



Stoborough Primary School
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Monday 23rd January 2017

Newsletter 19

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a wonderful start to the New Year! The children have come back brilliantly after the Christmas holidays and I am pleased to say, everyone appears to be adjusting well to the new times of the school day. I would personally like to thank all of you for your support with this and sincerely hope you are all finding the new pick up time a calm and positive experience.

To keep you all in the loop, KS2 pupils are now receiving two hours of Art, Science and Computing a week and one hour each for Music and French. This is a vast improvement compared to what time we were managing to allocate to these subjects before the new timetable. Furthermore, after discussion with KS2 teachers, we have decided that Computing and Art will be taught by teachers who have these subjects as strengths:

Year group	Curriculum area	Teacher with responsibility for delivering the lesson
Y3	Computing	Miss Sweeney
Y3	Art	Ms Andrews
Y4	Computing	Mr Rowland
Y4	Art	Mr McEwen
Y5	Computing	Miss Sweeney
Y5	Art	Ms Andrews
Y6	Computing	Mr Rowland
Y6	Art	Mr McEwen

French remains taught by Mrs Abbott across KS2
Music remains taught by Mrs Charters across KS2
Sports remains taught by Mr Merredew across KS2

We hope that all pupils benefit from learning delivered by specialist teachers. In times of reduced school budgets I really do believe the children at Stoborough are getting every opportunity possible to develop skills from highly experienced staff which is fantastic.

Vision statement for the school



Over the last few months, children and staff have been working hard on forming a Vision for Learning statement. I am delighted to show you the finished version which represents our school and aspirations for the school on many levels.

The children were asked what Stoborough School meant to them and many children spoke of coming to school with their other family – hence ***'We are one family'*** at school. We all felt this was a very special thing for the children to say as staff also feel we are one family; knowing and looking after all the children together as one team.

Through faith, love and learning we Believe, Aspire and Transform – this can be looked at from many different angles including the Christian faith foundation of the school. We aim to encourage all pupils, staff, parents and governors to believe in what can be achieved (as a strength and in a positive way) and to believe in each other as we all strive to be the very best we can be in all aspects of learning and life. We aim for all pupils and staff to have high aspirations for self and for each other and thoughtfully help everyone achieve things that might not seem possible at the start of their learning journeys. By the end of the children's time at Stoborough we hope that all pupils will be transformed on many different levels and that they will leave our school being self-assured, confident, thoughtful, reflective, resilient and caring young people ready to make a difference to the community they live in, the wider world and, importantly, to themselves.

The art work was skilfully completed by M B Illustration and Design – thank you so much Maria – it is beautiful.

If you would like to see the real thing please have a look in the school entrance. It is next door to the school Mission statement.

RE Quality Mark

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that we have recently been inspected for the RE Quality Mark, which is something we have not done before. The inspector came in last week and we have now received official confirmation that we have achieved the Silver award. This is fantastic news and represents many months of hard work by Mrs Hallisey (RE Leader) and all teachers. I would like to say a huge thank you to all my staff for your hard work and commitment to achieving this award and for the raised standards of RE teaching and learning across the school.



Special visitors

Some of you may have watched BBC Autumnwatch or Springwatch on the Television and I am delighted to say we had a special visit to the school on Friday morning by one of the BBC presenters, Michaela Strachan. Mr Munns (father of Felicity and Sam and RSPB lead Manager at Arne) kindly organised this for the school.

Michaela and Mr Munns helped the children to think about British wildlife and gave some information regarding some of the threatened species and other animals and plants which can be found in and around Arne. Following this, Emma Stephens (RSPB) came and worked with each class to look at the wildlife in our school grounds.

I am extremely grateful to Michaela, Mr Munns and to Emma Stephens for giving up their valuable time and for helping the children understand the importance of keeping the local habitat safe and sound for the animals and plants that live there. We do live in an amazing part of the world.



If you want to see something amazing – visit Shell Bay/Studland where you should be able to see the amazing murmuration of hundreds of Starlings. It is one of nature's spectacular scenes and right on our door step. Absolutely breath-taking.

Pupils

It is a real privilege to see our young children develop in so many ways and especially pleasing when even the youngest children begin to blossom.

As a school we have been working very hard to ensure every child says 'please' and 'thank you', especially when someone is holding the door open for them or someone helps them – we believe this is respectful and courteous. Additionally, we have been continuing to encourage all pupils to have an exemplary learning attitude during learning time so that everyone benefits. Visitors to the school always comment on how polite the children are at Stoborough School and I would like to thank all pupils for their lovely manners and focus during lessons.

For your information, I am going to be looking out for one or two pupils from across the school to be the Star pupils of the Week. Children will be notified at whole school worship on Monday and a letter will be sent home to parents notifying them of this. Good luck everyone!

Parent aspirations for the school

As you will be aware, the school never stands still and we are always seeking to improve all aspects of school life so that the children benefit from a fantastic learning experience while with us. I am privileged to work with such wonderful young people, talented and passionate staff, supportive parents and committed governors. Thank you all.

Recently, I have wondered what parents aspirations might be for the children and school and as such would value your thoughts being shared with me in the form of a simple slip to fill in. If you have any thoughts or ideas that you feel you would like to bring to my attention please complete the slip at the bottom of this newsletter. Please do be aware that I will probably be unable to meet all parent ideas/expectations but will certainly consider all. Know that your contributions will be most valued.

Thank you for taking the time to do this. If you prefer to talk to me in person, please do so, I will be happy to listen.

Serious fundraising needed

We have reached a point where we need to find approximately £20,000 for a new IT suite and quite frankly, with reduced school budgets, the school, at present, does not have sufficient funds to do this.

I would like you all to consider how we can reach this significant sum by fundraising events, possible contributions by local businesses, charities or individuals. Obviously, I would really like the children to have a new suite ASAP and they certainly cannot wait for years to have an up to date suite. If you have any suggestions on how the school can move forward with this, please do get in contact with me through the school office.

Events

Please continue to look at the website events section for some of the events that will be taking place in school over the coming months. We continue to add to this as appropriate.

Sports day 2017

Sports day will be on Friday 23rd June. We tried a different format last year (having both key stages on the same day) and we felt that this worked very well for us as a school and for parents who have children in both key stages. As a result, we will be holding a similar sports day this year.

Exact timings will be published on the website and sent to you nearer the time but for those of you who need to book time off of work it is likely to be something like:

YR & KS1 sports 10 – 12 mid-day

12 – 1pm Ploughmans on the field (Ploughmans available to family members and children)

KS2 sports 1:15 – 3:15pm (children will finish at 3:30)

Please do prepare yourself for the dad's and mum's races!

Additional professional sports events

Mr Merredew has been busy organising external sports events for pupils and parents. Two events have been organised for the Spring term:

- A football match between Southampton and West Ham at the Southampton football ground on 4th February (group of 36);
- A visit to watch the England Rugby team at a training session at Twickenham on 17th February (group of 30).



I really appreciate Mr Merredew investing his time organising these events. I do hope, for those of you who are able to attend, you enjoy these sporting events with your friends and families, are inspired and have lots of fun too!

It is going to be a very busy term and I am very much looking forward to continuing to strive for the very best for your children and the school. Thank you for your continued support with everything we do – this is very much appreciated.

With warmest wishes,

Deborah Corbin

Headteacher