



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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15th September

Vol: 1 Issue: 2

Headteacher's Notices

ROADWORKS AROUND SCHOOL

Thank you to members of our school community for their support, patience and understanding, as we have attempted to negotiate the roadworks around school this week.

Despite school seeking to alleviate any pressure, by keeping school open until 3:30pm, the road has failed to open at the agreed time of 3:00pm on several occasions this week. This has caused some further disruption to parents/carers at collection time and has increased congestion around the village.

I have submitted a strong representation to Durham County Council, in which I have expressed my anger and frustration that the road has remained closed past the agreed reopening time of 3:00pm, and at the subsequent difficulties this has caused school, children and their families. I await their response.

Author Visit

School welcomed children's author Adam Bushnell to school today, as he delivered a workshop in each Team focused on storytelling, new beginnings and transition. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with Adam, as they explored these important issues and Adam—as always—was extremely impressed by the level of children's engagement, as well as their positive and mature attitudes to learning. Great work, TEAM Stanley Crook.

Attendance

Well done to Team Morpurgo on winning this week's TEAM Attendance competition!

Attendance is so extremely important in providing each child with the best opportunities of success, and it is great to see that attendance at Stanley Crook remains strong!

School Photographs

A reminder that Ritchie Coatsworth will be in school next Tuesday for school photographs.

School Values Award

A big well done to Euan on becoming our School Value Champion this week for 'TEAMWORK'.

Euan has demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and attributes in Team Cowell this week, as he has supported his friends and classmates in their learning. Well done, Euan—be proud!

BigFoot Art Education

This week has seen the 2023 Roald Dahl day, with children in each Team participating in a range of learning tasks, focused on the works of this famous children's author.

BigFoot Art Education will be visiting school on Friday 29th September to deliver a range of fun and engaging workshops to children in each Team, focused on the works of Roald Dahl and promoting the value of reading!

BigFoot will also then visit school on Friday October 13th to deliver workshops focused on Black History Month!

Durham Constabulary's Police and Crime Commissioner School Challenge

I am liaising with Durham Constabulary on our school becoming involved in an exciting learning challenge, which is focused on developing children's knowledge and understanding of local issues and how they can become safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour. Aimed at children in Year 5, I am sure that this programme will be hugely beneficial to the children at Stanley Crook Primary School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr 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 T.E.A.M of the Week is Team Morpurgo!

WOW! Well done, Team Morpurgo!

I have been so extremely impressed by your mature attitudes and behaviours this week that I could only choose Team Morpurgo for my 'Team of the Week'.

There have been many examples in class this week of you all demonstrating our core school values, and our school value of the week—Teamwork.

Your response to the School Rules activity, where you explored issues around equality, diversity and democracy was so pleasing to see, and then your caring and nurturing approach with our new Reception cohort, as they enjoyed morning breaktime on the school yard for the first time, again emphasised the very best of our school.

Be proud!

Mr C



Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Team Donaldson | 99.18% |
| Team Dahl | 99.15% |
| Team Cowell | 96.97% |
| Team Walliams | 97.78% |
| Team Morpurgo | 99.62% |



Congratulations to

TEAM DAHL & TEAM WALLIAMS

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!

ONLINE SAFETY

Top Tips for Setting Boundaries around Gaming

Behind video-sharing platforms (like YouTube) and streaming TV shows and movies, gaming is the third most popular online activity for children in the UK. In fact, according to recent data from Ofcom, an overwhelming 89% of children aged 3 to 17 play video games. Of those, more than one in five (22%) talk to other players online who they don't know outside the game.

The risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears. Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and our guide has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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