



"Pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is OUTSTANDING" (Ofsted, 2019)

## Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9th December 2022

Vol: 2 Issue: 6

### Headteacher's Notices

#### Christmas Events 2022!

Rehearsals are being finalised and everything put in place ready for the start of the Christmas performances next week!

Thank you to parents/ carers for their response to booking tickets and DVDs for the Team Christmas performances—each performance is going to be extremely well attended, which will all add to the wonderful atmosphere in school!

There are still some seats/ tickets available for each of the Team performances, so if you haven't already, reserve your seat as soon as possible! Tickets for each Team performance are limited to 4 per family and cost £2 each and DVD's are £3 each. Tickets and DVD's can be booked via ParentPay. DVDs will be sent home with the children on Tuesday 20th December.

**Doors open at 4pm for each performance and entry will be via the yard/ hall door (Breakfast Club door).**

There will be complimentary Mince Pies and Spiced Ginger drink available for parents/ carers to enjoy before the performance. All money raised from the sale of tickets and DVDs will go towards supporting our school. Thank you!

A reminder of the dates for each Team performance:

- **Team Cowell**—Monday 12th December 2022
- **Team Donaldson**—Tuesday 13th December 2022
- **Team Walliams**—Wednesday 14th December 2022
- **Team Dahl**—Thursday 15th December 2022
- **Team Morpurgo**—Monday 19th December 2022

#### Gala Visit—Sleeping Beauty

The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Durham City on Wednesday for this year's school trip to the Panto! This year, the children watched 'Sleeping Beauty' and the trip went very well; although, there were some very tired faces when the children arrived back at school after all the excitement!

A BIG thank you to those parents/ carers who volunteered to support us on the trip! As always, the support of parents/ carers on school trips is greatly appreciated and enables us to continue to deliver these trips and provide the children with some wonderful experiences. I think this can be summed up in the words of one young girl in Year 2 who, during the Panto and after dancing in her seat, turned to Mrs Martin and said, 'This is just the best day of my life!'.

#### Christmas Lunch Day

Another BIG thank you, this time to Mrs Liddle and Mrs Wright in the school kitchen for their efforts in preparing and serving well over 130 Christmas lunches yesterday! The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed getting into the festive spirit, with Christmas songs, Christmas Crackers and a very tasty Christmas lunch!

#### Christmas Party Day and Santa Visit

To conclude the Autumn term and to reward the children for their outstanding efforts this term, school will be having a non-uniform Christmas party day on Tuesday 20th December! Children are invited to come to school in their favourite party outfit ready to party, play games and have lots of Christmas FUN!

To end the day, school will be welcoming a very, very special visitor! Santa will arrive around 1:30pm to visit each Team, chat with the children and hand out a Christmas gift to each child!

#### Autumn Term Teacher/ Parent Consultations

Following his paternity leave, Mr Teasdale is back in school on Monday! A BIG thank you to Mrs Kyle, Miss Brown, Mrs Ross-Hawkins, Mrs Corrigan and Mrs Barnett for their efforts in Team Donaldson during Mr T's paternity leave. The last two weeks have flown by!

Mr Teasdale will be delivering Team Donaldson's rescheduled Autumn term Teacher/ Parent Consultations next week. Face-to-face appointments are scheduled for Wednesday 14th December, and telephone appointments will take place on Friday 16th December.

#### Breakfast Club and After-School Clubs—Spring term

Information has been posted on Class Dojo this week to book places for Breakfast Club, Wraparound and After-School Clubs from January. A reminder that places are limited, are offered on a first-come-first-served basis and must be booked in advance. Thank you.

#### Term Dates

A reminder that school closes for Christmas at 3:15pm on Tuesday 20th December and reopens for teaching purposes on Thursday 5th January.

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:

**<https://www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk>**

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





## GREAT RESULT!

Well done to everyone associated with school on the outstanding pupil outcomes achieved in 2022!

Latest information released by the Department of Education on results for the percentage of children achieving at least expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths by the end of Year 6, have placed Stanley Crook Primary School in the **TOP 5% of all primary schools in England!**

This clearly reflects the outstanding efforts of the entire staff team during the period of COVID in mitigating any potential adverse impact from the pandemic on the education and personal development of children at Stanley Crook!

**5%**

## Weekly T.E.A.M.

### Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	83%
<b>Team Dahl</b>	<b>97%</b>
Team Cowell	94%
Team Walliams	95%
Team Morpurgo	93%

Congratulations to

### TEAM DAHL

This week's attendance trophy winners!



## Children's Achievements in School!

Each week, one child is chosen as 'Headteacher's Star of the Week', 'School Values Champion' and 'Attendance Champion'. Staff also choose a pupil from each Team to be recognised for something special they have achieved during the week! This week's chosen children are:



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

*'Together Everyone Achieves More'*

## Online Safety - TOP TIPS

### 'HiPal'

**HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers.**

**There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers; enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, send private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.**

**In the guide (see below), you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as contact with strangers, dangerous challenges and intrusive features.**



SCHOOL  
MEMBER





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

### SEXING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent... but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

### NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

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### NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

### INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

### LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

### TALK ABOUT SEXING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

### BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

### AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

### CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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