



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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th December 2023

Vol: 2 Issue: 4

Headteacher's Notices



Christmas Party 2023!

Children across school enjoyed a fun and festive party day on Wednesday, arriving at school dressed in their best finery and ready to celebrate with their friends and teachers.

All children had an action packed day, with party games and festive treats, culminating in a delicious Christmas lunch, expertly prepared by Mrs Liddle and Mrs Wright in the school kitchen!

TEAM Donaldson Christmas Performance

WOW! A big, big well done to children and staff from Team Donaldson on their outstanding Christmas performance on Thursday.

The children performed exceptionally well, with clear speaking, excellent acting and some very accomplished dance moves!

Once again, it was pleasing to see so many parents/ carers and family members in attendance for the performance—the support of our parent body at school is always excellent and is greatly appreciated by all staff.

Christmas Performance Dates

Next week, Christmas performances continue with Team Dahl, Team Cowell, Team Walliams and Team Morpurgo all gearing up to present their own wonderful shows to parents/ carers and family members.

Having had a sneak peek at some rehearsals, and a glimpse at the DVD recordings of the shows, I am very excited to see the performances and I am sure that they will all provide a fantastic treat to family members in the audience!

A reminder on dates for performances next week:

- TEAM DAHL—Monday 11th December
- TEAM COWELL—Tuesday 12 December
- TEAM WALLIAMS—Wednesday 13th December
- TEAM MORPURGO—Thursday 14th December

Panto and Santa Visit

Everyone in school is looking forward to the planned Panto performance on Friday 15th, as we get ready to conclude the Autumn term and begin our Christmas break.

Dib and Dab will be visiting school to deliver their fun, interactive and very festive panto to children, with lots of child (and staff!) interaction! Children will be given a juice drink and bag of sweets to enjoy while watching the panto!

After a special Christmas Buffet lunch, school will welcome a very special visitor! Santa will be in school to visit each child and deliver a special Christmas gift!

End of Term

A reminder that school closes for the Christmas break on Friday 15th December at 3:15pm and re-opens for teaching purposes on Wednesday 3rd January.

Christmas DVDs

Orders of DVDs from the Christmas performances will be sent home to families on Friday 15th December. I am sure that these will be enjoyed by many families over the festive period!

Termly Progress Reports

Reports, which detail attainment, progress and attendance information for your child(ren) will be sent home on Friday 15th December. The children in school can all be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements this term!

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!





SANTA WILL BE VISITING STANLEY CROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER TO DELIVER A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO EACH CHILD! SANTA CANNOT WAIT TO MEET ALL OF OUR OUTSTANDING CHILDREN AND REWARD THEM FOR THEIR EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOOL THIS TERM!

Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	95.9%
Team Dahl	91.5%
Team Cowell	85.9%
Team Walliams	92.6%
Team Morpurgo	88.2%



Congratulations to

TEAM DONALDSON

This week's attendance trophy winners!



Christmas Party 2023!

Children and raising

across school can be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements in school, within their learning around Anti-Bullying awareness of those children and families less fortunate than ourselves during Children in Need.



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

Together Everyone Achieves More'

Parent Guide on Group Chats

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/jun/27/keeping-children-safe-online-social-media-chat-apps>