



Weekly Newsletter

Stoke Prior First School

19th October 2023

For a number of years, we have had links with a teacher training college in the Netherlands. Each year, a group of trainee teachers visit our school and observe a Forest School session taking place as part of their studies. There seems to be very little in the way of outdoor education in the Netherlands and the students are always completely amazed by what they see and what we do, taking away ideas that they can use as they start their teaching careers. Yet again, it was another very successful visit last Friday, as the Year 1 children were highly engaged with a whole range of activities such as sawing, slack line, clay, hammocks, archery and possibly the highlight, a fire where popcorn was made. My favourite part was when the children spontaneously burst in to song as we sat and watched the corn pop!

As I reflected on this year's visit, I was again reminded how important Forest School is for our children. There are so many positive impacts on children in terms of confidence, social skills, language and communication, motivation and concentration, physical skills and knowledge and understanding. Research in to the benefits also argues that developing a relationship with nature early on (the earlier the better), might not only bring about positive results for children's mental health but also impact their future, and how they act in relation to the environment. This can only be a good thing. I sincerely hope that your children enjoy their time in our Forest School and as always I thank Mrs Pincher for leading the sessions and the rest of the staff for supporting.



Have you ever thought about volunteering? Would someone you know perhaps be interesting in volunteering? Over the years we have had many volunteers who come into school weekly for a few hours each week to hear children read. As you know, we work really hard as a school to ensure that all children leave us as confident and capable readers but some children benefit from extra practice reading to adults at times.



Currently, we have no volunteers undertaking this role and we would really appreciate some. It can be very rewarding and it is really easy to become a volunteer. We know and appreciate time is valuable but if you or someone you know might be interested in a couple of hours a week, please let us know via the school office, we'd love to hear from you.

Mr L Satchwell

Well done! Rainbow Assembly



Well done to Birdie Forbes, Rhett Grady, Aliana McCarthy, Kayden Yendell, Enzo Bailey, Nancy Dowling, Martha Baker, Freddie Southall, Pippa Maiden and Anna-Lease Maycroft.

The Rainbow Cup was awarded to Year 3 for showing how working together can make a positive difference.



Week at a glance

Monday 23/10	Art & Craft Club – 3:30-4:30pm
Tuesday 24/10	Multiskills Club – 3:30-4:30pm
Wednesday 25/10	Year 1 Multiskills Festival Year 1 Forest School Lego Club – 3:30-4:30pm Dance Club – 3:30-4:30pm
Thursday 26/10	Dare to be Different day (non-uniform) Y3 and Y4 Violin lessons Football Club – 3:30-4:30pm Martial Arts Club – 3:30-4:30pm
Friday 27/10	School closed TED Day

Further Ahead:

Flu vaccinations - 08/11

Bag2School collection - 09/11

Year 1 Phonics and Maths evening (see letter) - 6pm 09/11

Year 4 trip to Bishops Wood – 16/11 (see letter)

Class One News

We are very pleased with the way Class One have settled into their new year group. They have worked hard to get to know our routines and the structure of a day in Year One.

We enjoyed the walk to church for our Harvest Service and were really pleased with the children's singing and behaviour, both walking there and back as well as in church.

Forest School has continued to be a favourite part of the children's week. In the session last week, we were visited by students and their tutor from Holland. Our session was the wettest one we've known for a long time, but it didn't dampen enthusiasm. Class One were very welcoming and when asked, explained what they were doing and why they enjoyed Forest School. Mr Satchwell and Mrs Pincher were able to get a fire started in the fire pit, where the children watched as kernels of corn were popped. They then enjoyed a cup of popcorn around the fire.

Next week, the children will take part in a fantastic DT day, when they will create their own rooms using a shoe box as the base. Skills of problem solving and determination will be needed as well as dexterity to be able to create everything needed in miniature. Watch this space!



As we approach the end of this first half term, we hope everyone has a well-deserved holiday and look forward to seeing you all again in November.

Reminders

- Y4 to bring Fifes to school every Monday
- YR PE on Tuesday
- Y1 Forest School on Wednesday
- Y1 PE on Thursday
- Violin lesson – Thursday
- Wraparound and lunch bookings close at 1pm each Thursday for the following week.



SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS

Orders are now open for Autumn Term 2.

Please place orders for week commencing 6th November by next **Thursday 26th October**



The club list for Autumn Term 2 has been sent out today.

Bookings will open at 6.30pm tomorrow

Smarties Challenge – please return tubes by tomorrow (Friday 20th)



SPOOKY SPOONS!

Please order your spoon by tomorrow by tapping in this box

