

Stonelow Junior School Newsletter 1

6th September 2016 - www.dronfieldstonelow.derbyshire.sch.uk

Welcome back to the start of our new school year and an extended warm welcome to all of our new children and families. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our website (above) has information, important notices and policies for you to look at.

School Structure and Leadership - Mrs Perkins and Mrs Collins will be co-headteachers and the leadership at school will be collaborative. Class structures are:

- Y3 Miss Elliott (Longshaw class)
- Y4 Mr Smith (Peveril class)
- Y4 Mrs Fisher and Mrs Kent (Haddon class)
- Y5 Mrs Thompson and Mrs Williamson (Chatsworth class)
- Y6 Miss Wharton (Hardwick class)

Continuing as we always do there are rewards / recognitions for excellent behaviour and there are ways in which your children can gain more responsibility and choice when they show 'Golden Behaviour'. Rewards for effort, kindness, focus, determination, resilience, progress, friendship, sharing etc can be collected on the Behaviour Sticker Card; a Bronze Award by December is extra playtime, Silver by April is extra play and non-uniform day and Gold by July is rewarded with ice-creams and the morning at the park. There will be a whole school homework to design a poster about Golden Behaviour this week. Please spend some time talking to your child about what this might mean to them. Some of the best entries will be displayed around school. The homework posters need to be on A4 paper and can be completed in any art materials e.g. crayon, pen, paint, computer etc. We look forward to seeing the returned work by Monday 12th September.

Uniform reminder – One of the trickiest things for us all in school is finding the owner of un-named uniform. This includes shoes, PE kit and coats as well as jumpers, t-shirts and trousers/skirts. Please ensure all items of clothing your child wears has initials/name clearly labelled somewhere.

ALL children MUST have a royal blue or white polo/shirt and a school jumper or fleece. Grey or black trousers/skirts. No jeans allowed and school shoes must be black (no fluorescent logos!) PE kit is now a blue school PE top with our school name and logo. These can be purchased using the link on our website. Children should not bring football kits for PE lessons. They will also need dark shorts, plimsolls, dark jogging bottoms and trainers ready for outdoor PE. Children will still do PE outside when the weather is cold.

Mobile phones and e-safety - Whilst we fully understand the safety aspect of bringing a phone to school for some children walking home unsupervised, they are not a device needed during the school day and if they are not a necessity they are safer left at home. In Year 5/6, children bringing mobile phones to school will need to hand them in to their class teacher at registration time and must be turned off on entry to the school playground in the morning and can be turned on when leaving the school building. Mobile phones are not to be used during the school day under any circumstances and anyone doing so will have their phone confiscated. Emergency calls can be made by Mrs Dilly in the school office.

E-safety and awareness of online safety is always a priority at Stonelow and in the last few years we have dealt with an increasing number of issues related to negative online activity. The curriculum for our children has changed each year to keep up with the ever changing online world in line with national guidance. We have e-safety lessons as part of our

ongoing school curriculum in all year groups but would like you to be alert and supportive of positive online activity.

Children under the age of 13 should not be using Facebook, Snapchat, Ouvre, Instagram to name just a few. The parental advice from PC Sally Horner after her visit in July was that children need positive guidance and regular, careful monitoring when using any device connected to the Internet. The number of children using their mobile phones/tablets and being contacted by unknown adults is on the increase. There have been several cases in Dronfield of children using these forms of social media and police being involved in very serious and upsetting situations; some cases involved in primary age children. If school is aware of any e-safety issues, even if they happen outside of school, parents may be contacted to discuss, as we have a duty of care. We'd like to continue positive communication in this area and aim to support in any way we can.

Our school day - We appreciate that when you start at a new school or have had a lengthy break, you and your children may want to know the timings of the school day...so here we have it...

| | |
|---------|---|
| 8.45am | Playground is open and staff are present to supervise children. No ball games during this time and scooters and bikes must be parked up in the racks. Mobile phones off. |
| 8.55am | First whistle is blown to signal children to stand still and listen. Second whistle is a signal to line up in your house team. |
| 9.00am | Register time – hand in dinner money, letters, slips, phones etc. to the class teacher. |
| 10.40am | Assembly time. |
| 10.55am | Playtime and healthy snack (fruit, veg or similar) no sweets/biscuits/crisps. |
| 12.15pm | Lunch time. Two dinner sittings. |
| 3.30pm | Children supervised leaving the school building. Y3 children brought out by staff for the first half term. Any children who are not collected need to come back to the school office. |

Reading - The importance of reading and the value of regular reading practice is so important. Children are given specific reading time and tasks during our school day, every day. All children will have a reading diary for you to record home reading and we very much value your support and contribution to your child's reading practice. Each class will reward children for weekly reading contributions from home. As a school we would like children to read 3 times per week at home but if you have time for more or love to read each day that's great – go for it! Our new Book Banded reading system means that all children will have a stage specific school reading book at all stages and can change these independently as the need. They will also have a library book which can be changed at lunchtimes.

Each child at Stonelow has access to Abacus Maths (maths activities and games) and Bug Club (online reading for a PC, laptop, ipad etc). This is logged into using a personal login and password which will be provided by school. These can also be part of your child's homework so look out for these. Bug Club reading is excellent and also has levels and reading comprehension questions to match texts.

Donations for the library: We are putting together a box of children's magazines; if you have any which are still in good condition and are going to be recycled, we would like them for our collection.

A good year ahead - So here's to a great year! If you have any questions please ask your child's class teacher as a first port of call and please communicate any concerns you may have so we can help.

Dates for your diary are attached and also on our website.

We look forward to working with you over the next year and thank you for your continued support in making our school a special place for the children to be.
Mrs Collins and Mrs Perkins

Diary Dates

| Sept | |
|-------|--|
| 5 | INSET DAY |
| 6 | School starts |
| 13 | Y6 Samba drumming workshops begin |
| 15 | Mini Leader Training |
| 16 | Visit to Eyam Y5 and Y6 APFS Send Christmas card designs home for parents to order |
| 19 | Bikeability Starts |
| 20 | Dronfield in Bloom Presentation evening Go Run For Fun |
| 23 | Y5 Swimming Starts |
| 26 | APFS last day for parent orders European Day of Languages - Discovery Kitchen workshops Lea Green Parents meeting (Y6) |
| 29 | Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm Boys Soccer tournament |
| Oct | |
| 5 - 7 | Y6 Lea Green Residential |
| 5 | 6-8pm Finance training for Governors |
| 6 | Sports – Shooting Stars Selection |
| 12 | Governors Strategic Briefing 6.30-8.30 |
| 10-14 | Parent Drop Ins ; Half Termly assessments |
| 21 | INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 24-28 | Half Term |
| Nov | |
| 1 | U11 Mini Soccer Finals |

| 2 | Y3 Parents to lunch |
|-------|--|
| 3 | New Governor Training 6pm |
| 4 | Bonfire Lunch |
| 7 | Sports morning for Y2 pupils TBC |
| 8 | Y4 Parents to lunch |
| 9 | OPEN AFTERNOON & EVE for new Y2 Pupils & Parents |
| 10 | Individual School Photos |
| 16 | Y5 Parents lunch |
| 17 | Full Governors Meeting 6.30 |
| 23 | Y6 Parents lunch TBC |
| 28-2 | Assessment week |
| Dec | |
| 2 | Last Y5 swim |
| 7 | Late Parents' Evening |
| 9 | Xmas Fair |
| 12 | Y5 or 6 to sing at The Green/Callywhite |
| 13 | Y3/4 dress rehearsal for infants |
| 14 | Y3/4 concert 2pm |
| 15 | Y3/4 concert 7pm |
| 19 | Christmas Lunch |
| 20 | Coffee Morning Christmas Parties |
| 21-2 | School Closed |
| 3 Jan | INSET DAY |