



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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th November 2023

Vol: 2 Issue: 2

Headteacher's Notices



Children in Need 2023

Children across school have participated in fun activities today, all linked to Children in Need 2023, and raising awareness of those less fortunate.

Children and staff have been in school dressed in spotty clothes and with spotty make-up and it has been wonderful to see the children all having fun together, while they learn about the work of this important charity, and how it provides much needed help and support to children across the United Kingdom.

Thank you to parents/ carers and members of our school community for their generous donations, with all monies raised being donated to Children in Need.

In total, school has raised over £.....! WOW! Great work, TEAM Stanley Crook.

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.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week, children across all five Teams have been learning how to make a noise about bullying. In class, children have been learning all about the harmful effects of bullying, how to support those who have been/ are being bullied and how to prevent it from happening in our school and around our local community.

The learning and work in each Team has been outstanding, with children thoroughly engaging in all of the activities which have been set.

On speaking with the children, I have been extremely impressed with their knowledge and understanding of this important issue and of their collective determination to stamp out bullying.

#makeanoiseaboutbullying

To reward the children for their outstanding work this week around anti-bullying, I have organised for BigFoot Art Education to visit school on Monday to continue to work with each Team around this extremely important topic. Each Team will have an opportunity to learn more about anti-bullying and to apply their knowledge and skills in making a film focused on some of the main issues. Each Team will contribute a section, before it is edited and combined to produce a whole-school film on anti-bullying. I cannot wait to see the finished project!

Primary School Admissions—September 2024

It has been pleasing to have already completed several tours of school with parents of prospective pupils, who will be joining our school in September 2024.

Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent or carer for your child. If your child's birthday falls between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, your child will start Reception at primary school in September 2024. You must make an application for your child's school place as there is no automatic transfer from either nursery school to primary school (Reception intake)

The deadline for applying for a primary school place is Monday 15 January 2024.

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 Walliams

WOW! Well done, Team Walliams!

You have all enjoyed a wonderful week in school and I continue to be impressed by your positive attitudes and approaches to your learning.

In particular, I was extremely proud of you all to see your fantastic gymnastics routine at the festival on Tuesday. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the recording of the routine and to see how well each of you participated and supported one another as a TEAM.

Well done, TEAM Walliams.

Be proud.

Mr C



Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	93%
Team Dahl	94%
Team Cowell	97%
Team Walliams	96%
Team Morpurgo	91%



Congratulations to

TEAM COWELL

This week's attendance trophy winners!



Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need

Children across school can be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements in school, within their learning around Anti-Bullying and raising 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'

Children's Mental Health: 10 conversation starters for parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this week's guide (below) is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.

In the guide, you'll find tips such as talking about mental health naturally, being open and honest and asking twice.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



National
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#WakeUpWednesday

1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP

Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/v>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>