



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

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th February 2024

Vol: 3 Issue: 4

Headteacher's Notices

Well done, TEAM Stanley Crook!

As we enter the final week of this half-term, I would like to thank and pay tribute to my outstanding staff team!

This academic year continues to be extremely successful, with the quality of education in school now being at the highest level I have known, since I became Headteacher in 2016.

The achievements of school and the positive outcomes of pupils are testament to the hard work, commitment and skill of my staff team in always striving to deliver only the highest standards of educational provision and care to the children in school. Often making many personal sacrifices in placing the interests of school and the needs of the children above that of their own families, my team are outstanding and are a privilege to lead day to day. Thank you to every member of the team for their continued efforts in school!

A BIG, BIG well done to the children across school for their own continued efforts and achievements this half-term. The children at Stanley Crook Primary School are OUTSTANDING and can be extremely proud of how they continue to engage so positively within their education and time at school.



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Thank you to Mrs Martin (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and Mrs Kyle (Pupil Wellbeing Lead) for organising a special week of events in school to engage within Children's Mental Health Week.

Stanley Crook Primary School wants all children and young people, whoever they are and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – 'My Voice Matters'.

My Voice Matters is all about empowering children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered, this can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a stronger sense of community and improved self-esteem.

At Stanley Crook Primary School, we are a TEAM! We want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to come together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing.

To raise awareness of this important week, children have been enjoying and engaging within a range of learning activities and have enjoyed a non-uniform day in school today – coming to school dressed to EXPRESS YOURSELF!

For more information about CMHW, and for resources you can enjoy at home, please see:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Safer Internet Day

School was pleased to welcome BigFoot Art Education into school on Tuesday for Safer Internet Day 2024.

This special celebration, which takes place in February of each year, aims to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people. The theme for this year was 'Inspiring Change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change.' The BigFoot facilitators were extremely impressed by the knowledge and skill shown by children across all five teams when discussing ways in which they can keep themselves safe online. Great work, TEAM Stanley Crook!



Stanley Crook Does Strictly Come Dancing 2024!

It is that time of year again and the children across all five Teams are gearing up to showcase their newly developed and improved dance skills in the Stanley Crook Does Strictly Come Dancing competition.

The PE unit for all Teams this half-term is Dance, and to provide a context and purpose of the children's learning across this unit, school has—for several years now—concluded the half-term with a special 'Strictly' competition.

This event always ensures a good degree of 'healthy' competition between the Teams (and not just with the children!) and I am very much looking forward to seeing each of the dance routines on Friday.

Thank you to Mr Shaun—who will host the competition—and to the lunchtime staff for again providing their 'expert' opinions, as they judge each of the dance routines. I know each routine will be first class and it's a 10 from me!!!

Half-term

A reminder that school closes for half-term on Friday 16th February and reopens for teaching purposes on Monday 26th February.

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!



Attendance Champions TEAM COWELL and TEAM WALLIAMS

A big well done again to children in both Team Cowell and Team Walliams on being awarded the **Attendance Champion trophy** for the Autumn term.

Both Teams won the same amount of Weekly Attendance Trophies in the Autumn term and have a fun afternoon planned on Friday 16th February as their reward.

Good attendance is crucial in ensuring each child achieves their best outcomes.

Which Team will win the Attendance Champion trophy for the Spring term? Come on Teams Donaldson, Dahl and Morpurgo—you CAN do it!



Weekly T.E.A.M. Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	95.5%
Team Dahl	98.4%
Team Cowell	98.6%
Team Walliams	97.3%
Team Morpurgo	89.6%



Congratulations to
TEAM COWELL

This week's attendance trophy winners!

Children's Mental Health Week 2024



"My Voice Matters"

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

Together Everyone Achieves More'



What Parents/ Carers Need to Know about Monkey

With Omegle finally shutting down in late 2023, the top spot among video chat services is up for grabs – and Monkey has its eyes set on the crown. Randomly matching its users for 15-second conversations, the platform's developers claim to have created a dynamic online space for people to make new connections and, potentially, even some new friends.

Despite these innocuous-sounding intentions, however, Monkey has been criticised for moderation which may not be comprehensive enough to defend against the obvious dangers that unregulated, random video calls pose to the younger element of the site's userbase. This week's guide (below) tells trusted adults what they need to know about Monkey.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

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.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Autism Central
For parents and carers

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SENse Support
Empowering the Exceptional



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DURHAM
PCF



Kingdom



TREE TOPS
Children's Occupational Therapy

INFORMATION EVENT



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SENDsations**

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HOSTED BY LITTLE SENDSATIONS



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