

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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 16th December 2022

Vol: 2 Issue: 7

Headteacher's Notices

Christmas Performances 2022

Wow! This past week has been amazing and very exciting in school! Firstly, I want to say a huge congratulations to the children in Teams Donaldson, Dahl, Cowell and Walliams on the success of their Team Christmas performances. Each performance this week has been outstanding and the children can all be extremely proud of their efforts! It has been wonderful to see just how confident and accomplished the children are in presenting their shows to large audiences of parents/ carers and staff.

On Monday, the round of this year's Christmas performances conclude with Team Morpurgo's production of 'Bah Humbug', based on the Charles Dickens Christmas story, 'A Christmas Carol'. Having viewed one or two brief snippets from rehearsals, and having watched sections of their DVD, I know that children in Team Morpurgo are well prepared to give their audience a memorable show!

Thank you also to parents/ carers for their wonderful support with the performances this week. Each of the four shows so far have been extremely well attended. I hope that each of you have enjoyed the shows and seeing your outstanding children perform with such confidence!

A big, big thank you to my outstanding staff team for their efforts in planning, preparing and delivering with their Teams such high standards within each performance. I hope that each of them uses the forthcoming Christmas break to rest, relax and recharge with family and friends!

For those parents/ carers who have ordered DVDs, these will go home with the children on Tuesday.

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! Santa visited me in my office yesterday to tell me that he had

heard all about the outstanding children at Stanley Crook Primary School and that he could not wait to meet them!

Breakfast Club and After-School Clubs—Spring term

Information has been posted on Class Dojo 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

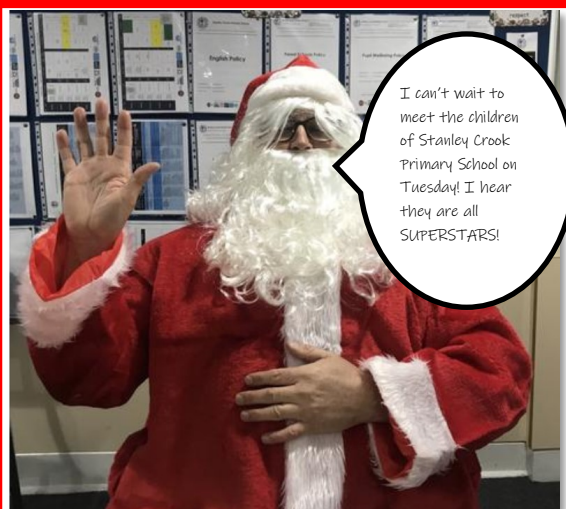


For the most up to date information about what is going on in our school including dates for your diaries, parental information and school performance information, please visit our website at:

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

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





Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	92%
Team Dahl	98%
Team Cowell	94%
Team Walliams	95%
Team Morpurgo	88%

Congratulations to

TEAM DAHL

This week's attendance trophy winners!



Children's Achievements in School!

Due to so many children doing so outstandingly well this week in their Christmas performances, there is no single 'Headteacher Star of the Week'. Instead, Mr Christie would like to congratulate every child in school for their efforts and achievements!

Staff have chosen a pupil from each Team to be recognised for something special they have achieved during the week!



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

Online Safety - TOP TIPS

Setting up Apps, Games and Software

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.



In the guide (see next page), you'll find tips such as disabling in-app purchasing, take note of age ratings and watching out for imitators.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

18

'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

18

CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

16

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

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 *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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