



STANLEY CROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

To try our best, to tell the truth, to look after each other and our community

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9th September 2016

Vol: 1 Issue: 2

Headteacher's Notices

As we find ourselves at the end of the first week of the new academic year, I am pleased to report to all parents that pupils across all Teams have settled extremely well back into school. During this week, I have had the pleasure of showing several parents of prospective new pupils around our school as well as members of the Education Team at Durham County Council and during the tours, I have been particular impressed with the focus demonstrated by our pupils and the standard of teaching being delivered to them by our outstanding staff. As always, I take time to speak to many of our pupils about our school in order to explore opportunities for improvement. The feedback I receive is always extremely positive with recent comments from pupils, when given in response to questions around exploring the best aspects of our school, being: "The teachers", "Learning is fun!", "Our Mission" and "EVERYTHING!". Stanley Crook Primary School is committed to improving outcomes for all pupils and regular discussion with our pupils is a main factor in supporting our work in achieving this aim.

One critical element of school improvement is 'Pupil Voice' and we support the view of our pupils not only via informal discussions, but also via our system of 'School Councillors'. This week, and to compliment our work around British Values, pupils from each Team have created manifestos in which they highlight areas of the school which they would like to see improved and the qualities that they would bring if elected as a School Councillor. After presentations of each manifesto, a democratic vote is then undertaken and two pupils from each year group are then elected as School Councillors. Meetings are held at least half-termly between the School Council and myself in order to ensure that school improvement priorities are shared and discussed with pupil representatives. The ongoing development of our school grounds and other specific areas for improvement have been the result of school council meetings and I look forward to exploring the wishes of our pupils for additional improvement as we move forward into the new academic year.

Our 'new' Breakfast Club is proving to be a great success. After consultation with parents and pupils, Breakfast Club is now open from 8:15 am and now provides an even greater range of healthy food and drink than ever before. Pupils also have access to a range of new board games, a selection of favourite child magazines and even a TV with extra-large chairs to relax in to get ready for the school day. Breakfast Club is £1 per session, payable in advance. Please contact the school office for more information.

'Parent Team Meetings' are scheduled to begin week beginning 19th September. Each team meeting will be held after-school and will provide parents/ carers a fantastic opportunity to meet with their child's new class teacher and discover what exciting learning activities are planned for the new school year. Specific letters providing dates for each Team Meeting will follow on Monday.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be hosting our annual Harvest Festival at St. Thomas' Church on Monday 10th October. Parents/ carers/ Grandparents are all invited to share in our celebrations. More information will follow shortly.

A reminder that **all pupils are required to wear plain, black shoes for school.** This is an important element of our new school uniform which I will continue to monitor closely. Thank you to the many, many parents who are following this aspect of our new uniform.

Mr D Christie—Headteacher

For the most up to date information about what is going on in our school including dates for your diaries, parental information and school performance information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk>

Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to be taken straight to our school website!



Roald Dahl Day—13.09.16

A reminder that, as part of Roald Dahl Day on the 13th September, all pupils (and staff) are invited to come to school on Tuesday dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character!

The Punctuation Show

All pupils are extremely excited for the return of 'The Punctuation Man' to school on Friday when he will deliver his fun and interactive 'Punctuation Show'. The show teaches pupils elements of grammar, punctuation and spelling in a creative learning production which includes songs, acting and much, much more!

After School Clubs

After school clubs will commence on Monday 12th September (3:15pm—4:15pm). A separate letter has been sent with timetables and booking forms.

Swimming Tuition

Well done to all pupils who attended the first session in our programme of swimming tuition on Thursday. Feedback from Miss Rowcroft was extremely positive in that all pupils were trying their best and working hard towards achieving their 25m swimming certificate. Well done everyone—you CAN do it!

Children's Achievements in School

Every week, staff choose a pupil from each Team to be recognised for something special they have achieved during the week. This week's chosen children are:



Diary Dates:

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| 13.09.16 Roald Dahl Story Explorers Day (Come to school dressed up as your favourite Roald Dahl character) | 11.10.16 'Brain Blaster' Activity Day (Whole School) |
| 14.09.16 Playground Activity Leader Training | 12.10.16 A morning with David Baddiel (Team 5) |
| 16.09.16 The Punctuation Show (Whole School) | 14.10.16 E-Safety Pupil Showcase (Parents invited) |
| 22.09.16 School Photographs (Whole School) - amendment | 18.10.16 Rhyme Around the World Exhibition (R/Y1) |
| 27.09.16 Hartlepool Power Station visit (Team 5) | 20.10.16 Autumn Disco |
| 29.09.16 Barnabas RE Day (Whole School) | 21.10.16 School closes—October Half-Term |
| 30.09.16 Vindolanda and Roman Museum Visit (Y3/4) | 01.11.16 School Re-opens for teaching purposes |
| 04.10.16 Michael Murpurgo—Literacy Day (Whole School) | |

