



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

## Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th May 2023

Vol: 5 Issue: 4

### Headteacher's Notices

#### Year 6 Statutory Assessments—'WELL DONE, YEAR 6!'

I want to begin this week's newsletter by paying tribute to our outstanding Year 6 children! Throughout this week, the children in Year 6 have been completing their end of Key Stage 2 statutory assessments in English: Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, English: Reading, Arithmetic and Mathematical Reasoning.

'SATs Week' is a busy week in school, with the number of assessments to be completed potentially placing pressure on children and staff. However, this week has gone extremely smoothly and school has been full of positivity and 'good vibes', with the children in Year 6 demonstrating the very best of Stanley Crook Primary School in their positive behaviours, 'can do' attitudes and team work—supporting each other with selfless encouragement and determination.

There has been much publicised in the news and on social media this week regarding Year 6 SATs and the pressure that these assessments place on children in Year 6. It is a great credit to our Year 6 children that each of them have approached the tests in a calm, focused and determined way—free from worry and stress.

The fact that this week has been so positive is not only a result of the attitudes of our Year 6 children. This also clearly reflects the wider ethos of Stanley Crook Primary School and the dedication and commitment of Miss Williams, Miss Rowcroft and my incredible team of staff across school in establishing a positive, calm, nurturing, safe, supportive and encouraging learning environment, where each child is able to thrive and achieve their potential, free from a fear of failure and free from unnecessary pressure or expectation.

I would like to thank my outstanding staff team for their continued efforts in school and for continuing to provide a positive and nurturing learning environment for the children so that school is a fun place to learn and be with friends!

To celebrate their achievements this week, children in Year 6 have enjoyed their much anticipated SATs Party this afternoon, with party food and Dominos Pizza!

Well done, Year 6—be proud!



#### Key Stage 1 (Year 2) Statutory Assessment

Next week, children in Year 2 will complete their statutory assessments with Mrs Martin and Mrs Shields. This cohort of children have all worked extremely well this year and I am entirely confident that each will achieve the excellent results, which they all so thoroughly deserve.

These assessments are completed in Team Dahl as part of normal classroom practice. Mrs Martin and Mrs Shields promote these assessments as 'special work for Mr Christie', with the children always rising to the challenge! In fact, during the assessments, the children remain unaware that they are doing 'tests' at all - which, for children this age, is exactly how it should be!

#### National Numeracy Day 2023 (Reminder)

This year's National Numeracy Day takes place on Wednesday 17th May. The theme of this year's event is 'Building brighter futures through confidence with numbers' and in school children will be participating in a range of fun maths learning activities, including a virtual live lesson hosted by maths teacher, tv presenter and National Numeracy ambassador, Bobby Seagull.

National Numeracy also offer a free family maths toolkit, which is full of fun activities and ideas to help families enjoy maths together. This toolkit can be downloaded here: [Free Family Maths Toolkit | Resources For Schools, Parents & Carers](#)

#### End of Year FUN DAY

This year, as a reward for all of their hard work—and to celebrate the achievements of all children in school—a special 'FUN DAY' event is being planned for Friday 14th July. More information will follow next week.

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!



## Headteacher's T.E.A.M. of the Week

This week's Team of the Week is....

### TEAM MORPURGO!

Well done, Team Morpurgo! You have collectively enjoyed an excellent week in school. The Year 6 children have demonstrated outstanding attitudes and behaviours during their SATs, and the Year 5 contingent of Team Morpurgo have worked exceptionally well on a range of project-based learning activities.

Great work, everyone!

Mr C



## Weekly T.E.A.M.

### Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	91.3%
Team Dahl	98.7%
Team Cowell	100%
Team Walliams	92.8%
Team Morpurgo	97.5%



Congratulations to

### TEAM COWELL

This week's attendance trophy winners!



## Well done, Year 6—you are all SUPERSTARS!



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

Together Everyone Achieves More'

## Online Safety

### 10 Top Tips for Safely Using Smartwatches

Wearable tech is increasingly big business. More than 170 million smartwatches were sold globally in 2022, for example, with Apple biting off the largest chunk of the market (26% - some distance ahead of Samsung, in second with 9%). That's partly because they have more than 21,000 apps available for their devices, allowing users to customise their smartwatch experience.

Both Apple and Samsung's products, of course, lean towards the higher spec end of the market - usually with price tags to match. Sourcing a less expensive alternative, however, often also means inferior safety features to protect young wearers. That's just one of the potential hazards highlighted in our guide to smartwatches. In the guide you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as location tracking, causing distractions at school and the danger of theft.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER





# 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

## AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

## CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

## BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

## ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

## MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

## TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

## THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

## STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

## USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

## BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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