

Stocks Green Primary School

'Learning to Live, Living to Learn'

Newsletter - Friday 29th November

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

At Stocks Green Primary School we are great believers in the power of giving children responsibility and watching them thrive in their roles. It has been wonderful to witness this first hand through the introduction of our Prefects and Sports Leaders. This week our Prefects have proudly been greeting parents on the gate in the morning as part of our policy of welcoming people into our community. It has been wonderful to see them take on this role. However, more than this, they have been busy suggesting areas for improvement and have asked to run an art and well being club at lunchtime for others to come and be part of. What a caring group of Year 6 Prefects we have! As well as our fantastic Prefects, we have been working hard behind the scenes to get our Sports Leaders ready to run their lunchtime clubs for our younger pupils. They have been preparing different sport activities that they can run and will be starting these next week. I cannot wait to see the activities in action!

At the beginning of last week, our previous School Council completed their final duty - a fund raising event for The British Red Cross. Their idea for a dress up day raised a huge £172.86! We will be thanking our current School Council next week and we have just elected a new one! So, expect to hear about the new charities we will be fund raising for soon.

To further empower pupils we are also looking at ways to get them involved with running and developing OPAL, expect to hear more soon!

CHRISTMAS IS ON THE WAY

A gentle reminder that, as always, we have a jam packed series of Christmas events coming up - starting with the Christmas Fair tomorrow! We sent out a list of all the upcoming Christmas events and activities a couple of weeks ago. Remember to keep a close eye on that list of events to ensure that you do not miss any of the Christmas magic!

One of the best events every year is our brilliant Year R and Year 2 nativity performances. It has been wonderful this last week watching them practice for their moment on the stage and I know that this year, like every year, will bring tears to the eyes of parents and a great sense of pride.





PREFECT UPDATE

Good afternoon! I hope all of the parents have had a good week. This is the prefect report on the past two weeks.

Throughout the week there has been a lot of exciting events such as classes getting their school councillors. In the lovely Year 1 classroom, they have been classifying animals and decorating their class room for the Christmas Fair.

At the top of the school, in Year 6, they have been learning about the World War 2 and about the blitz. Zach and Francesca who have been elected school council. Well done to them for making a really good speech as well as everyone else who spoke.

In the middle of the school, in Year 3, in English they have been drawing anything on their creative little minds and then describing the drawing using adjectives. They have also been reading some Michael Rosen poems.

In the soon to be oldest in the school, Year 5, they have been doing some Remembrance day art work to remember the people who fought for us during World War 2. In science, they have been learning about the different planets in our lovely solar system.

In the lowest year in our school, Year R they have been learning about Phoenix and the letter e.

Written by Elliott B in Year 6

SPORTS LEADER UPDATE

These last couple of weeks have been exiting!

First, we will start with football. Our footballers had a tournament last Thursday. They did super well but lost on penalties. Well done to them all and also well done to Henry and James who have been chosen as our new football captains.

Dance/Cheer

We also now know our dance captains which are Freya and Olivia T. Well done to them. Our cheerleading captains are Tilly and Francesca, well done to them too.

Year 6

Year 6 have been doing gymnastics and planning sports leader clubs! The Sports Leaders cannot wait to start running their clubs!

Year 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and R

Everybody has been practicing their gymnastics!

Thank you for reading by Lauren and Finn.



VACANCY

We have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor / OPAL play team member. If you know anyone that may be interested in this position, please direct them to the vacancies page on the school website or contact the school office.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to David Johnston and Savills for their incredibly generous donation of £500 towards the decoration of Santa's Grotto this year. I know the 'Big Man' will appreciate being welcomed into a beautiful grotto and the children will be in awe of the magic!

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YEAR 1 ENJOYING THEIR HISTORY CURRICULUM BASED TRIP TO TONBRIDGE CASTLE

TONBRIDGE CASTLE

Last week, the Year 1 children enjoyed an amazing trip to Tonbridge Castle. We moved the trip to Tonbridge Castle last year as we completely redesigned our history curriculum and included elements of local history throughout. It was lovely to hear how impactful this trip was. The Tonbridge Castle team commented on how impressed they were with the children's knowledge of local history and castles. This has been a deliberate choice to reinforce prior learning with hands-on experiences in our history curriculum. It was lovely to hear that they could see the benefits of the approach.



UPCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please remember that the full, and constantly updated list of dates, is on the school website under 'News and Events' - 'Yearly Planner'. It can also be accessed at

<https://www.canva.com/design/DAFM8IPhRVw/8VzWtjH8GL43QK9p2eK6uA/view>



9/12/2024: YEAR R AND 2 NATIVITY TO THE SCHOOL AND GRANDPARENTS



10/12/2024: YEAR R AND 2 NATIVITY TO PARENTS



11/12/2024: YEAR R AND 2 NATIVITY TO PARENTS



13/12/2024: YEAR 2 NATIVITY SONG SINGING AT HYLLEN HEIGHTS



17/12/2024: CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT THE FARMERS MARKET



18/12/2024: YEAR 1 CHRISTMAS SONGS PERFORMANCE



18/12/2024: CHRISTMAS STORY-TELLING AND MINCE PIES



18/12/2024: CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND CLASS PARTIES



20/12/2024: CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT AT ST JOHNS CHURCH

SUPERSTAR CORNER

Well done to all our hardworking superstars from the last two weeks.

The Values Cup goes to a child who has shown our school values during the week. This term we are focusing on the value of respect.

Values Cup Winners:

22/11/24: Sophie H - Year 2

29/11/24: Astrid L - Year 6

The Values Cup for Sport goes to a child who has shown our school values during a sporting events, such as PE or a tournament, during the week. This term we are focusing on the value of respect.

Values Cup for Sport Winners:

22/11/24: James G - Year 6

29/11/24: Maxwell E - Year 5



If your child achieves something amazing outside of school, such as passing a music exam or earns a trophy for their sporting achievements, send a picture to office@stocks-green.kent.sch.uk to get them added to our superstar corner.

Well done to Yeshna (Yr 2) who recently performed an India dance form called 'Bharatnatyam' at a recent event in Hadlow village in front of almost 200 people. She then went on to perform another event at Matfield hall.

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SUPERSTAR CORNER CONTINUED

Last week, our fantastic school football team braved the freezing cold to take part in a local tournament that 'leads to Wembley'. The boys played games throughout the morning and afternoon. They won every single games in the league as well as the quarter final and semi-final. They went 1-0 down in the final but showed incredible resilience to fight back to 1-1. This meant that it went to penalties and, despite their very best efforts, they lost 2-1 on penalties to Woodlands. The boys showed our school values of respect, kindness and resilience throughout. They always made sure they shook hands with the opponents and thanked the referee. Their exemplary behaviour and attitudes made this old Headteacher very proud! We now face an anxious wait to see if the second placed teams gain a spot in the next round. Fingers crossed!



Well done to Toby, Lila and Isabella (all Y4) for competing in a swimming gala on Sunday. Each race was 50 metres which was a first time for all of them. Toby got a Bronze and Silver.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the Kings and Fir Tree Farm for the incredibly generous donation of our Christmas tree again this year. I'm sure you will agree that it looks absolutely fantastic!



FURTHER INFORMATION ON SMARTPHONES

A few parents mentioned how they valued the information on a Smartphone Free Childhood. Whilst as a school, we always seek to promote balance, we wished to share this information from a parent who attended for those who find it useful.

The Kent online event held recently had lots of great information for those wanting to know more about smartphones and their effects on children. It was interesting to hear from a headteacher in Kent who has introduced Yondr pouches in school and seen a significant improvement in child behaviour and staff wellbeing. The ban, amazingly, seems to be helping outside of school too. Other speakers were a child psychotherapist, a parent of a child with a brick phone and, most hard hitting of all, two members of Gen Z (in their 20s) speaking about their experience of smartphones.

The recording of the webinar can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/kentsfc>

LOCAL EVENTS

As a school, we pride ourselves on being part of the community of Hildenborough, we have been made aware of some local events that may be of interest to parents.

LAST DAY COPPICING, this Saturday 30 November. Any time 10.30am-3/4pm, Westwood behind the playground.

Last Saturday was cancelled due to the high winds so all hands required for a big push to finish coppicing this weekend. It's a wonderful, FREE activity and so close to school. All are welcome; children must remain supervised. Just come in wellies or boots if possible and dress warm. Bring sausages to cook in the fire while you work. Bring water bottles given it's thirsty work and tools if you have them (loppers) and wear garden or normal gloves.

STOCKS GREEN SKI TEAM

We're looking for 2-3 more pupils to join the Stocks Green dry slope ski team for a slalom competition in May. Please get in touch with Mrs. Nelson if you'd like your child to take part. The Christmas holidays will be an ideal time to try out a nearby dry ski slope.



YEAR 1 ENJOYING THEIR WONDERFUL NEW ROLE PLAY AND READING AREA