



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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th March 2023

Vol: 4 Issue: 4

Headteacher's Notices

EYFS Graduation Ceremony—Thursday 13th July 2023

Everyone in school is looking forward to the planned graduation ceremony for children in Reception. The ceremony will be a fitting tribute to the efforts of children in Reception and the Team Donaldson staff this year—the children's first year at school.

Children in Reception will share stories, songs, rhymes with their parents/ carers during the ceremony and everyone can come together to share in the achievements of the children! Invitations to parents/ carers of children in Reception will be posted on Class Dojo next week. I look forward to a wonderful celebration event!



Weekly School Values—GRATITUDE

In school this week, we have been focusing on the value, GRATITUDE.

This week, it was the turn of Miss Williams to host our Monday morning 'Values Assembly' in which she provided the children with opportunities to explore the value of gratitude, why this value is so important and how we can demonstrate it in our day-to-day lives.

In each Team, one child received a nomination from their teachers. This nomination was based on a child who has best demonstrated the value of gratitude in class and around school during the week. The overall School Values Champion for 'Gratitude' was chosen as!

World Down Syndrome Day

Well done to all children for participating fully in World Syndrome Day on Tuesday. It was great to see so many children and staff arrive at school wearing odd socks in support of Down Syndrome North East! In each Team, children completed a range of learning activities, linked to this special day, where the importance of issues around diversity and inclusion were discussed.

Spring Term Parent Meetings and Termly Progress Reports

Termly Progress Reports will be sent home to parents/ carers on Friday 31st March. These reports will detail information on your child's current school performance, including attainment and progress in Reading, Writing and Maths; attendance; and attitudes to learning.

To provide parents/ carers with sufficient opportunity to review and digest the contents of their child's Termly Progress Report, Spring term Teacher/ Parent Consultation meetings have been scheduled for after the Easter break. These meetings will again provide parents/ carers with the option of face-to-face or telephone appointments. Dates for consultations will be as follows:

- Face-to-face: Wednesday 19th April (2:00pm—5:00pm)

- Telephone: Monday 24th April (2:00pm—5:00pm)

The online booking system for appointments will go live at 5:00pm on Friday 31st March.

Class Dojo Direct Messaging and Parent Conduct Policy

I have attached the school policy on Parent Conduct to the bottom of this week's newsletter.

Unfortunately, following staff meetings this week, the issue of inappropriate messages, received by staff and sent by parents/ carers of children at school, via Class Dojo, has been raised with me. There have been several recent incidents of staff being sent distressing direct messages from parents/ carers of children at school, which are not appropriate and do not reflect our expectations for positive and constructive communication.

I have a duty of care to my staff team and must take action when required to protect their safety and wellbeing. Communication which is deemed malicious, offensive, intimidating or threatening will not be tolerated in any way. I encourage all parents/ carers to communicate constructively with school staff, and treat all members of our school community with respect. Approaches to school should be made in a constructive way so that concerns can be addressed and any issues resolved positively and in partnership between home and school.

Staff are committed to ensuring all children achieve their potential and will always work positively, and in partnership, with all stakeholders at school to achieve these aims.

Due to the nature and impact these recent messages have had upon members of my staff team, I am currently reviewing the use of—and access to—direct messaging via Class Dojo by parents/ carers.

I will provide updates on decisions taken around continuing to allow access for parents/ carers to Class Dojo direct messaging in next week's newsletter.

A reminder that school closes for the Easter break on Friday 31st March and reopens for teaching on Monday 17th April.

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 Dahl!

WOW! Well done, Team Dahl!

You can all be extremely proud of your individual and collective efforts in school this week.

It is extremely pleasing to see how clearly you all continue to enjoy school—always engaging within the learning with determination, enthusiasm and positivity.

I thoroughly enjoy meeting with members of Team Dahl in and around our school, as—without fail—I am always greeted with polite and well-mannered young people. Being wished 'a good day', or being asked how my day is going always brightens my own day and puts a spring in my step!

Well done, TEAM Dahl!

Be proud!

Mr C



Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	95.54%
Team Dahl	96.55%
Team Cowell	97.83%
Team Walliams	89.42%
Team Morpurgo	93.33%

Congratulations to

TEAM COWELL

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 outstanding effort and hard work in our school!

'Together Everyone Achieves More'

ONLINE SAFETY

Ten Top Tips for Stronger Passwords

According to a Google survey, more than half of us (52%, to be exact) routinely re-use the same passwords, with around one in ten employing a single password across all of their online accounts. What that means, of course, is that any hacker successfully cracking our password would find themselves with access to not simply one of our online accounts, but several (at least).

That, along with the fact that many people's favoured passwords aren't exactly impenetrable, makes it easier to see why some sources put the number of online accounts being broken into at around 100 per second. Yes, you read that right: 100 per second. To help give you some extra peace of mind about your digital data, this week's guide (below) has some tips on setting more secure passwords.

In the guide you'll find a number of top tips on setting stronger passwords such as how to get creative, what to avoid, and the value of multi-factor authentication.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



Ten top tips for STRONGER PASSWORDS

Passwords continue to be the most common way to prove our identity online. A combination of a username and a password known only to the user provides access to our online accounts and data – and hopefully keeps unauthorised individuals out. As a security measure, though, passwords are relatively weak. People are often predictable in how we choose our passwords, for example – making them less secure. With increasing volumes of usernames and passwords being leaked online, what can we do to keep our data more secure? Here are our top tips for stronger passwords.

BE UNPREDICTABLE

We often choose passwords which are easy to remember: featuring the name of our favourite sports team or favourite film, for instance. Those are predictable passwords. Cyber criminals will routinely try various combinations of passwords relating to sports teams, actors, musical artists and the like – and they often focus on these during major sporting events or around high-profile movie releases.

AVOID GETTING PERSONAL

Many of us use passwords relating to our family, such as children's names or favoured holiday destinations. The problem here is that we also typically post about our holidays and our family on social media – making that information potentially visible to cyber criminals and supplying them with clues which could help them in narrowing down possible passwords we might have set.

NEW PLATFORM, NEW PASSWORD

Where cyber criminals gain access to an online service through a data breach, they often use the data they've stolen to try and access the victim's other accounts. This is because the criminals know that, for convenience, people often use the same password across different services. When we reuse passwords, our security is only as strong as the weakest site where we've used it.

LONGER IS STRONGER

Our passwords are often stored by online services in an encrypted format, in case the service suffers a data breach. The strength of this encryption, however, is dependent on the length of the password you've selected. If your password is only a short one, cyber criminals are significantly more likely to be able to break the encryption and identify your password.

CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Staying up to date with friends and relatives on social media is part of everyday life now. We need to ensure, though, that we limit who can see our posts via each platform's privacy settings. It's also wise to consider what we're posting and if it's really safe to share online. If we restrict what cyber criminals can see, we reduce the chance of them using that information to identify our passwords.

'DOUBLE LOCK' YOUR DATA

It's possible that cyber criminals may eventually discover your username and password. Enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your accounts, however, reduces the chance of them obtaining access to your data, as they'd also require a code which is provided via an app, SMS message or email. MFA isn't infallible, but it does definitely provide extra protection and security.

DELETE UNUSED ACCOUNTS

Data breaches occur when cyber criminals gain access to an online service and all the data contained within it – including usernames and passwords. Whenever you stop using a service, it's wise to make sure that you delete your entire account and not just the actual app. If the service no longer has your data, there's zero risk of it being leaked should they suffer a data breach in the future.

TRY PASSWORD MANAGERS

Even though most of us have numerous online accounts to manage these days, it's advantageous to avoid password re-use. Specialist password management software (like Dashlane or OnePassword, among others) can help by storing a different password for every online service that you have an account with: the only one you or child will need to remember is the single master password.

GET CREATIVE

The British government's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recommends the 'three random words' technique. This method helps you create a password which is unique, complex and long – yet which is memorable enough to stay in your mind ('FourBlueShoes', for example). The NCSC website, incidentally, also offers plenty of other useful information relating to personal cyber security.

STAY VIGILANT

The best way to protect your accounts and your data is to be vigilant and careful. If you receive an email or text message that's unusual or unexpected, treat it as suspicious until you're able to verify whether it's genuine and safe. Starting from a position of vigilance and caution will reduce the likelihood of you or your child being tricked by a malicious email, text or phone call.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



Source: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>

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#WakeUpWednesday