



Stonegate C of E Primary School

Love of Learning for Life

Dear Parents,

As I visit each classroom, I have been incredibly impressed at the knowledge which is being developed and the investigation activities linked to the learning journeys. There have been so many wonderful first-hand experiences and I cannot wait for the children to show you their learning during next week's Parents' Evenings.

Jonathan Elms

Mental health heroes



Thank you to all members of the school community who supported our 'Come as you are – dress down day.'

The money raised from this day will be used to support local mental health charities and organisations linked to the wider NHS provision.

Andrew Wright, from the Neuro Ninja programme, has produced an informative video linked to World Mental Health Day – please take a look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXlyxNLiIDY>

Real life superheroes

Our youngest pupils in Little Acorns and Reception have been visited by superheroes from our community.

Visits from the Fire Service and the Police have provided children with first hand experiences of how these services demonstrate courage by keeping us safe.

It was incredible seeing the children building fire engines in construction time and role playing the work of these very important people.



Tesco community champion

Year 3/4 and Miss Benford had a visit from two members of the Tesco team this week. Following an email inspired by the children and a photograph of Miss Benford promoting Tesco, she was awarded with a 'Community Champion Award'. As part of the visit, there was a presentation of a hamper of goodies and the children received art materials for future learning projects. This shows the power of writing and real-life learning in action.



Super sports star



Last week, Commonwealth Gold medalist Ryan Scott, visited the school. As part of this enrichment day, he arranged fitness and sporting activities for all pupils in the school.

Ryan spoke to the children about his experiences as a top-level athlete and the importance of training, perseverance and never giving up when you have a dream.

This was a great experience and thank you to Miss Benford for arranging the day.

Cross country superstars

Congratulations to all of the children from Years 3-6 who represented the school at the Uplands Cross Country event. I am to report a number of impressive individual performances, congratulations to Lyla, Laria, Isla, Olivia, Freya, Albert, Oliver and Dexter for the next round of the competition.

Upcoming Events

Term 1 2023 – 2024

Friday 13th October

From 14.45 - Pre-loved Uniform and Pumpkin Sale

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October Parents Evening – 15.30– 18.00

Friday 20th October

15.15 – 16.30 – PTA Pumpkin Party
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2 2023 – 2024

Monday 30th October

Term 2 starts

Thursday 9th November

9.30 Open Morning

Friday 10th November

18.00 – Community Barn Dance

Wednesday 15th November

Break the rules day for Young Voices

Thursday 30th November

St Andrew's House cake sale

Friday 1st December

15.15 – Christmas disco or movie night

Monday 4th December

9.30 Open Morning

Friday 8th December

13.00 – PTA Christmas present event

Monday 11th December

14.30 – Pre-School Christmas sing

Tuesday 12th December

9.30 – Reception and Year 1/2 Nativity

Wednesday 13th December

Christmas Dinner for Little Acorns to Year 6

Thursday 14th December

19.00 – Crib Service for the whole school in the church

Friday 15th December

Last Day of Term 2

Term 3

Starts: Wednesday 3rd January

Finishes: Friday 9th February

Inset Day – Tuesday 2nd January

Term 4

Starts: Monday 19th February

Finishes: Thursday 28th March

Term 5

Starts: Tuesday 16th April

Finishes: Friday 24th May

Inset Day - Monday 15th April

Year 6 SATs – 13th to 16th May

Term 6

Starts: Monday 3rd June

Finishes: Friday 19th July

Inset Days - Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July

European day of languages

The children from KS2 had a wonderful day celebrating French culture and cuisine. As well as leading an assembly, the children followed instructions in French to make madeleines. They must have been delicious because they had all been eaten before I was able to have one!

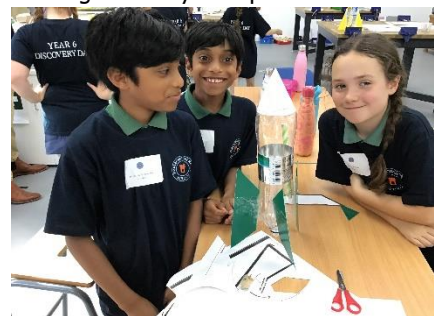
Thank you to all of the families who completed the pancakes and French recipe homework. The pictures received showed a number of future chefs and pâtissiers.

As always, Madame Greenwood arranged a fantastic cross curricular event.



Marlborough House discovery day

A group of Year 6 children were fortunate enough to be invited to Marlborough House Prep School to take part in a Discovery Day. The children took part in a variety of classes exploring the theme of 'Energy'. The first class of the day was art and the children looked at seed heads and pine cones, which had been gathered from the school grounds. The aim of the session was working with clay to replicate the amazing shapes and textures of the seed heads.



The second session had the pupils in science, where the children looked at human red blood cells under a microscope and observed as the teacher dissected a lamb's heart. Next, PE, where the children took part in a touch rugby lesson. The PE teacher was particularly impressed with our pupils' work rate and their enthusiasm. The final session of the day was DT where the children constructed water-fueled rockets. The children had a thoroughly enjoyable day and were returned to their parents tired but with minds bursting with new ideas and enthusiasm.

Stonegate isn't so bad

The pupils of Year 5/6 had a Victorian enrichment day. As part of this day they were able to develop timelines, handling artefacts and learn how to write using ink and a Victorian pen.

As part of one of the activities, they role played a day in a Victorian school. The workshop leader very quickly demonstrated to the children how lucky they are to be in Stonegate school with their caring teachers in 2023.

This is another example of a great first hand experience inspiring every learner in this class.



Harvest



We had a wonderful Harvest celebration service and I would like to thank you all for your generous donations for our local charities.

It was fantastic that so many members of our school community could enjoy sharing this important festival – the coffee and cake after the service was lovely.

A big thank you to Andrew Goy for leading our service and for being available this term to support the learning of Reception class.

Local Authority Visit

This term the school was visited by the Assistant Director of Education for East Sussex, who went to every classroom and spoke to the children about their learning. She wrote:

Dear Mr Elms,

I want to extend my sincere thanks to you, all the children and staff that welcomed me so warmly to the school.

I enjoyed having the opportunity to see the school and visit in person. It was great to see children reading across the school and how every available space is being used so well!

Thank you for all the work that you do for the school and the important difference that you are making to the lives of the children within the community.

Final Thought

To reflect World Mental Health Day, I would love you to think about this quote, 'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream' – C.S. Lewis.'

In the Community

PTA

Thank you to all who made it to the PTA AGM last week; it was wonderful to recap the fundraising events and initiatives of the past year, as well as welcome some new committee members to the group.

Sadly, no-one came forward for the role of Chair so the position remains open. Should anybody like to take on this role or join the PTA as a committee member, please chat with Jessica Tabbah or Natalie Brown.

If you are able to volunteer your time for this role, or the wider committee, please do reach out. Every child at Stonegate really does benefit and we would like to ensure the success of this crucial part of our school community going forwards.

In support of the school in 2022-2023, the PTA raised over £9,000 and were able to spend over £11,000 on:

- 45 New Chromebooks
- Science Week Investigation activities including Sublime Science, a pop-up planetarium from Herstmonceux Observatory and the Forensic Science Lab from Fab Science
- Books for the Collins Big Cat Scheme
- Playground Equipment for Pre-School
- SATS Treat for Year 6 at Arena Pursuits
- Pantomime Tickets for the whole school
- Christmas celebrations and decorations for the school Christmas Lunch
- The Week Magazine Subscription
- Contribution to KS2 Fruit

As a Headteacher I cannot emphasise enough how much we rely on the vital income generated by our PTA. Budgets have always been tight but this year we are reliant on the funds raised by the PTA's initiatives, and supported by you the parents, even more than ever.

I finally would like to thank Natalie Brown for her commitment in bringing together Parents, Teachers and Children to raise funds and strengthen the school community - she will be missed as the Chair of the PTA.