



Newsletter April 2021

Welcome back and I hope everyone had a restful Easter.

Staff are optimistic for the summer term, which should offer our children some consistency, as the pandemic restrictions continue. However, we are not 'back to normal' and the curriculum may be adapted to reflect this.

We need to be mindful that restrictions remain in place and as a school, we need everyone to work together to keep everyone safe. Our staff are testing twice a week and several staff have had their first vaccination.

We ask that you continue to support us by wearing a mask, only one adult drops off/picks up at the published times and you call us from the gate if you need to enter school.

If anyone in your household has symptoms and needs to get a test, please inform us immediately.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Staff News...

New Staff

The Stoke school community welcomes **Ms Walwyn** as our newest member of staff and we hope she is settling in. She is currently working as a Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor with Y3, under Mr Scott's direction. Ms Walwyn brings a broad experience in teaching, as well as knowledge as a librarian.

Returning Staff

Mr Graveling, our trainee Teacher, returns to complete a summer placement with Y1. Mrs Gorman is his mentor and works closely with him, to ensure he received the best support possible.

Absent staff

We wish **Mrs Rose** a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her again, soon.

Staff on Leave

Mrs Swinton began her leave on Monday 12th April. We hope she has a rest before the birth of her second child. School will let you know further good news when we can!

Mrs Spencer-Smith has kindly accepted the position of 'maternity cover' for the summer term. The children already know Mrs Spencer-Smith from working with her in Y1, so this is the best outcome, especially at this time, where consistency is so important. She has made a positive start and enjoyed

working with the children this week. Mrs Spencer-Smith is contactable in the usual way, through the office.

Leaving staff

Mrs Delf has resigned from her post, so will not return from her maternity leave. I have thanked her for her contributions to the children and the school at Stoke Holy Cross and wished her well for the future.

Job Vacancy

We have a live advert to fill a Class Assistant vacancy, to begin this term. Please let your friends know and ask them to look on:

<https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/> for further details.

New Governors

I have pleasure in announcing that Stoke has some new governors to broaden the skills and experience of the Governing Board.

Aimee Atkin joined the Board of Governors last term. Her children successfully moved on from Stoke to High School and Sixth Form, several years ago, and Aimee says she is 'now in a position to devote enough time to dedicate to this purpose'. Aimee has extensive experience in Human Resource, supporting a number of Norfolk primary schools in her professional life, as well as having been Trustee of a large, inner-city academy. Aimee looks forward to 'the opportunity to support the school as a governor bringing new ideas, an extra pair of hands and generally giving something back'.

Antonio Baiao was welcomed onto the Governing Board in March. He lives locally, has relatives working in education and brings, amongst other skills, financial knowledge, to support the school.

He wishes to use his key skills 'to help the school to drive its vision and ambitions' and he hopes, 'by working closely with the school leadership team and other governors', he can support the school 'to improve its performance'.

Facebook

Thank you for all the 'Likes' recently and I hope you have enjoyed seeing some of the events the children have experienced. We aim to inform you about learning, school news and signposting wider events. Keeping looking out for new posts.

Results of Remote Learning Review 2021

Thank you to all the responses received from parents and carers, to support us in an evaluation of our remote learning offer over the spring lock down.

The results will be emailed separately.

Parent Consultations

If you haven't already, sign up for your zoom appointment via Pupil Asset

Wednesday 28th April – 3.30-7.30pm

Thursday 29th April – 3.30-6.30pm

Doing our part to protect our community...

What is Idling?

Idling is leaving your engine running when you are not using a car. If your car is not in use for more than thirty seconds, you should switch your engine off!

- An idling engine produces up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion.
- Exhaust emissions contain a range of air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, hydrocarbons and particulates.
- 62% of people with asthma report that traffic fumes worsen the effects of their asthma.
- Every 10 minutes of vehicle idling costs at least one-tenth of a litre in wasted fuel.

Incidentally, I have written to the bus company providing our school transport, to request staff are also asked not to leave the minibus idling on our car park.

Curriculum

Staff are updating their curriculum maps and these will be on the website by Friday 23rd April. To support pupils who may need to isolate, there are links to remote learning, in line with our remote learning plan.

As restrictions are eased according to the Government 'roadmap', we are hoping some of the summer events can begin to be planned in. School will let you know as soon as we receive updates from the Department for Education.

What's on the horizon?

Class photos – Friday 18th June