



Stoke Holy Cross Primary School

www.stokeholycross.co.uk



Newsletter

October 2018

October Newsletter !

Welcome to a new term!

We hope all the children feel settled into their new classes now, especially our new children in Foundation. Being a new parent at a school can be a bit confusing as there are so many routines everyone else seems to know but you! We are happy to answer any questions, however trivial you might think they are, so you can feel confident and reassured as a member of our school community.

RESPECT – Our focus for this half term

Our assemblies have reinforced this theme – children have needed to think about what it means, why it is important, how it looks in and around our school and how it makes us feel.

A special mention goes to Zachary who came up with the word ‘valuable’ when we were trying to think of how being respected makes us feel.

Staff have ***role-played*** some disrespectful behaviour, much to the dismay of the pupils! Clearly they can spot ‘what not to do’. Our challenge now, is to embed respectful behaviour as habit and remember it is an important quality.

Music Lessons

We are thrilled to have Mrs Housden from Norfolk Music Service providing curriculum music lessons for YF-Y4 classes this year.

All of Y3 are learning to play the recorder and Y4 are mastering the ukulele. She also has some great songs for the lunch time Choir to rehearse. Mrs Housden has boundless energy, proven by taking an after school KS2 ukulele club on Friday, too!

As if that isn’t enough, Mr Bell is conducting an ‘orchestra’ of trombones with Y5 and Y6, this year.

I would like to thank both music specialists for their commitment to our children.



Live Music in Assemblies.

To celebrate children's talents and enthusiasm, we have started to have live music played at the beginning and end of assemblies. So far Helen, William, Hannah, Alex and Jonathan have entertained and impressed us with their musical prowess.

Please see Miss Chaney if you would like to share your love of music. This is extended to any parent that might like to play in our assemblies, too.

Special Mentions...

As you may know, Tyler excels at swimming. At his recent Club Championships, amongst his other triumphs, he won the 50m butterfly event, putting him top in Great Britain and 3 seconds ahead of the second best swimmer. **Congratulations Tyler.**

Uniform

The pupils are looking smart in their uniforms at the beginning of the term. Thank you to everyone for trying to support the uniform code. I was particularly impressed with Y1 who looked very business-like in their PE kit.

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you for supporting the school in our fundraising event, Jeans for Genes day, which was held on Friday 21st September. We raised an impressive £198.95.

Cross country Success

This week some pupils from Upper school participated in the Primary Cluster Cross Country, held at Framingham Earl. We are pleased to announce that Stoke Holy Cross were cluster school champions with 25 of our pupils from Years 3 to Year 6 qualifying for the next round. This is to be held on the 7th November 2018. Further information will be sent nearer the time. A big well done to all children who participated.

Community Sports Foundation PE

Mrs Axon and Y4 are working with CSF coaches on Fridays for 6 weeks. This is an opportunity to work alongside specialist coaches to gain some tips and strategies for improving teaching and learning in PE. Make sure you have your PE kit in school!

Clubs

It is an aim of the school to offer extra-curricular activities, outside of the school day.

It is pleasing the support parents and pupils show for the opportunities we provide.

If you and your child are using wraparound care, please ensure you check your contract and notice period when signing up for any club run at school.

We Are a Nut Free School

Please remember that we have a number of children with food allergies and so ask that no products containing nuts are brought into school. Please check ingredients lists on chewy bars etc. in lunch boxes, to be certain. Thank you.



Open School – Spread the word

If you know of any families who have a pre-school child starting school in September 2019, please make them aware of our 'Open School' tours on Friday October 12th or Friday November 16th all at 9.15am - 10.30am or 11.10am -12noon. Thank you.

Do you have a child who was born between 1/9/2014 and 31/8/2015? If so, your child could start full time in September 2019 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council by 15th January 2019. Apply online: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/admission-toreception-classes> (website open between 28th Sept. and 15th Jan.) or alternatively application forms can be obtained from Norfolk County Council Customer Service Centre Tel. 0344 800 8020 Email: admissions@norfolk.gov.uk If you have an older child at school or your child is currently attending a nursery, please don't assume that no further action is required on your part. You still have to apply for a place for your child in the normal way.

Maths Cafes

I hope you've enjoyed the Maths Cafes this half term. It is important for us, as a school, to share the learning goals with you, as parents, to continue to strengthen the partnership, keeping you informed about our curriculum and how your child is doing.

What better way than being part of the class!

This year, we've trialled having the Maths Cafes as a focus in the first half term, as the timetable/diary gets very full through the year and cafes get forgotten, sometimes! We understand that this may have involved you being in school on several occasions across a short space of time. Please feedback any comments you may have about this.

Y6 Maths Café and Meet the Teacher Event

We appreciate the Y6 Maths Café and Meet the Teacher communication didn't quite work as we hoped. We apologise for any distress this may have caused parents in rearranging their day so they could attend. Thank you for your patience and understanding when these events go a bit wrong.

Please keep checking newsletters, Facebook, the calendar on the website. If in doubt, please speak to us, call or email.

How We Are Promoting Reading

Reading Volunteers

We are very pleased to have 2 reading volunteers to support Y3, 4 and 5 this year. This is a scheme set up especially for people in the community to support our school.

If there are any parents or grandparents who have an hour or so to give to reading, school can always find some willing readers to read with you.

Books for Schools

We are taking part in the Books for Schools token competition being run by Archant in the EDP and Norwich Evening News as well as other local papers. Tokens to the office, please. Let's see how well we can do. Thank you for your support.

Please go to the following link if you would like to support the school: <http://www.edp24.co.uk/going-out/books-for-schools-2018-free-books-for-schools-1-5702193>

Attendance

School monitors attendance very closely and Governors set challenging targets for the school to improve attendance for all pupils. I am very pleased to say across September there have been fewer 'lates' and minutes recorded so well done everyone.

We understand families have times when routines don't go to plan in the morning and occasions when pupils need to be absent for medical reasons. School will look to ways of rewarding classes where there is improved attendance, as a strategy for meeting out attendance targets.

Operation Encompass

Our school is a member of a jointly run operation between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Police, called Operation Encompass. Encompass has been set-up to help schools provide support to children who have been present at incidents of domestic violence. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when they are involved in, present or witness to domestic violence. The Key Adults will receive a confidential phone call from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) before 9am, on the morning after any domestic incident where a child at their school has been involved in, present or witness to domestic violence.

The Key Adults at our school are myself (Head Teacher), Mr Claxton (Deputy Head) and Mrs Gorman (SENDCo). We have received training from Norfolk County Council to allow us to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to make sure that the right support is available for children and their families. We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is extremely beneficial for all those involved.