

Stonelow Junior School Newsletter 6

21st February 2017 - www.dronfieldstonelow.derbyshire.sch.uk

Parents and carers, welcome back to the second part of the Spring Term and hopefully the start of some lighter mornings and warmer weather.

New faces – We are pleased to welcome three students from Sheffield Hallam University this term for their final teaching practice. This is the culmination of 3 years of study and we look forward to learning new ideas from them as well as sharing the expertise of our staff. It is always good to have an extra pair of hands in the classroom and their work is closely supervised by the class teacher at all times. Mr Neilson is working with Y5, Mr Lynch-Beddows is working with Y4S and Miss Miller is working with Y4KF.

Clubs – There will be an opportunity this week for all children to take part in a RuggerEds taster session and if they enjoy it there might be a RuggerEds club at school if there is enough interest.

Events leading up to Easter – In the weeks up to Easter there are some events at Stonelow to remind you of:

- 23 Feb - Derbyshire Archives visit for Y5
- 28 Feb – Pancake Lunch
- 1 Mar – Y6 London Trip
- 2 Mar – World Book Day (look out for your token coming home), Y6 height and weight measurements with school nurse
- 3 Mar – SATS parents talk for Y6 3.40pm
- 13-17 Mar Science Week
- 20-14 Mar – Book Fair in school (use your £1 book token off a book)
- 23 Mar – Y3/4 to Western Park Museum

- 24 Mar – Red Nose Day
- 7th April – Break for half term (back on Monday 24th April)

Mrs Perkins retirement gift: As you all know, Mrs Perkins is retiring at Easter. There is a collection for staff, children and parents for a retirement gift for her. We would like to buy her a special bird table for her garden. If you would like to make a contribution please send it into school in an envelope for Mrs Dilly.

Reading – Our whole school priority is reading and developing reading skills and questioning. Teachers have completed new training to teach reading inference skills to help overcome barriers to comprehension. You may hear them talking about:

- Visualise – what pictures do they have in their mind when they read e.g the scene, what is happening.
- Predict, ask questions and say 'I wonder' – allowing the children time to ask questions, think further ahead and wonder what might happen.
- Background knowledge - make links to themselves, the world and texts/films etc.

You can start to use these 3 skills when you hear your child read. Ask them... What can you visualise? What do you predict? I wonder.... Can you use your background knowledge to link to the text?

Along-side this we would like to ask you to make time to hear your child read a minimum for 3 times each week – without practise and regularly reading, progress on inference and comprehension is difficult and relies on reading fluency. As a family you can significantly help your child by doing this. It is called 'reading miles'. The more you can build the better you become.

Internet Safety Week – At Stonelow we value the importance of making children aware of the wonders of the Internet but also the risks/dangers. Just before half term Mr Smith held a whole school assembly which followed with some whole school work in classes e.g. Weekly Writing focus and poster activities. Please support your child in safe use of the Internet, monitoring what they are on, having access to their accounts and passwords etc.

As a school we did a survey and there were a surprising number of children who said they looked at things on the Internet that their parents would not be pleased about and some children said their parents did not know anything about what they viewed. Whilst we totally understand the fascination and amazement of the Internet and its importance in daily life, children need to be very aware of potential risks and we teach the following throughout school:

- Do not share personal information with anyone e.g. name, address, school, location, phone number, email address
- ‘Online friends’ are not ‘real’ friends and could be anyone.
- Awareness of a digital footprint – think about what you share and how the internet can save and hold information even when it is deleted.
- Avatars and nicknames – to protect your personal identity.
- Age 13 rule – Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Music.ly (which appears to be the most popular in our school)
- Blocking and reporting to an adult – advice on how to deal with unwanted attention and communication

Attendance – If your child is ill and isn’t going to be school, please call EACH day to inform Mrs Dilly. If this is before 8.30am please leave an answer machine message. We have a duty of care to record if your child is

in school with us or if they are at home with you. If we do not get a phone call we record this as an unauthorised absence.

We are very proud of our whole school attendance which is 97.4%. Keep this up Stonelow! It’s fantastic!

Y3 – 97.2%

Y4 (RS) – 98.5%

Y4 (EK/AF) – 96.9%

Y5 – 97.7%

Y6 – 96.8%

Helping Hands say ‘Thank You’ – We have received a letter of thanks for the £110 donation and for the parents and children’s generosity. The money is being put towards a defibrillator for another school.

Thank you for your continued support.