



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

## Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th November 2023

Vol: 2 Issue: 1

### Headteacher's Notices

#### Remembrance Day

Children across school have taken part in Remembrance/ Armistice Day activities in class today in remembrance of all those who have given their lives in defence of our country. Children learned about the Armistice, which was signed on 11th November 1918 and which came into effect at 11:00am on that date to mark the end of The First World War—a 'war to end all wars'. Children also explored some of the most well-known war poems - 'Flanders Fields' and 'Ode to Remembrance' from 'For the Fallen'.

Armistice Day commemorations will take place across the country tomorrow.

Lest We Forget.



#### Autumn Term Teacher/ Parent Consultations

Thank you to the many, many parents/ carers who have made appointments to meet with their child's class teacher for this term's Teacher/ Parent Consultations.

A reminder of dates:

Wednesday 29th November—'face to face' appointments

Thursday 30th November—'telephone' appointments

If any parent/ carer is yet to make an appointment, please contact your child's class teacher, or contact the school office on 01388762858. Thank you.

#### Christmas Performances

Children across school are all beginning to rehearse their Christmas performances, in preparation for the round of shows in December. These performances promise to be—as with every year—a wonderful treat for families and an excellent end to the 'Christmas' term and festive events in school.

Dates for performances are:

- Team Donaldson—Thursday 7th December
- Team Dahl—Monday 11th December
- Team Cowell—Tuesday 12th December
- Team Walliams—Wednesday 13th December
- Team Morpurgo—Thursday 14th December

Further information on these performances will follow.



#### Autumn term

A reminder to parents/ carers that school closes for the Christmas break on Friday 15th December 2023 and reopens for teaching purposes on Wednesday 3rd January 2024

#### Anti-Bullying Week 2023

Next week is national Anti-Bullying Week, and children across all Teams will be engaging in a range of important learning activities all focused at providing children with opportunities to learn about the negative impact of bullying, how to prevent it and why we should all ensure that bullying does not happen in any school.

This Anti-Bullying Week let's come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying. From the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, let's make a noise about bullying.

**On Monday, children and staff are invited to come to school wearing odd socks!** Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. All you need to do is wear odd socks! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying 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!

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

WOW! Well done, Team Donaldson!

I continue to be extremely impressed with your efforts and attitudes in school, which are enabling you all to make excellent progress in class.

Whether it be your work in phonics and improving your reading skills, your developing writing skills or your polite and sensible attitudes in class and around school, you can all be extremely proud of your achievements—both as a Team and individually.

Well done, Team Donaldson.

Be proud!

Mr C



## Weekly T.E.A.M.

### Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	86.8%
Team Dahl	91%
Team Cowell	89.4%
Team Walliams	97.2%
Team Morpurgo	90%



Congratulations to

**TEAM WALLIAMS**

This week's attendance trophy winners!



## Children's Achievements in School!

Every week, one child is chosen as 'Headteacher's Star of the Week' and 'School Values 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

The social media network formerly known as Twitter has undergone numerous alterations since its change of ownership and rebranding as X – and many of these recent developments have proved controversial. With any user now simply able to pay a fee for account verification, for example, the once-reliable 'blue tick' system has become largely meaningless.

It's just one of several changes that have set the social media giant on what many consider a concerning path in online safety terms. Our guide (below) provides a run-down of the most significant tweaks made to X; their potential safeguarding implications; and how to help ensure young people minimise the risks while they continue to use the service.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

## A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

## LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

## VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

**BLUE TICK SALE**

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



**National Online Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday

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