



9th September 2020

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

After one of the strangest periods of time in all of our lifetimes, I am thrilled to be able to write my first school newsletter of the new academic year and to welcome both you and your child to Stoke Park. I can speak for all of the staff within school to say how lovely it was to see both existing and new pupils enthusiastically entering the school. The children looked extremely smart in their new uniforms – ready and eager to learn.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new members of staff to the school – Mrs Grist, who is joining us for the Autumn term as the school's Deputy Headteacher. Also, Miss Nunn, Miss Neill, Mrs Young, Mr Jones and Mr Brook. I wish them every success. Congratulations also to Mrs Gill and Mrs Passingham, who will share the position of Teaching and Learning Leader in Year 5.

Should you have any queries or concerns about your child as they settle into life at Stoke Park, please do not hesitate in contacting your child's teacher, via the school office, who is perfectly placed to quickly resolve any issues that may arise. I look forward to working with both you and your child, in order to provide them with a fantastic range of learning opportunities over the next year.

Attendance

I am very pleased to announce that overall school attendance for the first two days of term was 96.93%, which was a fantastic start to the new school year. Please support the school and ensure that your child receives the best possible outcomes by ensuring that they attend school regularly and are on time. Should your child be late arriving to school (and after their designated drop off time) entrance into school is through the reception area.

Appointments

Should you need to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the school by phone so a mutually convenient time can be arranged. Whilst the school is fully open, we are working hard to control access to the school site, in order to keep both children, staff and visitors safe.

Face Coverings

Please ensure that a face covering is worn when you enter the school building, this includes our Reception area. Should you need to make an appointment to meet with a member of staff inside the school building, we ask that the visitor and our member of staff both wear a face covering in order to keep everyone safe.

Social Distancing

When on the school site, particularly at drop off and pick up times, please ensure you and your family observe social distance guidelines. This includes the close supervision of younger children, particularly on the playground. Access to our timber trail equipment is not permitted.

For older children, please drop off and pick up your children from outside the school gates to minimise the number of adults on the school site.

Parental Visits to the School Office

Parents should come into the school's reception area, only when strictly necessary. During these present times, office staff will only take forgotten items to children's classes if absolutely essential, as this puts them at risk of entering multiple class bubbles.

We ask that only one parent or family group enter reception at a time. A face covering should be worn, in line with Government Guidelines. If you do not have one, the glass partition will be kept closed. Please use the hand sanitiser provided, upon entry to the school building.

Toilets

Our toilets are not open to parents or siblings.

Pupil Equipment

A reminder that the only equipment children need to bring into school are a coat, full PE kit (including trainers), a water bottle and lunchbag if appropriate. All pupils have been provided with their own set of stationery items, so pencil cases are not needed. Children should only bring bags to school if absolutely necessary, eg if they ride a bike to school.

Should your child have forgotten to bring in an item, such as their drinks bottle, into school, in order to limit contact with staff we are happy to provide them with access to a drink within the classroom and limit the need for you to return onto the school site. The item can always be sent in on the following day.

Unless it is essential, children should not bring mobile phones to school. If they do have to bring a phone they should be left at reception before the child enters the school building.

Home Learning and Reading Expectations

As part of our Covid-19 risk assessment we are minimising the items children bring to school from home as well as reducing the number of items shared between children. As a result, your child will not be bringing home any reading scheme or library books at the moment. These will be read in class. Please can you support your child's reading with books from home and the local library. In addition, the Oxford Owls website continues to offer a good range of ebooks. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk>



[Oxford Owl for Home: help your child learn at home | Oxford Owl](https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk)

Oxford Owl is packed with expert advice, tips and activities to help parents support their child's education. Help your child with reading, phonics and maths.
home.oxfordowl.co.uk

If your child would like to bring to school a book from home they will need to keep it for their personal use.

Your child is being provided with a planner in the usual way which they should complete regularly and bring to school daily. These will be checked periodically by school staff.

School Library Book – Class Competition

Please can you check to see if you have any school library books or classroom reading books which have yet to be returned to school. We currently have 176 library books that have not been returned to school, following the closure of the school in March. Extra break time will be awarded to the class which returns the most library books by 30th September.

www.easyfundraising.com/causes/fospjuniors

Current Government Advice on Testing

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is to use testing to help identify people who are positive and subsequently their contacts. Current advice is your child should be tested if they feel unwell and develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell,

There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they also have these symptoms. (Unless a pupil has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP.) As schools return, pupils may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school and seek medical advice through their GP as usual. As with all Government advice on COVID, it is subject to change.

Current School guidelines on positive COVID tests within school

Should a positive COVID case occur within school, parents will be informed (anonymously) and asked to keep a close eye on their child, should they develop any of the identified COVID symptoms. A whole class bubble will NOT need to isolate as a result of one positive COVID test, however if the class has a further positive COVID test within 3 days of first positive test, the whole class bubble will need to isolate for 14 days. At this point the school will commence its remote learning programme, more details of which will be sent out in the near future.

At the same time, the school will work closely with the local health protection team, who will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm close contacts of the infectious person which may result in the need for them to self-isolate as a result of the NHS Test and Trace system. They will also guide school on who else must be sent home. As with all Government advice on COVID, this guidance is subject to change.

Safeguarding

Please can you ensure that your children know that if the adult that they are expecting is not there at the end of the day they should return to reception.

Children are not allowed to press the exit button at the front door for any reason. Please do not ask your children to do this – they must ask a member of the office staff.

Paperwork

You will receive a large amount of paperwork over the next few days. Below is a list of letters that you should expect from your child:

ALL YEAR GROUPS

Data Collection Sheets – please check these carefully as we use them to contact you in an emergency. Complete any changed/missing information and return them to school, via your child's class teacher by Friday 20th September at the latest. **Please return these sheets even if there are no amendments.**

YEAR 3 AND PUPILS NEW TO THE SCHOOL

Educational Visit Consent Form

This informs teachers of any medical issues that your child may have and is used for all school trips throughout the academic year. This form will only be sent out once during your child's time at Stoke Park. We will also use this form for residential visits. If there are any changes to your child's health, please come to reception and ask for a new form to complete.

Please complete and return Permission for Off-Site Activities, Responsible Internet Use, Multi Media consent and Communications forms.

Handing in Paperwork

We are very keen to encourage all children to take responsibility for handing in paperwork to their class teachers. Each morning teachers collect any items the children need to hand in and they are then passed on to the office. Please help us by encouraging your children to hand in any money, paperwork, notes, vouchers etc direct to their class teachers and avoid bringing these things in to reception.

Dinner Money - £2.40 per meal

Dinner money should be paid IN ADVANCE using your scopay account. You can find a copy of the current menu using the following link

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/education-catering/menu-primary>



For the first half term we are offering two options – meat or meat free.

Peanuts

Could I please remind parents that the school is a NUT FREE ZONE. Please support this by ensuring that your child does not have any peanut butter or any other nut products in their lunch box. Many thanks.

Fruit Shop

Unfortunately, we cannot run a fruit shop at the moment. You may provide your child with a piece of fruit for break time – no other type of snack will be allowed.

On-line Payments

All children not already registered will receive their code for making internet payments for school trips and school dinners in the next few days. We would like to avoid taking cash in school at the present time, so encourage all parents to make on line payments if possible.

Online Free School Meal Eligibility Checking

Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S) run an online service so parents can check their eligibility for free school meals themselves.

This self-service option is available at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>. Please note that the criteria for free school meals is the same, regardless of method of checking eligibility, but for the online service, all you need to do is enter your name, national insurance number or asylum number, your address and your child's details. Please 'submit' and you will find out if you are eligible.

If your result comes back 'found', this means your child is eligible for free school meals and the system automatically tells the school.

No more hassle in digging out paperwork and going into school to get it checked!

If you are entitled to free school meals, please ensure you submit your form even if your child will not eat school dinners. The reason for this is that as a school we can claim additional funding to support your child with the cost of clubs, school trips and residentials and therefore we can pass the savings directly onto you.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We will not be running any before or after school clubs this term. If you need to register your child at Hedgehogs please contact Steve Wilson on 07746 743172.

Karate

There will be no karate club during the Autumn Term but they are running on-line classes. Details can be found with the following link: <https://sama-southwest.com/sama-karate-class-intro-video/>

Individual Photographs



Individual photographs will be taken on Monday 21st September. To maintain class bubbles children will not be photographed with their siblings this year.

Reminders

We place great emphasis on children's overall appearance and are very proud of how smart our children look. For this reason **jewellery, tattoos, nail varnish, make up and Jo-Jo Bows** are not allowed in school. Haircuts should be conservative and long hair (boys and girls) must be tied back at all times (with a single band). **Trousers, shorts and skirts should be charcoal grey. Shoes should be black school shoes – no trainers or boots.**

School Admissions 2021 – Year 7

All children in Year 6 will receive a letter from Hampshire County Council about admission to Year 7 in September 2021. They will also receive a prospectus from Wyvern College who will be holding a virtual Open Event on Thursday 22nd September. Unfortunately, tours are currently suspended. The deadline for applications is midnight on Thursday 31st October 2020.

Transition to Junior School

Year 2 parents have a little longer to make their decision as the online application process for Year 3 places in junior schools such as ours opens on 1st November 2020. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021 and parents are notified of allocations on 16th April 2021. Unfortunately, due to current Government guidance, we are unable to offer our usual Open Morning to Year 2 parents. Further details of our virtual offer will be shared.

Our Governing Body

We are looking for new Governors to join our Governing Body. If you are interested in Health and Safety, ICT, Technology, or just want to help mould the school as it moves forward we would be interested to hear from you. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, relative or friend of someone at the school you can join us.

Our main requirement is that Governors have time and enthusiasm to visit school regularly, particularly during the day. Training and experience will be gained over time.

Inset Days

A reminder of our Inset Days for next academic year:

Friday 9th October 2020

Monday 23rd November 2020

Friday 12th February 2021

Friday 14th May 2021

Monday 14th June 2021

Calendar of Events

Please find below the calendar of events for the Autumn Term. All of the dates are subject to change depending on Government guidelines at the time. We have made the decision to cancel the majority of activities planned for the Autumn Term, apart from those listed below. Parents evenings will be carried out by phone and details will be sent out nearer the time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020/21			
AUTUMN TERM			
September			
Thu	3 rd		Start of Autumn Term
	w/b 7 th		Year 6 Testing (2015 paper)
Mon	7 th	3.30pm	Year 6 Drop In
Tue	8 th	3.30pm	Year 5 Drop in
Wed	9 th	3.30pm	Year 4 Drop In
Thu	10 th	3.30pm	Year 3 Drop-In
Mon	21 st	Am	Individual Photographs
October			
Thu	8 th	6.00pm	FOSP AGM
Fri	9 th		INSET DAY
	w/b 19 th		Year 6 Testing
Fri	23 rd	3.15pm	End of half term
Half Term			
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October			
November			
Mon	23 rd		INSET DAY
December			
	w/b 7 th		Wave 3 TAs – Vernon/Salford/Sandwell/HFW Test withdrawal Years 3, 4 and 5 Testing (Test C) Year 6 Testing (2017 paper)
	w/b 14 th		Year 6 – Bikeability Training
Fri	18 th	3.15pm	End of Term
Christmas Holiday			
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January			
Return to School on Monday 4th January 2021			

Key dates for Spring Term

12th February – Inset Day
 w/b 1st March – Condoover Hall for Year 6 pupils
 w/b 8th March - Stubbington Residential for Year 4 pupils
 w/b 26th April and 3rd May – Year 5 Bikeability

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Allison Jenkins
 Acting Headteacher