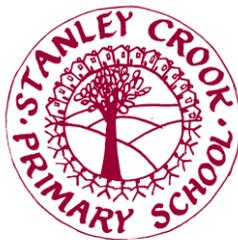


Headteacher:

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OUR MISSION: TO TRY OUR BEST, TO TELL THE TRUTH, TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY.

Parent letter 1  
September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school! I trust everyone is rested after an enjoyable holiday. I am delighted to see our lovely children back safe and happy. We are looking forward to another very successful, happy year where everyone works together to achieve the best education possible for every child. Remember – **Our Mission "To try our best, to tell the truth, to look after each other and the Community."** The children are all working hard to achieve this in school.

To remind you - our school organisation for academic year 2015/16 is as follows:

Team 1	Reception (13)	Mrs Brabban
	Y1 (16)	Mrs Barnett TA
		Mrs Corrigan TA
Team 2	Y2 children (19)	Mrs Martin
		Mrs ShieldsTA
Team 3	Y3 children (22)	Miss Johnson
		Miss Rowcroft .5 TA
Team 4	Y4 children (17)	Mr Teasdale
		Ms Rowcroft .5 TA
Team 5	Y5 children (10)	Mr Christie
	Y6 children (17)	Ms Williams TA

Our school total now is 114 pupils – with 6 teachers and 5 teaching assistants to ensure pupil/teacher ratio stays small. We are a very popular school and all of our children are settled, happy and progressing well.

There will be lots of movement into different team rooms with sometimes different teachers for English and Mathematics teaching across the school depending upon the stage of the child/rens need. I will be closely monitoring the teaching and learning of all children to ensure they are receiving the teaching needed to secure outstanding progression in learning. The children have their targets for Maths and English activities inserted into their books to remind them of what they need to do next to improve their work. Along with other information these targets will be discussed with you at our parent/teacher meetings.

### **Parent/teacher consultation meetings**

Taking into account the views of parents, I have organised parent/teacher meetings over two dates early this term for more information sharing in order to drive education forward.

Parents Meeting for **Reception children** parents: **9.10a.m. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** with Mrs Brabban in the hall.

Parents meeting for **Y1 – Y6 WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OR THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2.15 – 5 pm.**

Please make an appointment to see your child's teacher by returning the appointment slip. **(Separate letter and appointments slip will follow.)** **If you cannot make either date please ring school and organise another appointment. At these meetings the teachers will also explain class organisation and work/topic to be covered including how you can help at home.** I remind you, teachers are available every Wednesday evening 3.15 to 4.15 throughout the school year should you have any queries about your child's welfare or education.

### **Attendance/Late Gate/Holidays**

**Whole school attendance** last academic year was **95.95%**. Team 1 won the overall yearly best attendance with 97.03% - well done Team 1. Other class attendances were Team 1M 96.71%, Team 2 94.93%, Team 3 96.44%, Team 4 95.30%. Can better this this year?

As you will be aware, attendance is an area which is given high priority at national level across all schools. We regularly send you letters, texts and correspondence which relate to attendance issues and we have systems in place within school to monitor children's attendance and absences. Rebecca Sharpe (Y4) has not had a day off school since she started – no pressure then Rebecca!

You will be invited into Celebration Assemblies during the school year to celebrate attendance and assemblies about Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL).

I remind you that the **school bell rings at 8.55 a.m.** and children should be in the yard ready to line up. I urge you to get your child into school on time. If your child is just 5 minutes late per day that equates to approx 12 and a half hours over a school year – 2 school days of education lost!

To help with your forward planning, I have attached a **holiday list** for the next academic year (also available on our website for constant reference). **Key Stage 2 SAT's week for Y6 pupils 9 - 13 May 2016. It is important that you do not take your child away for holidays during term time and especially during Y2 and Y6. As you know, I cannot authorise any holidays during term time (new Government guidance).**

## **New Starters**

We have 13 delightful new starters, (this year our admission limit this year is 16). I am sure they will settle into school routine very well. I am truly amazed at their progress up to now – they all came in together in the line this morning – you should be really proud of them. It is important that all older children come into school on a morning independently - we have so little porch space, if every parent came in there would be no space for the children!

## **Curriculum plans/Timetables/Homework/Home learning**

For your information I have attached a copy of your child's timetable for this term and an outline of our long term planning of areas of study for each curriculum subject. The **National Curriculum** consists of the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science and foundation subjects of Art and Design, Computing, Design Technology, Geography, History, Music, PE and Religious Education and at KS2 Foreign Language – French. It is most important that you make an appointment to see your child's teacher to discuss their work and ways in which you can help to improve standards in these subjects. The curriculum tells schools what has to be taught but it is the schools decision as to how and when the subjects are taught. In our school our emphasis has always been on reading, writing, mathematics and computing. We ensure that the children are focused and know their targets, especially in reading, writing and maths and use the skills gained in these areas to explore the other curriculum subjects.

For timetabled PE sessions please ensure your child/ren have suitable footwear trainers or sandshoes, a tee shirt and a pair of shorts. **PE kits should be named and left in school in a PE bag** (available from school). We have specialist coaches and a new member of staff working with staff and children to provide best quality PE both in school time and with after school clubs.

Team teachers will set homework according to the stage of your child. We are particularly targeting maths and writing again. We understand you are very busy people and this is a way of letting you know what your child is finding out about in school. Please make sure your child has a quiet place to work and remember we are here to help. Children should also be bringing **reading material home every night**. We are looking to increase our range of Accelerated Reading books, especially for the lower KS2 children. Please read our homework policy available online or on request from the Admin Office. If you have any problems please contact your child's team teacher.

## **School Uniform and Lost Property**

Please ensure that your child wears our school uniform. There are plenty of items in stock reasonably priced - Burgundy sweatshirt with school logo and yellow, green, blue and red polo shirt. A warm waterproof coat is available

from school at a very competitive price. Grey trousers or skirts with black shoes should be worn. Can I also suggest that you purchase a book bag from school so that children can bring learning activities and reading books home safely? I cannot stress strongly enough that you **write your child's name on the label of any item of uniform or clothing**. If items become misplaced with no name we have a very difficult job returning them to their rightful owner. Any items of clothing left around school will be put in the lost property cupboard.

### **School meals/Dinner money/Water**

I remind you that school meals are free to R, Y1 and Y2 children and charged at £1.95 per meal for a main course and a dessert to all other children. Fresh drinking water is available throughout the school day and especially at lunch time. **Is your older child eligible for a free school meal?** Please call into the School Office for an application form if you think so. If your child is eligible but you do not want to take the meal could you PLEASE LET US KNOW as this helps greatly with our paper work. **Dinner money should be sent to school with your child in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and team number. Cheques should be made payable to Durham County Council.** These meals are still excellent value for money – where else can you get a hot meal, bread and dessert for this price? We are closely monitoring the menus and because of demand also include a cold sandwich option. **Please let your child choose his/her courses from the menu** provided and return menus to Admin Office as usual. Older children will choose their food from the menus in school time. The food looks and tastes delicious. All our meals meet Government guidance for nutrition. If you have any comments or special dietary needs for your child/ren please do not hesitate to discuss them with our cook. Contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns regarding any aspect of healthy diet. I will be sending home information regarding guidance on what can and cannot be included in packed lunches in the near future. Please do not send any drinks in packed lunch boxes. Also, no hot liquids, glass bottles, fizzy drinks, pasties or chocolate bars – keep these things for home. Any food brought from home not eaten will be sent home in your child's packed lunch bag/box so that you can monitor what he/she is eating. This is a follow up from advice from the workshops we ran and will be running again if there is enough interest. I take this opportunity to remind you that the kitchen needs one weeks notice if your child is changing either from school meals to packed lunch or vice versa. I urge you to encourage your child to take a school meal all year and not just in the winter months.

### **Texting Service and Website**

As you know texting is a very useful service. It is a very quick and efficient way of communicating with you. Whilst we will try not to be intrusive, we will send you text messages to remind you of events in school. Please ensure we have your latest contact details i.e. new mobile phone numbers. Our school website, [www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk](http://www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk) has up to date information on our school and is updated frequently. Please log on and explore the useful

information we store on there for your convenience. If there are any other areas you would like us to add into the website please write down your suggestions and put them into the suggestion boxes located outside each team room and we will do our best to help.

### **School improvements including ICT**

We have had some new internal doors fitted and some minor repairs completed. Mr Shaun, our caretaker has done an excellent job decorating around the school and polishing the floors during the holidays.

The outdoor seating in the small playground is to encourage the children to use them for reading, chatting and generally having a good time! The EYFS outdoor area to the front of the building is a fantastic outdoor learning area – including the 'story/play' stage area to encourage speaking and listening and writing skills as well as stepping stones and rest reading areas.

### **Breakfast Buddies Club**

To remind you - Breakfast Club is available free (sponsored by Greggs the Bakers) for any child who wants breakfast in school from MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> September from 8.30 a.m. Our breakfast club offers a good healthy breakfast of fruit juice, milk, cereal, beans, spreads and toast. I have had only one parent ask for an earlier start time. We can provide 40 places. Children in Y3 and Y4 and their siblings have been given first preference. Of course, if you rely on this service for working arrangements we will do our best to accommodate you. Please ring the Office and ask to speak to Mrs Higginbotham for further information. If you would like to volunteer to help run our Breakfast Buddies Club please volunteer to the Office staff.

### **Safe Routes to School and school transport**

With 114 pupils on roll obviously access in and out of school is going to be very busy! It is more important than ever to ensure that the one way system around school with car drop offs continues to work well, to keep congestion at a minimum at the beginning and end of school. Please be patient when collecting your child and try to wait until the car in front has moved on – this is of course for the **safety of all children**. To encourage safety, in school we wait till each team is ready and leave the building together as a whole school at the end of the school day. **Please ensure that you are on time and waiting at the rear yard 3.15 p.m. prompt to meet your child. Ensure your child knows that on the odd occasion you may be late he/she MUST return to the class teacher.** Please ring the office and let us know asap if you are going to be late.

The taxi firm for the Sunnside children for this year is Esh taxis. Any parent from Sunnside wishing to use the taxi should discuss this with the bus driver. The Admin Office can give you details. To refresh your memory the pick up/drop-off stops will be the same as last year:-

Morning

Sunnside - 8.40 a.m.

Moss Inn

Evening –leaving school 3.15 p.m.

Bus shelter - (opposite side of road)

Bus shelter (near Comedian Pub) Moss Inn

This contract is set up between the taxi firm and County Hall Transport Department and any concerns you may have should be addressed to them. For safety sake will parents/carers ensure that they are at the bus stops to meet their child/children promptly!

**After School Clubs** – starting week beginning **Monday 21st September**

Mondays	Staff training Sports Club - £1.50 (Lower Dales Sports Coach) details to follow
Tues days	ICT Club KS2 - £1.50 Mr Christie ICT Club KS1 - £1.50 Mrs Brabban
Wed days	Fit Club – KS1/KS2 Miss Johnson and Mr Douglas
Thursdays	Discovery Club KS1 - £1.50 Miss Martin Discovery Club KS2 -£1.50 Mr Teasdale

These clubs must be paid for in advance - £1.50 per place per half term (i.e. £10.50 per 7 week club) and sent with the reply slip. These clubs have a maximum of 20 places and a minimum of 8 places and will be allocated on first come basis. **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE PERMISSION FORMS OR YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** I will monitor the 'take up' of these Clubs to ensure they are fair to all children. All clubs finish at 4.15 pm promptly and children should be collected from the rear yard gate. These clubs run due to the goodwill of the teaching staff and sometimes need to be cancelled at the last minute because of staff illness/training. If the club is cancelled because of this your money will be refunded for that week. However if your child does not attend for any other reason money will not be refunded. We make every effort to inform you of any cancelled clubs as soon as possible using our texting service.

**Educational Outings and parent/carer volunteers**

As our school is so isolated, these educational outings are a very important part of our curriculum and we try to take the children to places of educational interest at least once per term as well as have many visitors into school to talk about many aspects of life. Please put any good ideas you may have for this area of our curriculum in the suggestion boxes located outside each classroom.

Please volunteer to your child's class teacher if you want to help. Parents who accompany our visits will be responsible for a small group of children, not including their own child and will of course be **DBS checked**. PLEASE volunteer to help around school - we are always grateful of any help be it photocopying or discussing books/reading with children. Once again you will not be placed in your child's class as this can sometimes cause problems for the child and other parents. If you do want to volunteer, I can arrange the necessary paperwork for you.

**September**

Thurs. 3	<b>School opens for teaching purposes</b>
Thursdays	Y3 and Y4 swimming – week commencing 7/9/15 Separate letter to follow

- Thursdays Mrs James our music teacher from Music Service will be teaching across the school. Also if any child is interested in individual clarinet sessions please let me know TO BE CONFIRMED
- Wed. 16 **9.10 a.m. Parents morning Reception children – approx 1 hour**  
**Please come along and find out more about your child's school day**
- Thurs. 17 **2.15 – 5 p.m. Parents Consultation Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6**  
**2.15 – 5 p.m. Parents Consultation Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6**  
**Please make an appointment with your child's teacher on your preferred date - ALTERNATIVELY ring the Admin Office and MAKE AN APPOINTMENT - IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND THIS MEETING**
- Friday 18 Civic Pride Dog walkers Assembly with Scoop the dog  
Wed. 23 'Bike It' Assembly - being safe on our roads topic
- October**
- Friday 2 Y3/Y4 visit to Oriental Museum, Durham 'Egyptians' within school time (details to follow)
- Monday 5 Y1/Y2 visit to Centre for Life, Newcastle 'Alive in Space' within school time (details to follow)
- Tues. 6 Reception visit Centre for Life, Newcastle, 'Out in Space' within school time (details to follow)
- Wed. 7 'Littler Green Riding Hood' Theatre production in school - topic Water efficiency
- Friday 9 Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 visit to Centre for Life, Newcastle, 'Coding Ants' within school time (details to follow)
- Thurs. 15 Photographer in School - school uniform to be worn please - pre school family children can also come along for 9 a.m. to have photographs taken -  
More details to follow
- Tues. 20 9.30 am Harvest Celebration St. Thomas Church WEATHER PERMITTING (to be confirmed)  
All parents are invited along to the Church to celebrate with us – please try to attend. If the weather is inclement please join us in the school hall
- Wed. 21 3.00 – 4.15 KS1 Autumn Fancy Dress disco – send fancy dress to school and teachers will help to get them ready!  
4.15 – 5.30 KS2 Autumn Fancy Dress disco £1.50 per child – refreshments available including 'hot dogs (KS1) n hamburgers (KS2)'
- Friday 23 **£1 per pupil fun non uniform toy exploration day**  
**School closes for half term**
- November**
- Mon. 2 School closed INSET
- Tues 3 School opens for teaching purposes**
- Tues. 11 9 a.m. Bags to School - please save all old clothes, shoes and belts – details to follow
- December**
- Tues. 8 1.30 p.m. School Christmas Concert KS2 only– proposed date  
5 pm School Christmas Concert KS1 only– proposed date
- Wed. 9 1.30 p.m. School Christmas Concert KS1 only – proposed date  
5 p.m. School Christmas Concert KS2 only – proposed date
- Thurs. 10 School Christmas lunch – proposed date details will follow
- Wed. 16 Whole School Christmas Party - proposed date

Thurs. 17 £1 per pupil non uniform exploration toy day  
Friday 18 12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m. Carol Service – please join us for this lovely  
end to the school term – school uniform please - the children can  
leave with you at the end of the Carols  
School closes for Christmas holidays – Happy Christmas Everyone!

## **Forward thinking**

### **January 2016**

#### **Mon. 4 School opens for teaching purposes**

Thurs. 7 Pantomime Cinderella – Ashley and Pudsey Darlington Civic Theatre  
(details nearer the time) The cost will be £15 including transport.  
Reception children's parents are invited to accompany them –  
one parent/carer only per child please. Please return the  
attached form and payment by half term to ensure your child  
has a place. We can set up a savings club for this if you so wish.  
You **MUST** return the consent form asap. More details will  
follow nearer the time

### **February**

Thurs. 11 3.15 – 4.15 KS1 Valentine Disco £1.50 per child  
4.15 – 5.30 KS2 Valentine Disco £1.50 per child  
Refreshments available to purchase including 'hot dogs (KS1) n  
hamburgers' (KS2)

#### **Friday 12 £1 non uniform toy exploration day School closes**

#### **Monday 22 School opens**

### **March**

Wed. 23 Easter Celebration Assembly  
All parents are invited to join us in school to celebrate with us  
(details to follow nearer the time)

#### **Thurs 24 £1 non uniform toy exploration day School closes**

### **April**

#### **Monday 11 School opens for teaching purposes**

I will inform you of other dairy dates as they come along - a copy of this  
letter is posted on our website for you to refer to at any time as will all future  
newsletters.

I am also looking at organising assemblies on Stranger Danger with local  
police officer. The older children will have Anti Bullying and Buddy training  
and teachers will be identifying School Councillors in the coming weeks.

If you have any good ideas to help improve our school please do not hesitate  
to contact me, or put your ideas in the suggestion boxes outside each  
classroom – we are here to help – and remember **TEAM – Together  
Everyone Achieves More!**

**Attached: Parent/teacher Consultation reply slip, Long term curriculum plan, timetables, 2015/16 Holiday list**

Yours sincerely,

*Shirley Oswald*

**Head teacher**

**We want only the best for our children**

Stanley Crook Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

**NB Half term school closes Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and re opens for teaching purposes Tuesday 3rd November 2015**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

