



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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th October 2023

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Headteacher's Notices

Arbor School Administration System

Thank you to parents/ carers for their support this week with getting set up and registered on the new school office administration system. There have been one or two 'teething' issues with the new system, which is always to be expected. However, on the whole, the roll out has gone very smoothly indeed.

Over time, the new system will become the one point of access for parents/ carers to make appointments for parent/ carer meetings, organise school lunches for their children, receive school texts and messages and to make payments.

Many thanks to Mrs Higginbotham and Mrs Bebb in the school office for their efforts in setting up and rolling out this new system.

If any parent/ carer has any questions, queries, or is experiencing issues with the new system, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Higginbotham in the school office.

COVID19

Cases nationally are now reflecting the significant challenges we have faced in school over these last few weeks. Again, this week has presented challenge in maintaining adequate staffing levels in the face of staff illness and absence from school. Through determination, commitment and outstanding teamwork, we have negotiated another week in school, with provision and standards remaining high, so that the children do not miss out on any learning time.

Many, many thanks to my incredible team of staff for their ongoing efforts in supporting colleagues who are ill and recovering at home by covering various Teams and year groups during the week.

A reminder of NHS guidance in that children and young people under the age of 18 should not be testing for COVID, unless advised to do so by a health or medical professional. However, if your child does test and is positive, school continues to follow NHS guidance and advice so that your child should remain at home, rest, and reduce contact with vulnerable adults for 3 days following the test. Your child can return to school after three days and when they no longer have a high temperature.

Although many children aren't being tested for COVID19, we have seen a dramatic increase in children being absent from school—or having to be sent home from school unwell—this week with high temperatures. If your child is too unwell for school, please allow them to stay at home to rest and recover. A few days resting in bed, or on the sofa is often all that is needed. The staff and I will be happy and excited to see your child back in school when they have recovered!

Black History Month

Many thanks to Rebecca from BigFoot Art Education for her visit to school today to deliver fun, engaging and interactive workshops using drama and art in celebration of Black History Month.

Workshops celebrated the wealth of talent that exists within Britain due to the many black people who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to our society. From sports people to scientists, activists to musicians, politicians to writers, the children were excited to learn about a whole bunch of incredible Black British people. The children enjoyed discovering, dancing, laughing and learning about how these inspiring individuals have helped shape the world in which we live.



Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Challenge

Working alongside Durham Constabulary and Durham Agency Against Crime, children in Year 5 will soon be starting a special project aimed at enabling young people and schools to give a little extra to help their local area to become even more safe, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour. By completing various tasks, the children will gain the chance to learn more about keeping themselves and their loved ones safe when it comes to crime and anti-social behaviour.

School Council Fundraising

Finally, a big well done to our School Council for their efforts in beginning their fundraising project to raise funds for an outdoor reading cabin! The children are thoroughly enthused within their objective of raising funds to support with the purchase and installation of this exciting new part of school! Thank you to parents/ carers for their support with this fundraising.

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!





There have been more reports from parents/ carers this morning of cars driving at high speeds along the lane and adjoining roads to school, at the beginning and end of the school day.

When driving around school at drop off or collection, please drive safely and with due care and consideration for the children, their families and members of our local community. Thank you.

Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	92.2%
Team Dahl	97%
Team Cowell	94.4%
Team Walliams	91.2%
Team Morpurgo	77.8%

Congratulations to

TEAM DAHL

This week's attendance trophy winners!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH—'Black and British'

Well done to all children for their participation and engagement within workshops today!



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

'Together Everyone Achieves More'

Online Safety - TOP TIPS

A free online safety guide on YouTube.

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities. In the guide below, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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