



Stonegate C of E Primary School

Love of Learning for Life

Dear Parents,

As we race to the start of the Christmas holiday, we have completed a period of self-evaluation and reflection. The children have had their last 12 weeks' learning assessed. This has allowed staff and leaders to celebrate progress and historical skills developed since September. We are very proud of every child from Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks.

Jonathan Elms

Staff Changes in the New Year

I would like to start this newsletter by sharing some staffing changes which will occur in the New Year.

It is with sadness that I have to inform you all Mr Page will be leaving our team at the end of Term 4. Mr Page has been offered a wonderful position which will further his leadership skill set and career. Mr Page has been integral in the development of the creative curriculum, the excellent outcomes we have had on the sports field and the teaching of well-being. He will be greatly missed by all. He has shared some thoughts in a letter which will be sent to all parents.

In January, Mr Smith, our caretaker, will be heading for a new maintenance role in a Multi Academy Trust. Over the last 15 months, Mr Smith has been incredibly diligent during these difficult Covid times and has kept the school looking amazing and spotlessly clean. I thank him for all he has done in our school.

I will be starting the recruitment process for these roles this week, and it is my hope to be able to update the whole community of new additions to our team by the end of Term 3.

I am however delighted to announce that from Term 4 Mrs Lucy Hazeldine will be joining our team as maternity cover for Mrs Crush. Mrs Hazeldine is an outstanding and experienced practitioner who has taught and led a local Nursery and Reception class. Her knowledge of Early Years and Senior Leadership experience will support our whole team in continuing to deliver the highest provision for every child. During Term 3, she will visit the school and meet the children and parents from our Reception Class.

Wonderful End to this term

I would like to share with you all the fantastic activities which have taken place at the end of this term.

Nativity



I was so very fortunate to watch last week's Nativity performance. It was absolutely amazing! The standard of singing, reading, acting and comic timing from our youngest children was unbelievable.

Thank you to Mrs Baigent for leading the performance and to Mrs Jones, Mrs Crush, Mrs Mortimer, Mrs Wiggins and Mrs Pitts for their work in making the show a success. A recording of the performance will be available for parents in the near future.

Pre-School Christmas Sing

Everyone at the Nativity performance was also treated to the Pre-School singing a range of Christmas songs. I was astounded by their confidence, the gusto in which they belted out the songs and how they remembered so many words. They were a real credit to Miss Sanchez, Mrs Casse and Miss Crouch who had prepared them so well.

Magical Theatre

Last week, as part of our curriculum enrichment and by way of thanking the children for their learning in Term 1, we had a performance of The Reluctant Dragon. The children were taught the songs, performed on the stage and were enthralled by some incredible acting. These events are so important for increasing confidence and showing children the wonder of literature and the importance of reading. Thank you to the PTA who paid for the majority of this event.



Upcoming Events

Term 3 2021 – 2022

Art and Creativity Focus for skill development – Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Term 3 begins

Monday 31st January 2022

Reception and Year 1 Balance Bikeability

Friday 11th February 2022

Term 3 ends

Term 4 2021 – 2022

Monday 21st February 2022

Term 4 Starts

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February Science Week for all classes from Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks

Friday 1st April 2022

Term 4 Ends

Build a Christmas NeuroNinja



Please find below a link to a video from Action Your Potential all about positive brain health and well-being for you and your family this Christmas and beyond.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW6e7Wgylk8>

We are delighted to support Action Your Potential and be part of the family of 10,000 who have watched AYP content this year, supporting children, parents and carers to improve wellbeing, mind management and unleash learning and productivity.

Please remember our whole community can access all of their well-being, mind management and content at:

www.actionyourpotential.co.uk

An Egyptian museum brought to Stonegate

Parents and children from the whole school were fully immersed in the wonderful world of Ancient Egypt. The children from Saplings Class transformed the Hall in to a museum, which showcased all of the historical skills and facts they have developed and learnt this term.

I was astounded by the confidence every child demonstrated and how they were able to share their understanding so clearly to the museum visitors.

This was an excellent way to celebrate the class learning and was a great end to an inspirational learning journey!



Ruston House Interiors



The children from Year 6 have been involved in a wonderful community-focused project to design and create two Christmas windows for Ruston House in the village of Ticehurst.

Following a half-term homework project, children produced a set of ideas for how the windows could look. Following the creation of a mood board, inspired by The Nutcracker sketches were sent to Joe and Trish at the shop.

The children then constructed the items to bring the windows to life. I would like to thank the parents and staff from Year 6 who have supported the project by the sourcing of items and by helping make the props. If you are in the village, then please visit.

Christmas Jumper Day

Last week, every child in the school came to school wearing their favourite Christmas Jumper. I am really pleased to announce that we have raised £120 to support the charity Save the Children.



A huge thank you to the PTA

I would like to thank Dom and her team of 'PTA Elves' for all of their help and support in our build up to Christmas. Without their dedication, then we would not have been able to provide the number and range of activities we have this year (see below).

Christmas Shopping

This Christmas Shopping event was brilliant! Firstly, I would like to thank you all for the donations of presents; it meant that every child from the School and Pre-School had such a wide range of choice. I loved the fact that the children had the independence to make choices, had the chance to use money in a real life context and to think of others. Thanks to the PTA Elves who helped the children with the wrapping and Paperstone for donating all of the bags, paper and labels – very kind indeed!



Yummy Christmas Dinner

Mrs Knight and Mrs Burton excelled themselves once again, by producing a delicious Christmas Dinner. The children ate in their bubble groups and enjoyed the opportunity to tell jokes and pull crackers. The PTA provided each child with a juice box, a recyclable cracker, napkins and a lovely table cloth.

Father Christmas came to Stonegate

Following the Christmas Dinner, the adventure playground was ringing with the bells of a very special visitor, Father Christmas. Our Prayer Space was transformed into a very special outdoor wonderland. Every child visited him, shared what they were most looking forward to about Christmas and everyone received a bag of chocolate coins.



Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

A quote from my favourite Christmas film and something to discuss at home, "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more?" – Dr. Seuss, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!'

I hope that you all have a great Christmas and New Year. The Stonegate team and I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

In the Community

Sheep



During the last week, the Hub of the school has been overrun by a flock of sheep. These sheep have been beautifully decorated by the children from Pre-School, Reception and the Gardening Club. They look amazing. The Year 6 House Captains voted for their favourites and these will be awarded a prize in celebration assembly this week.

Thank you for Tom and Lynne for arranging this event, Authentic Reclamation for arranging the sheep and Burnetts Bookshop for the prizes.

Christmas Trees

A big thank you to Marek for the donation of 2 beautiful Christmas Trees. They are absolutely stunning and children from Reception and Year 6 had a great time decorating them. If you still need to get a tree, then visit Marek at The Stables, Coombe Lane, Wadhurst, TN5 6NU.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

In the event of adverse weather in the New Year, we will use the following procedures:

1. Send a text (Second contacts are welcome)
2. Place the closure and updates on the front page of the school website.
3. Place the closure notice on the East Sussex County Council website.
4. Inform the local radio stations (Heart 102.4 / BBC Sussex 104.5).

We aim to make a decision about the closure and any subsequent closures as early as possible to ensure that you all have enough time to make arrangements.

Our decision will be based upon safety, firstly of the school site and secondly of the roads, due to the fact that many of our families drive from the surrounding villages.

Stonegate Church Services

Christmas Carol Service at 4pm on the 19th December.

Christmas Day Festival at 10am on the 25th December