



STANLEY CROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

To try our best, to tell the truth, to look after each other and our community

Issue No. 11—31st December 2025

January Diary Dates

5.1.26	PD Day—No children in school
6.1.26	School opens for children
12.1.26	Road Safety assembly
12.1.26	Flood Workshop—Team Soundar and Team Morpurgo
13.1.26	Rocksteady Music lessons begin—every Tuesday
19.1.26 & 26.1.26	Pedestrian Training—Team Cowell
Every Monday 3.15-4.15	Y6 SATS Boosters—English
Every Tuesday 3.15-4.15	Y6 SATS Boosters—Maths Y5 Booster sessions

Website

For the most up-to-date dates, don't forget to keep checking our website:-

<https://www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk>

BigFoot Arts Pantomime

The children had a fantastic time at this month's BigFoot Arts pantomime, which brought plenty of laughter, music and festive fun to school. The performers captured everyone's attention from the very start, filling the hall with energy and encouraging the children to join in throughout the show.



There were lots of opportunities for audience participation, and many children were eager to get involved — from dancing along to the songs to stepping up on stage to take part in one of the games. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and it was wonderful to see so many confident, smiling faces!



Christmas Lunch



We all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner today, complete with festive hats, cheerful music and plenty of classic Christmas cracker jokes. The hall was full of smiles as the children tucked into



their meals. Staff also enjoyed sitting down together for their Christmas lunch.

A big thank you to Mrs Liddle and our



brilliant lunchtime staff, who worked so hard to prepare and serve such a delicious meal for everyone.

The Polar Express

All aboard the Polar Express! Team Donaldson enjoyed a wonderfully festive day filled with excitement and Christmas cheer. The classroom was transformed into a cosy viewing carriage as the children settled down to watch *The Polar Express*, complete with twinkling lights.

The children loved decorating their own biscuits, adding icing, sprinkles and festive touches before enjoying them alongside a warm cup of hot chocolate — the perfect treat for such a special occasion.



To make the day even more special, a very cheeky elf paid a surprise visit, bringing an extra sprinkle of Christmas sparkle and lots of smiles.

BEST ATTENDANCE— Team **Soundar** had the best attendance in November at **98.1%**



Bobby's Brilliant Design

A huge well done to Bobby, who has been announced as the winner of the Chartwells Christmas Card Competition for the entire North East.

This is an incredible achievement and a wonderful recognition of his creativity and talent. His festive design stood out for its originality, attention to detail and Christmas spirit.

We are all incredibly proud of him — what a superstar!



PTFA Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was a huge success. A big thank you to the PTFA for organising the event and to everyone who came along, joined in the activities and supported the stalls. Your generosity makes a real difference, and we hope you enjoyed the afternoon and picked up a few festive treats.



We are thrilled to share that the Fayre raised over £900 for our school, which is absolutely phenomenal. Many thanks again to the PTFA for their hard work and to everyone who attended and helped make it such a successful event.

The children also did brilliantly on their stalls. The craft stall raised £224 towards their end-of-year fund, bringing their total to £352, and the School Council raised £63 on the reindeer food stall, which has been added to the PTFA total.

Fantastic Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performances were a real highlight of the term. EYFS and KS1 shone in their production of *Nativity*, delivering confident lines, beautiful singing and plenty of festive charm. It was wonderful to see our youngest children take to the stage with such enthusiasm. KS2 followed with their fantastic performance of *Straw and Order*, bringing humour, energy and impressive acting to a much-loved Christmas story.



Online Safety

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and with an ever-increasing use of technology children are exposed to external influences. This month's attachment is related to using **mobile phones**.

Six top tips to help you manage the risks

1. Talk regularly about how your children use their phone

You could start by asking what apps, games, or websites they use most often – as that could help you move on to discussing what they enjoy doing online and what worries them.

Through these conversations, you can set clear boundaries around screen time and device use. It's a good idea to encourage your children to take screen breaks and help them plan in offline activities.

2. Help children understand their right to feel safe online

Begin by explaining that they should never feel pressured, scared, or uncomfortable online and reinforcing that they can say no to things that don't feel right. Follow this up by teaching them how to block and report harmful behaviour and remind them that adults are there to help if something goes wrong.

3. Use safety and wellbeing tools together

A good place to start this is by exploring privacy settings on apps and games with your child. This will help to limit who can contact them or see their posts. You could also use wellbeing features, screen time limits or content filters and set up parental controls and filters where you feel that's needed.

4. Offer calm support when challenges arise

If you let them know they can talk to you without fear of getting into trouble, they'll be more likely to tell you if something is bothering them.

When they do share something worrying, it's best to stay calm as you're listening. If they see harmful content, then you could help them report or remove it. And reassure them that lots of people make mistakes online –most can be fixed and we can learn from them.

5. Keep the conversation going as they grow

As your children get older, you can still regularly check in about new apps, games, or trends they're exploring. Making online safety part of everyday conversations, instead of one-off talks, can help this feel more natural. It can help to stay informed about emerging risks and online behaviours. Adapt your guidance as they become more independent online.

6. Use the TRUST toolkit to guide safe sharing

Working through the [Vodafone & NSPCC TRUST toolkit](#) together can help to structure your conversations.

The toolkit covers:

- talking about who they will share their phone number with and why
- discussing what personal information should stay private
- encouraging them to think before sharing photos, videos, or location details
- reinforcing that TRUST means checking if something feels safe and talking to an adult if unsure.

Questions and answers about children and phones

How do phones impact my child's wellbeing?

Phones can be helpful for communication and learning, but they can also affect wellbeing if not managed carefully.

Risks include disrupted sleep, reduced attention span, and increased anxiety from social media pressures. Setting boundaries and encouraging offline activities helps maintain balance.

I don't want my child to have a phone until they are older. How do I go about doing that?

It's important to explain your reasons clearly and consistently. Focus on the benefits of waiting, such as more time for play and face-to-face interaction. Offer alternatives like family messaging apps on shared devices or basic feature phones without internet access for emergencies.

My child could benefit from a phone for travelling to school but I'm worried about the risks. What do I do?

Consider a phone with limited features, such as calls and texts only, or use parental controls to restrict apps and screen time. Talk to your child about safe use, including not sharing personal details and reporting any unwanted contact. Regular check-ins and agreed rules can help reduce risks.