



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

## Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 16th February 2024

Vol: 3 Issue: 5

### Headteacher's Notices

#### Half-term

As we conclude the first half-term of 2024, all of the children in school deserve a huge amount of credit and praise for the continued efforts and achievements in school.

There have been lots of varied learning opportunities this half-term—not only focused on improving academic outcomes for the children but also across a range of personal, social and emotional aspects of learning.

As many parents/ carers will know, Stanley Crook Primary School remains one of the top performing primary schools in County Durham and the County—with pupil outcomes in Year 6 last academic year, placing our school in the top 1% in the country for outcomes in reading and mathematics! These outstanding results for the children at our school are achieved by providing a broad, balanced and dynamic curriculum offer which enables each and every child to achieve their best outcomes. The core ethos at our school is—of course—focused on ensuring academic excellence for each child but through an approach which develops key skills around personal, social and emotional development. It is through developing these key skills that children at Stanley Crook are able to achieve such outstanding academic outcomes.

#### Stanley Crook does Strictly Come Dancing 2024



Children across all Teams have this morning participated in Stanley Crook does Strictly Come Dancing. This is the eighth year of the competition in school, first taking place in 2016! Each and every year, the competition provides the children with a context and purpose for their learning in the Spring 1 half-term Dance PE unit.

Every Team has been working incredibly hard in their PE lessons, since the return to school after new year, and have developed a range of skills including representing their own thoughts and feelings through dance and performing a dance routine using a range of movements and patterns. The children have all been able to demonstrate an

excellent range of skills in performing a dance routine, working independently as part of a group to perform to a piece of music and recalling styles of dance and their features to support their routines.

The competition this morning was—as always—extremely competitive and all five Teams performed outstanding routines. Watching each routine, I was very happy not to be one of the judges who had the unenviable task of scoring each dance routine out of 10 and then choosing the 2024 champion.

However, there had to be a winner and this year, the Stanley Crook does Strictly Come Dancing Champions are Team Donaldson for their outstanding dance routine!

Well done, Team Donaldson and all of the children across the other four Teams for their efforts and achievements during this year's competition.

#### World Book Day 2024

We will be celebrating WBD '24 on FRIDAY 8th MARCH with children and staff being invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book character, and with their favourite book to share with their friends and teachers.

As part of World Book Day, school will be welcoming Scholastic publishers into school to hold a special Book Fair—please see letter on Class Dojo posted this afternoon for more information.

#### Sustrans BIG WALK AND WHEEL 2024 (11th-22nd March)

Join us at school for the 15th year celebration of the UK's biggest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling to school competition.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

On each day of the challenge, schools across the country compete to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. Our school's best five days will determine our final position, but children will log their journeys on all ten days of the competition.

How many active journeys will the children at Stanley Crook be able to make? Keep an eye out for updates and more information after the half-term break!

Thank you for your continued support. Have a safe, happy and enjoyable half-term. School reopens for teaching purposes on Monday 26th February.

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



Weekly T.E.A.M.  
Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	93.3%
Team Dahl	97.2%
Team Cowell	97.8%
Team Walliams	90.2%
Team Morpurgo	85.7%



Congratulations to  
**TEAM COWELL**

This week's attendance trophy winners!

## Stanley Crook does Strictly Come Dancing 2024



### TEAM DONALDSON - CHAMPIONS 2024!

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

*'Together Everyone Achieves More'*

## Smartphone Safety Tips for Young People

According to Ofcom, 69% of under-18s use a smartphone as their main method of going online. Additionally, 49% of children use them for online gaming – putting smartphones only behind consoles (59%) as the device of choice for playing games on. Most parents/carers won't require such statistical evidence to acknowledge the huge importance of phones in the lives of our children and young people.

Given that there is now an even greater number of children and young people with smartphone access, it's more important than ever to ensure that children are able to use their handsets responsibly – and, above all, safely. From passcodes to parental controls, and from screen time to scams, our guide below has the essential advice.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER





# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosey around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### 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

**'FIVE ACRES'**  
COMMUNITY GARDEN CO.



# SEND















# INFORMATION EVENT



**SATURDAY 2ND MARCH**  
**11AM - 2PM**  
**THE BIG CLUB NEWTON Aycliffe DL5 5NU**  
**HOSTED BY LITTLE SENDSATIONS**









**ALL PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES WELCOME!**

**WE HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER SOME OF THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE SEND BUSINESS TO SHOWCASE THE SUPPORT, ADVICE AND ACTIVITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR SEND CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.**







































