chess and much more.

Reflection

We sometimes find it difficult to remember to give children the time and space to develop their independence through simple life skills - sometimes we are too busy and just need to get things done! The Junior Duke and Mini Duke Awards give the children this time and space to explore and develop their independence. There has been positive feedback from countless parents about the award challenges. Often, they are pleasantly surprised when they realise that their children are old enough to understand the intricacies of chess or to wash their sheets or to hike up a hill, and they feel that their eyes have been opened. Furthermore, parents have seen there is now much more scope for exciting family activities and adventures.

The activities will need to be completed at home with the support of an adult where required.

There is a cost of £10 to sign your child up, which covers the booklet, badge and certificate for their year group. We will support our disadvantaged families if they wish for their child/ren to take part.

We will be sending out further information about how to sign up next week, so please keep an eye out for this.

Recommended Resource

Please find a resource attached to support parents and carers with helping their children to navigate peer pressure.



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 selective mutism:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/selective-mutism>



Health for Kids!

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/buckinghamshire>

The first NHS website that has been created especially for children to learn about staying healthy and looking after their health. The website features games, videos, and interactive content - written by experts from across NHS services including school nursing, health improvement, smoking cessation, dietetics, paediatricians, and mental health.

The website has separate sections for parents and teachers to provide further advice about health. Please take a look!



Recommended Read

Reading classic children's books and texts that our parents may have enjoyed themselves as children are a lovely way to make personal connections with stories and broaden our reading knowledge. Please find below a list of classic tales that may help to inspire some Reading for both parents and children to enjoy! Please remember that having stories read aloud and listening to great reading being modelled benefits all children :)

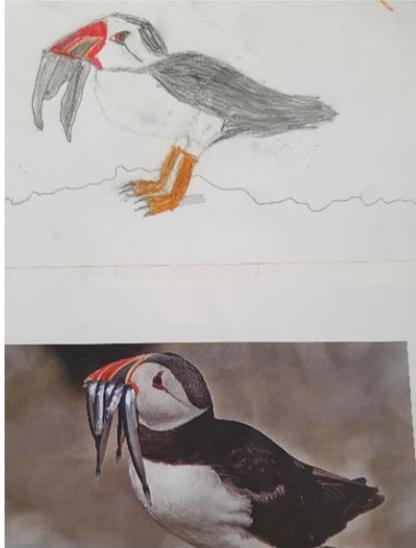
<https://www.theschoolrun.com/best-classic-books-ks2-children>

Happy Reading!

CLASS 6

Year 6 have started a new art unit all about wildlife. They started by drawing birds, using small amounts of colour to highlight particular features. They did an excellent job - well done year 6!





EYFS - STAY AND PLAY

Class R had another amazing Stay and Play session this week. The children were able to show their adults all the wonderful things about dinosaurs we have been exploring.



They were also very excited to discover a mysterious egg in the classroom this week. The egg has slowly started hatching and we are all very excited to see what's inside.



CLASS 4

Class 4 are studying electricity for science this term and really enjoyed their lesson this week making different types of circuits. Including light bulbs and motors, some of us even made circuits with moving fans!





Spotlight on Safeguarding

Online Radicalisation

Fake news and disinformation have been linked to radicalisation by extremists and attempts to skew people's world views. For example, extremist narratives relating to coronavirus include:

- Antisemitic conspiracy theories blaming Jewish people for the spread of the virus or suggesting it's a 'Jewish plot'
- Claims that British Muslims have flouted social distancing rules
- Anti-Chinese hatred
- Isis-inspired narratives about how coronavirus is a divine punishment for the 'sinful behaviours' of the west
- Extreme right-wing conspiracies that society is collapsing and far-right groups can accelerate its end.

Reading information like this can upset or worry your child unnecessarily. Fake news also helps create a culture of fear and uncertainty, with children trusting reputable news outlets less as a result of fake news.

The attached factsheet will help you spot the signs and support your child to safeguard them.



House points

1ST – GREEN HOUSE/ST PATRICKS = 360 POINTS

2ND – BLUE HOUSE/ST ANDREWS = 278 POINTS

3RD – YELLOW HOUSE/ST DAVIDS = 215 POINTS

4TH – RED HOUSE/ST GEORGES = 205 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.



In Case of Whole School Emergency Closure

If we decide to close the whole school in an emergency (e.g snow, COVID-19), a notification will be placed on the BCC (Buckinghamshire Council) School Closures webpage. If the closure happens whilst children are at school, we will text parents/carers and publish on the BCC (Buckinghamshire Council) School Closures webpage. In these instances, please do not phone school to check unless you have alternative collection arrangements of which you need to advise us.

Link to school closures webpage: <https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/>



Dates for 2022/2023

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