

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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 21st April 2023

Vol: 5 Issue: 1

Headteacher's Notices

A very warm welcome back to school for the start of the Summer term and I hope that each of you enjoyed a lovely Easter break with family and friends.

There is so much to look forward to over the course of the Summer term, with lots of exciting learning activities and events planned for the children.

This term also sees the beginning of statutory testing for children in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. Please be assured that during this period your children will be supported and cared for by the staff in school in order to alleviate any potential worries, stresses or concerns. As a school, our ethos has never been (and will never be) one based around 'teaching to tests'. A child-centred approach, and one which ensures that all children are confident, happy and secure is the best approach to ensuring each child achieves their potential and is the reason behind our school's outstanding results over a significant number of years.

More information on statutory assessments will be provided to parents/ carers of children in those year groups in due course.

Aside from statutory assessments, there are lots of fun activities and events planned, with Sports Day, end of year 'FUN DAY', Year 6 Leavers Assembly and Early Years Graduation...lots to do and to look forward to!

Teacher/ Parent Consultations

A big thank you to parents/ carers who took the time to attend school yesterday afternoon for Teacher/ Parent Consultations.

It was lovely to see so many parents/ carers in school - and thank you for providing such positive feedback to either myself or your child's class teacher.

Consultations continue on Monday with remaining parents/ carers. A reminder that these appointments are via telephone.

Feedback from parents/ carers remains that holding 'split' consultations and providing the option of 'face to face' or 'telephone' appointments better meets the needs of our families at school.

Earth Day 2023

Children across school have enjoyed participating in Earth Day activities today! Along with learning about climate and environmental issues in class, children have supported one another in planting their 'Team tree'. To commemorate Earth Day and to create a lasting legacy for the children at our school, each Team was given a fruit tree to plant in the school Science/ Wellbeing Area.

Thank you also to Mr Walton (Parent Governor) for his ongoing support and generosity in supporting our school and more directly the school Science/ Wellbeing Area.



Well done, Year 6!

I would like to pay special tribute to our Year 6 children this week! Each year, the Department for Education and the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) employ NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) to undertake technical –pre-testing of Year 6 statutory assessment papers with various Year 6 cohorts in Primary schools across England. These pre-tests are to ensure validity of statutory assessments, prior to publication of actual test materials for Year 6 SATs.

This year, our school was selected to take part in the technical pre-test of the Year 6 Reading paper, with a representative of NFER visiting school on Tuesday.

Each of the Year 6 children approached the pre-test exceptionally well, demonstrating mature attitudes and approaches to support the process and enable NFER to conduct their work. Mrs Llewellyn—from NFER—was amazed with the positive behaviours and attitudes of the children and was extremely impressed with the feedback they provided to her with regards their views of the Reading paper. The feedback of the children will support NFER and STA in designing the actual Year 6 Reading SAT paper for 2023. Mrs Llewellyn did also comment that the Year 6 children were some of the very best children she had seen!

Great work, Year 6—be proud!

Bank Holidays and Staff Training Days

A reminder to parents that school will be closed for two Bank Holidays in May (Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May).

School will also be closed for staff training on Monday 5th June.

To support with forward planning, I have included below staff training days for the 2023/ 2024 academic year:

- Monday 4th September (School will open for the new Academic Year on Tuesday 5th September 2023)

- Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December (School will close for the Christmas break on Friday 15th December, with Santa's visit)

- Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July (School will close for the Summer break on Friday 19th July 2024)

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

Team of the Week this week is...Team Morpurgo!

WOW! Well done, Team Morpurgo!

You continue to impress with your positive attitudes and in the ways in which you continue to support one another.

This week, I have been particularly impressed with Year 6 during their involvement with the NFER technical pre-test of the Year 6 SAT Reading paper.

The ways in which each of you positively engaged within the testing demonstrated great maturity—as did your responses and feedback to the test.

The progress you all continue to make is testament to your commitment to being your best self and your desire to achieve your potential!

Well done, TEAM Morpurgo!

Be proud!



Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	97.8%
Team Dahl	98.6%
Team Cowell	94.4%
Team Walliams	91%
Team Morpurgo	98%



Congratulations to

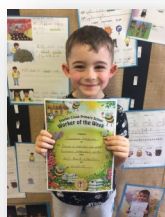
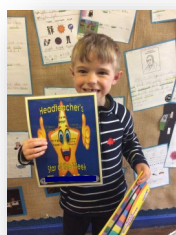
TEAM DAHL

This week's attendance trophy



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 outstanding effort and hard work in our school!

'Together Everyone Achieves More'

DIARY DATES - SUMMER

A reminder of some important dates for your diary for Summer term:

King Charles III Coronation Celebrations—Friday 5th May (All Day) All children

Year 6 SATs WEEK—Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May (Y6 children)

SPORTS DAY 2023—Friday 7th July (1:00pm start) All children

Year 6 SATs RESULTS—Tuesday 11th July (Y6 children)

EYFS (Reception) Graduation Ceremony—Thursday 13th July (9:30am start) Parents/ Carers of Reception children

END OF YEAR 'FUN DAY' - Friday 14th July (All Day) All children

Year 6 Leavers Assembly—Tuesday 18th July (9:30am start) Parents/ Carers of children in Year 6

End of Year Awards Assembly—Wednesday 19th July (9:30am start) Parents/ carers of nominated children



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like The Walking Dead to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from Alien or who Geralt from The Witcher is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', which offers exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GCRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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