



Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th May 2017

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Headteacher's Notices

After a busy week of end of year assessments, I would like to congratulate our Year 6 pupils for their outstanding attitude and positive approach towards completing the SATs. Each and every one of them has applied themselves in a manner which has made all of the staff extremely proud. In fact, the assessments have gone so smoothly this week, many staff members have commented on how this week has not felt like 'SATs week' at all. This has given me great satisfaction as I was determined to ensure the pressures of this assessment period were reduced by our approach in and around school in demonstrating to our pupils that, despite the assessments, this week was just like any other at Stanley Crook: Fun! Many of you will know that this year has been only the second year of the SATs under the more challenging expectations of the new national curriculum which was introduced in September 2014 and no doubt many of you will also be aware of the issues surrounding the tests which have been broadcast recently across both local and national media. Despite these 'issues', we, in school, have all remained focused on the job in hand and I am positive that all of the pupils have performed exceptionally well in all of their assessments. Thank you also to Miss Williams and Mrs Corrigan for their meticulous preparation and planning towards ensuring our Year 6 pupils are provided only the best possible opportunities for success.

Next week, our Year 2 pupils will participate in the Key Stage 1 SATs. These SATs are carried out as part of normal classroom practice and the pupils will complete the assessments within their agreed timetables. Reducing pressure and 'stress' is of even greater importance for children at this stage of their education and Mrs Martin, Mrs Shields, alongside Mrs Brabban, will ensure that your children barely notice that they are being assessed. Year 2 pupils will not be completing the Key Stage 1 English, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling assessment this year due to it being removed by the Government in 2016 and remaining 'optional' for 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Year 2 pupils for their hard work, commitment and dedication to our school this year. Outstanding progress has been made in this Team and I would also like to extend my thanks to Mrs Martin and Mrs Shields for their efforts in ensuring the pupils in Team 2 have received a '1st class' education this year!

Pupils across the school have continued with their excellent progress in learning to play the Clarinet this week. Thank you to Mr Jakob from the Durham Music Service for his work and encouragement with these pupils. Working alongside Mrs James (also from the Durham Music Service), pupils in Team 5, along with all of our Clarinet musicians, are planning a spectacular performance for the Year 6 Leavers' Service on Friday 21st July.

Parents/ Carers of pupils in Year 6 are again invited to our Leavers' Service on the 21st July to celebrate with us and our other pupils the many achievements that our Year 6s have enjoyed during their time at our school. More details will follow in June.

On Tuesday, pupils from Team 1 and Team 2 enjoyed a Victorian School Day. Learning all about education at the end of the 21st Century, pupils learned their timetables by rote, used slate boards to record their writing and dressed in Victorian clothes. Talking to one Year 2 pupil about her day, she replied to me, "I'm glad school is more fun than that now!"

Thank you for your continued support.

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!



Sports Day—Friday 30th June (repeat)

I would like to give parents/ carers and our wider community advance notice of the date for Sports Day 2017. This year, Sports Day will be held on Friday 30th June. Employing the same format as last year's highly successful event, Sports Day will also see the arrival of many activities on the school field/ yard including two bouncy castles, tombola, cake stall, ice cream van, birds of prey display and much more. We are even expecting a special visit from the Fire Brigade! More information will follow in due course.

Collecting Arrangements at the end of the school day

In order to further improve our current collection arrangements for pupils at the end of the school day, I have attached to this newsletter information on new procedures and a consent form for parents who wish for their child to walk home from school unaccompanied.

Thank you for your support and cooperation with this matter.

Team 1 and Team 2 'Interactive Gruffalo Trail'

Pupils in Team 1 and Team 2 will be enjoying an Interactive Gruffalo Trail next Friday. I wonder if they will spot the Gruffalo on their adventures!?

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 and a special award is presented in our Attendance Raffle. Thiweek's chosen children are:



Congratulations to all of our pupils this week for their outstanding effort and hard work in our school!

Diary Dates:

19.05.17 Hamsterley Forest Gruffalo Trail (Team 1 and Team 2)

19.05.17 Vikings! - Palace Green Library (Team 3 and Team 4)

23.05.17 Stone Age to Iron Age (Team 5)

24.05.17 Athletics Festival (Key Stage 1)

26.05.17 David Burn—Stranger Danger and Staying Safe on the Streets Workshops (Key Stage 2)

26.05.17 School Closes for Summer half-term

05.06.17 School opens for teaching purposes

05.06.17 Archery Workshop (Team 4)

07.06.17 Year 6 Leavers' Service—Durham Cathedral

07.06.17 Outdoor Adventures (Team 3 and Team 4)

08.06.17 Primary Partnership Link Activity—P.E. (Year 5)

12.06.17 Flat Stan First Aid Workshops (Team 5 and Year 2)

13.06.17 Capt. Howman and Cadets WSCC (Whole School)

20.06.17 Transition and Resilience Workshop (Year 6)

20.06.17 Locomotion—Beside the Seaside (Team 1 and 2)

