



Stoke Holy Cross Primary School

www.stokeholycross.norfolk.sch.uk



February 2022 Newsletter

We are well into our Spring Term...

Moreover, we are looking forward to another busy and productive term at Stoke Holy Cross with lots of exciting events and activities. Please make sure you check the diary dates on this newsletter and keep an eye on our website calendar for upcoming events.



Welcome to new staff

Mrs Webb has joined Y2 as their morning Classroom Assistant and Midday Supervisor. She has settled in and making a positive contribution to the pupils' education and care.

Miss McCloskey, a student teacher, has a placement with our Y2 this term to continue her teacher development. Mr Scott will act as mentor. We hope she finds Stoke Holy Cross School a great place to hone her skills - our Y2 pupils will make sure she does!

January Inset Day

Our third inset day of the year started with updated safeguarding training for all staff.

Behaviour management, with particular regard to scripts and rules and reminders, occupied us in the morning. Revd Lyn Marsh, our Chair of Governors joined us for this session.

In the afternoon, Roger Higgins, our Curriculum Governor, was able to attend school, as we continued with our curriculum development focus.

We will update parents and carers on the outcome of this work in due course.

Forest School

Miss Laniado has continued to apply her Forest School expertise across the school.

She continues to run a morning forest. Their latest project has been to design an off-site trail for the Reception children. This year, the Reception children have been very lucky to have weekly Forest School sessions.

As well as this, Miss Laniado has been able to work with Y3, Y2 and Y1, who have enjoyed 6-week blocks of Forest School sessions.

We are grateful to Miss Laniado for the planning and energy she puts into ensuring the children have an exciting educational experience in the Forest.



Vacancy

Stoke Holy Cross Primary School has a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant. If you know of an excellent TA, please ask them to look on the Norfolk schools' vacancies site: <https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/>

New Website



Although still being developed and updated, we are very excited to announce that we have launched a new website. Take a look at: <http://stokeholycross.norfolk.sch.uk/>

We have included a new page 'Mental Health and Well-being' to reflect our commitment to supporting the whole child, staff and our community of families.

Incidentally, 7th-13th February is Children's Mental Health Week. Use the link to find out more:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

NSPCC 'SPEAK OUT, Stay Safe'

Each class participated in the NSPCC campaign this year, which aims to support schools and pupils to develop an agreement for creating a safe learning environment through:

- Establishing ground rules
- Distancing learning
- Responding to questions safely
- Being sensitive
- Working within the school's safeguarding policy
- Signposting additional support

The agreements will be age appropriate and referred to at the beginning of each session.

Other activities included:

- EYFS, Year 1 and Y2 watched the pantosaurus animation and song to learn the PANTS rule for keeping safe.
- Year 2, 3 and 4 watched the NSPCC assembly for 5-7years.
- Year 5 and 6 watched the NSPCC assembly for 7-11 years.

To find out more, use the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/working-with-schools>



Y1 Toys Topic

Y1 have a visit to the Puppet Theatre, Norwich, this week. They will be working with puppeteers to design and make their own creations.

Later in the week, Y1 will be opening their Toy Museum for one day only. They will share lots of pictures with you after the event.

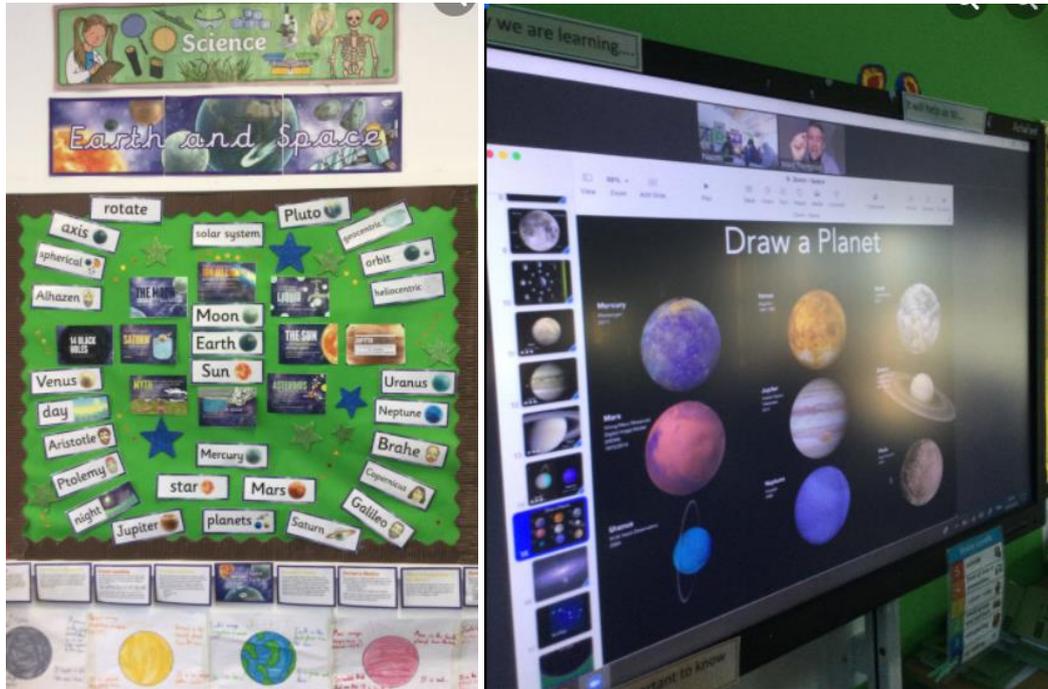
Y5 news

Today marks the end of Class 5's Ancient Maya history topic. We learnt about their love of chocolate and made our own 'Ancient Maya hot chocolate', following a similar recipe to one they would have used.

Do you think we liked the taste?!



Class 5 have greatly enjoyed our two weeks on Earth and Space in Science. We were fortunate enough to have two experts join us via Zoom. Peter Samain, our STEM ambassador helped us to create a human solar system and Mark Thompson, Scientist and author, taught us all sorts of interesting space facts!



Inspiring Authors in Y5 and Y6

Last week Class 5 and 6 joined other schools via Zoom for a session organised by Waterstones to meet children's authors Lisa Thompson and Helen Rutter. The children learnt a lot about the disciplines and the drive needed to be a published author. It was inspiring to hear the authors answer many of our questions and to learn about the processes involved in writing children's stories.

Two top tips we picked up were:

'Don't get it right, get it written' and

'Read your work out loud to different people before thinking you have finished'.



Pupil News



Ronnie has been getting creative with ceramic work while he was home learning. His clay mask, inspired by the Y5 Mayan study, was skilfully sculpted, painted and sealed. Well done, Ronnie.

Louisa shared her home learning, too. She took part in the Big Bird Watch 2022 and has recorded the visitors to her garden.



She has also been creative and skilled in making her 3D models - the dragon is Louisa's favourite!

Bethany wrote a fantastic rhyming story at home! It is such an exciting and engaging story. It must have taken a lot of careful planning and thought to find all of those rhyming words. What a challenge Bethany set herself!

Her teacher has encouraged Bethany to look out for some young writers' competitions to enter this year!

Leah was pre-selected for the gymnastics East Regional Squad 2022. She had her first training session on Sunday 30th January and really enjoyed it.



News from our Wildlife Ambassador – January update



'This month I made a bird house out of an unwanted teapot and a piece of old drawer that was left on the side of the road with a free sign on it. My stepdad helped me build it and then we put some wood stain on it because it wasn't weatherproof.'

Great reusing and upcycling, Rufus!

Phonics

Stoke Holy Cross Primary has introduced a new phonics scheme, this year - Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS). We have purchased new resources, workbooks, online assessments and e-books to support teaching and learning.

ABC Poster



The children are enjoying the lessons and staff are tracking the impact of the scheme to bring about successful learning for all children.

The Lower School staff are planning briefings to support parents and carers, in helping their children with phonics and reading at home.

Wellies

All classes have a 'welly rack' so children have a change of footwear for playing on the field at break and lunch time. *Remember, no wellies, no playing on the field.*



Bad Weather



This is a reminder that, should there be bad weather this term that may affect school, we will send a text out via Pupil Asset.

All details of openings, closings and cancellations can be heard on **local radio morning shows**. You can also look on the Emergency School Closure website:

http://disruptions.norfolk.gov.uk/nccclosures_schools.html

School Clubs and Activities

Science Club - The Y1 and Y2 after school Science club, run by Mad Science Norfolk, has proved very popular and the children are having an exciting time learning - there is a real 'buzz' in the room.

Music - Our specialist music teacher, Mrs Housden, will offer KS2 lunchtime choir and after school music club this term. Look out for the letters coming out shortly.

Football - School has enlisted Norwich City Community Sports Foundation coaches to lead after school football this term. Unfortunately, the number of attendees at this club are greatly reduced, which means the club is running at a financial loss to the school. We will review this club and may not be able to offer this in the future.

School Provided Meals

There have been one or two concerns that have been brought to my attention, regarding the quality of food served at lunchtime.

School intends to survey pupils and parents to gather views about the food and lunch times generally. We will also have a review with the account manager from Norse, our caterers.

In the meantime, if you have feedback for Norse, please use the link:

<https://norsecatering.co.uk/contact/>

Do continue checking the menu with your child to decide which meal your child prefers.

Are you parking considerately outside school?



Please park in a safe and considerate way when dropping your children off in the morning and collecting them in the afternoon. We all need to protect each other and avoid inconveniencing our school neighbours.

Crossing Patrol

While covering the KS2 gate in the afternoons for Mr. Claxton (in between corralling wild horses), I have noticed how well the KS2 children are using Grace's, (our crossing patrol) support, to cross the road to their parents. Well done, Upper School!



Thank you to Grace for her care and support of our children and families.

A late start is a bad start.

I understand there are occasions when the school run does not go smoothly, but please make every attempt to get your child to school **before** school starts at 8:45am. Arriving late can be unsettling.

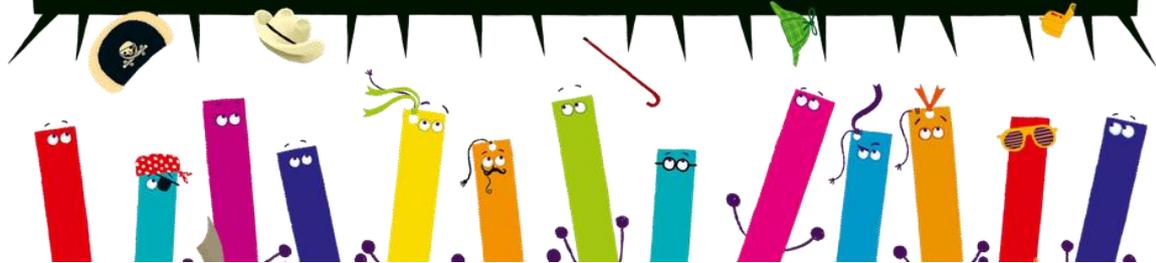
Pupils can enter the site at 8.35am for both KS2 and Lower School pupils (Reception children with their parent or carers if required).



13th December 2021 – 4th February 2022

Year	Attendance	Absence	Minutes Late
Year F	92.03%	7.97%	113
Year 1	92.98%	7.02%	186
Year 2	89.51%	10.49%	213
Year 3	96.09%	3.91%	742
Year 4	89.21%	10.79%	432
Year 5	84.98%	15.02%	113
Year 6	91.63%	8.37%	239
Overall	90.85%	9.15%	2038

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting pupils and staff to come to school dressed as a book character. (There will be no charge for this!) We will also be giving every pupil a World Book Day £1 token.

There will be more details soon, from Mr. Claxton, English lead.

Y6 Residential 2022

We recently survey Y6 parents about the prospect of a Y6 residential. 79% of parents responded and all supported a residential. We have listened to your concerns about the cost and we have looked at other options, which may make the event a little more affordable. We hope to be able to let you know if a residential is going to go ahead in the next week or so.



Thank you for completing the survey - it was very helpful in deciding on next steps.

Books for Schools

Thank you to everyone who sent in the Books for Schools tokens. These have been counted and sent to the Eastern Daily Press. They will be in touch soon to confirm our prize!



VOLUNTARY NORFOLK

Voluntary Norfolk offer help to any parents/carers/guardians seeking support to find work, develop a cv, get job searching and applying, practice interview skills or find training or volunteering work.

You can drop them a line using the referral form on the link below.

Make a referral to the employment team now using the [quick and easy online referral form](#)

INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss of or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Suspected Cases of COVID-19

Many people are testing positive without displaying the recognised symptoms of COVID-19. Many are displaying no symptoms at all, or mild cold-like symptoms (e.g. runny nose, sore throats, headaches, etc.).

If a person displays any such symptom, however mild, we advise you to book a PCR test.

Please note that Lateral Flow (LFD) Tests are designed for asymptomatic testing (where an individual does NOT display symptoms), and if an individual is symptomatic, a PCR test must be arranged. The child should self-isolate until the results of the PCR test are known.

What to do in the event of a positive Lateral Flow Test

Pupils with a positive Lateral Flow test result should self-isolate for 10 days. If the person has no symptoms, the self-isolation period is the 10 full days after the date of the test.

If the person is symptomatic, the self-isolation period includes the date of the onset of symptoms plus the subsequent 10 days.

What to do in the event of a positive PCR test

In the event that a person tests positive for COVID-19, they may need to self-isolate for 10 days. The self-isolation period includes the date of the onset of symptoms plus the subsequent 10 days. If the person has no symptoms, the self-isolation period is the 10 full days after the date of the test.

Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Close contacts are advised to conduct daily LFD tests and may also be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to arrange a PCR test. In the event that a close contact developed symptoms, a PCR should be arranged immediately.

Ending Self-Isolation Early

From **Monday 17 January**, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.

For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school on day 6. Please note, to return to school on Day 6, a person would need to have completed their LFD test before school on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken no less than 24 hours later. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, the individual should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

What's on the horizon?

7th – 13th February – Children's Mental Health Week

8th February – Internet Safety Day

11th February – Wear your Scarf to School day

14th February – 18th February Half term

25th February – Year 6 WWII day

3rd March – World Book Day, dressed as a book character

3rd March – World Book Day, special lunch, details to follow

14th March – Year 5 Mars Day 2022

30th & 31st March – Parent Consultations, details to follow

4th April – 18th April Easter holiday

19th April Staff Inset day

2nd May Bank Holiday Monday

30th May – 3rd June Whitsun holiday

21st July Last day of Summer term

22nd July Staff Inset day

2022

January							February							March							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
28	27	26	25	24	23	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	27	28	1	2	3	4	5		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

April							May							June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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July							August							September						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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31	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

October							November							December							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
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