

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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 5th January 2024

Vol: 3 Issue: 1

Headteacher's Notices



Happy New Year and Welcome Back to School

Happy New Year to everyone within our school and local community. I hope that a lovely Christmas was enjoyed by all, with lots of time to rest and relax with family and friends.

On behalf of everyone in school, I send warmest wishes for good health, wealth and happiness in 2024.

As we enter the new year, there is lots to look forward to in school, with exciting new units of learning across the curriculum, engaging expert workshops to enhance learning in class and educational visits and extra-curricular clubs to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the world and support their personal, social and emotional development.

As is always the case following a school break, the children have returned to school this week in fantastic form—demonstrating the very best of Stanley Crook Primary School and can already be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements in school this week!

Please keep an eye on Class Dojo and the weekly newsletters for updates and information on what is happening in school. The school website is also an excellent source of information, from details on curriculum plans across all subjects to information on school uniform and policies. Simply scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to be directed to the school website.

Christmas Performances

A final 'well done' to all of the children last term on delivering outstanding TEAM Christmas performances. I am sure that parents/ carers will agree that each of the five shows were some of the very best ever seen at Stanley Crook and demonstrated the very best of our school. Thank you also to the many parents/ carers who attended the performances and purchased DVDs so that they have a special reminder of their child's outstanding 2023 Christmas performance.

Timetables—Spring term

Timetables for each Team have been made available on Class Dojo. Providing parents/ carers with their child's weekly timetable not only enables parents/ carers to prepare for the week ahead, but also to use as a means to initiate discussion with their child after-school on their day in class and to explore what they have been learning about. Timetables will also be uploaded to the school website.

Attendance and Punctuality

As we enter 2024, a reminder to parents/ carers on the importance of good school attendance and punctuality. School has a whole-school minimum attendance target of 97%, with each child's target for 'Outstanding' attendance being 98%, with a minimum target for 'Good' attendance at 95%.

Children who have attendance below 90% are classed as 'persistently absent' and school will make contact with parents/ carers of these children to offer support and to explore any underlying issues, which may be causing poor school attendance. Good school attendance is closely linked to good academic outcomes, with children who have attendance above 95% being far more likely to achieve age-related outcomes and enjoy a positive school experience.

A reminder also that teaching begins at 8:45am each morning, with children being collected from the yard from 8:40am so that they are ready to learn in class with their friends at the start of the school day. There are many important aspects of learning which take place across all Teams from 8:45am, and simply being 10 minutes late each day can have a significant impact of a child's progress through them missing key teaching input or support programmes. Being 10 minutes late each day results in a child missing almost one full week of school each academic year!

Swimming

A reminder that children in Year 6 will be swimming this term. Swimming tuition is every Thursday afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support and Happy New Year

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!



SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Beginning on Monday, selected children in Year 5 and Year 6 will be participating in Sports Leadership training.

This training will develop key leadership skills to enable children to organise and lead sport and physical activity games with children across school during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Training is delivered by a qualified Sports Leadership instructor and delivered through the School Sport Partnership.

Those children selected (along with their parents/ carers) have been provided information relating to the sessions.



Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

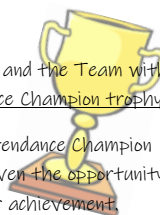
Every week, each Team's overall attendance is monitored and the Team with the highest attendance is awarded the Weekly Attendance Champion trophy.

At the end of each term, the Team with the most Attendance Champion trophies is awarded the School Attendance Award and given the opportunity to choose a special treat in school to celebrate their achievement.

Last term (Autumn term 2023), the Team with the most Attendance Champion Trophies was a tie between Team Cowell and Team Walliams—each Team was awarded a total of four Weekly Attendance Trophies.

Children in these Teams will now have a chance to choose a special afternoon treat in school to celebrate their achievement.

Well done, TEAM Stanley Crook!



Learning is FUN at Stanley Crook!



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

Together Everyone Achieves More'

A Online Safety Guide on OmeTV.

OmeTV is an emerging social networking app that aims to let its users connect, ideally forming new friendships or simply getting to meet interesting people from all around the world. It's not particularly new technology, but it's remained popular amongst younger audiences. OmeTV uses video chats to randomly connect its users, much like its better-known sister app, Omegle.

Unfortunately, OmeTV still carries the same risks as its competitors. With so many users being so lightly regulated, there's real potential for some unpleasant characters to make use of the app. The guide below dives into OmeTV, highlighting the risks and advising you on how to keep your child safe on the app.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OMeTV

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGER DANGER

While young people generally know not to share personal information with strangers, the safety of their home and the distance offered by technology can make them feel more relaxed and uninhibited. Combined with the fact that OmeTV provides a webcam function – and anonymity – it can be an easy way for groomers to gather information, ask to connect on other social media platforms, or potentially request intimate images.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

Unfortunately, there are a lot of users who use OmeTV's webcam feature to expose themselves. While users can swipe to the next call quickly, it's not something that can be filtered out completely – so young people could easily be exposed to highly inappropriate images.

REPORTING DIFFICULTIES

When video calling, the other person's username is often hidden and therefore they can't be blocked or reported. There is a 'Report Abuse' tab at the bottom of the video, but the speed with which calls can swipe past can make it difficult to use this system. There's also little evidence to suggest that offenders are dealt with appropriately (through warnings or account termination, for example).

OmeTV is another app which encourages users to 'make friends from all around the world'. People can search profiles by age and gender and send direct messages or photos. However, the app is primarily used for video calls. When using this feature, users are connected at random, although only their country of origin is shared. People can then either choose to move on to the next chat or can stay in that call for as long as they wish.

AGE VERIFICATION

17+

Although the site states that users must be 18 or over, there's no way to verify this, and it's easy to use an existing Facebook account to log in, or for users to set up a fake account. To access OmeTV, users simply need to press a button confirming they're an adult, which means it's likely many users will claim to be much older than they are.

VIDEO RECORDING

REC

When young people are chatting live on a webcam, they could be coaxed by others into doing things they don't feel comfortable doing, or persuaded that no harm can come from it. What they don't know is whether the other user is recording them. These videos could then be used to embarrass or blackmail them, or they could be kept by a potential online predator.

LIMITED PARENTAL CONTROLS

OmeTV has very limited parental controls. There is a 'safe mode', but this is of little practical use given that explicit content isn't filtered out. While the site lists several rules and regulations, there are few apparent ways to enforce them or restrict what users can see or do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

FOLLOW AGE GUIDELINES

OmeTV has an age recommendation of 18 and over, which suggests the developers are aware that it may facilitate adult content. It's important to adhere to the age guidelines and try to restrict access to the app for younger users. If you find it on an under-18's device, talk to them about the potential risks and explain why they probably shouldn't be using it.

DISCOURAGE CHATS WITH STRANGERS

Remind your child of the dangers of talking to strangers online. The anonymity OmeTV offers, plus its webcam function, makes it an attractive place for groomers to network and create inappropriate content. Explain that your child may see something which upsets them – and that it's a crime for anyone to expose themselves to a young person online.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Maintain communication with your child about online safety and empower them to protect themselves. Simply deleting an app from their device impacts their independence and can cause resentment. Instead, highlight news reports of predators exposing themselves to children on the internet, and discuss what they should do if asked for explicit images.

ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Regardless of how responsible your child may be, it's essential to use parental controls on their device. It's easy for young people to get lured in by others, feeling they've built up a trusting friendship and being coaxed into doing things they wouldn't normally do. Ensure in-app purchases aren't enabled on their device, and emphasise that they can always talk to you about anything online that worries 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

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