

# Stonegate C of E Primary School

Love of Learning for Life



Dear all,

I would like to welcome you all back for a new term at the start of this new calendar year. 2023 has many exciting opportunities in store and I am looking forward to embracing these with the children and staff.

This term, our core value focus will be Trust and Respect.

Jonathan Elms, Headteacher

## End of last term

Despite the snow and icy conditions around the school we had a fantastic end to the term. Thank you to the PTA for the wonderful enrichment events they provided, I know that the children loved the shopping, the pantomime and the visit from Father Christmas.

Also, a big thank you to Mrs Bull, Mrs Hirst and the children who arranged the beautiful Crib Service on the final Friday evening.

## Change to our staffing team

I wanted to let you all know that I had a lovely catch up with Mrs Crush at the end of last term - it was amazing to see her and hear that her and her daughter Otilie are doing really well. Sadly for the school, in order to spend a few more precious months with her new family, Mrs Crush would not be returning to Stonegate following her maternity leave.

I hope in March to arrange a 'goodbye and thank you' afternoon for Mrs Crush and give everyone in our community a chance to wish her and Otilie well.

## This term's learning – History and Creativity Focus

This term the School and Pre-school are thinking about History, Creativity and the Arts. There will be a focus on chronology, fine motor skills and 3D modelling. Pre-School Question – Where do animals live?

Reception Focus – Does anyone live in a frozen place?

Year 1/2 Question – How do the arts tell us about the culture of China?

Year 3/4 Focus – How do we know what life was like in the ancient Maya Civilization?

Year 5/6 Question – Why do we continue to tell the stories of ancient Greece?



## Soft start

I would like to thank you all for the overwhelming support of our morning start from 8.30am. Each day has started very calmly with children eagerly focussing on the task made available by their class teams. Thank you to the staff members who have volunteered to start earlier to facilitate this.

It has been noticeable that the small amount of morning lateness has been greatly reduced and the parking has improved within the village.

## New building

I am delighted to say that in February some of our space requirements will be relieved by the construction of an outdoor learning area. This will be constructed at the bottom of the adventure playground (where the willow structure is) and will provide an additional meeting / small group room and a larger room for the learning of up to 15 children. I would envisage that this space, paid for by the Local Authority, will be used by every child in the school.



## Safeguarding - perfect parking



There has been a noticeable improvement in the parking outside the school – thank you for this. But by way of a New Year reminder to keep everyone safe, cars should not:

- Park on the Zig Zags between 8.00 – 10.00 and 2.30 – 4.30.
- Park irresponsibly on the junction of Cottenden Road / Station Road.
- Park in or across Stonegate Court (this is a private road).
- Turn or park in the driveway opposite the school.

## Final Thought

This week we are focusing on the school's core value of Trust and we are thinking about the quote from Corrie Ten Boom: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."



## Upcoming Events

### Term 3 2022 – 2023

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

First Day of Term 3

#### Every Tuesday and Wednesday (4.15 – 5.30)

Staff on Training – Talk for Writing

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January

PTA Movies in Snoozies (see separate letter)

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January

After School Clubs Start

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February (6.00 -7.00)

How Do I Help My Child With Anxiety – a #NeuroNinja Course (School Hall)

#### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February

Battle Abbey Students to visit Year 1/2

#### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Last Day of Term 3

### Term 4 2022 – 2023

#### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Inset Day for School and Pre-School

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

Start of Term 4

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Science Week

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Science Fair in the School Hall – 9.00am

#### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

End of Term 4

## Community News

### Appointment of an Associate Vicar

Reverend Paul and all of those associated with our church are delighted to announce the appointment of Rev Andrew Goy as Associate Vicar for the Benefice of Wadhurst, Tidebrook and Stonegate.

Andrew is currently serving in the Meon Vale churches near Stratford-on-Avon in the diocese of Gloucester.

Andrew is expected to be licensed here at the beginning of May, and will be moving into Stonegate Vicarage with his wife Hannah and daughters Jessica, aged 7, and Aneka aged 5.

This is great news after a lengthy recruitment process, and we are very much looking forward to working with Andrew.

### Volunteer Readers

Every class still requires parents, grandparents or members from the community to support our children with reading.

Any time that could be spared would be greatly appreciated.