

Croscombe C of E Primary
Long Street, Croscombe, Wells
Somerset, BA5 3QL
School Office: 01749 343114
Mr. Bill Moore, Co-Headteacher
office@croscombestokeyefederation.co.uk



Stoke St. Michael Nursery & Primary
Moonshill Road, Stoke St Michael
Radstock, Somerset, BA3 5LG
School Office: 01749 840470
Mrs. Mel Vincent, Co-Headteacher
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www.croscombestokeyefederation.co.uk

11th November 2022

Federation Newsletter

Orienteering

There are many exciting plans for the children being drawn up now for the January Spring term including a fantastic orienteering unit in P.E. for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Next term these year groups will be covering the adventurous activity part of the P.E. National Curriculum. This will help children build upon their independence whilst learning new skills. The initial lessons will be undertaken on school grounds and the surrounding local village however after the Year 6's have finished their SATS in May they will be undertaking a special treat orienteering day which will see them putting their orienteering skills learnt to the test. We will be asking for volunteers nearer the time to help supervise small groups and man check points..



Home Learning

Recently we have had feed back from parents regarding home learning, some of it positive and some highlighting difficulties. Moving forward, we would like to ensure better consistency and communication regarding the expectations of home learning. Therefore ALL classes will be sending out and receiving home learning on the same days each week. The routine will be as follows:

OUT: Wednesday

IN: Monday

On a Monday if your child has forgotten to bring their home learning folder back or has not completed it there will be an opportunity to bring it back on a Tuesday. If however, it doesn't come back or it is incomplete on a Tuesday, there will be an opportunity to attend Home Learning club with either Mrs Vincent or Mr Moore on a Tuesday lunch time. This will ensure that every child is able to complete and hand their home learning back to their class teacher on time for the next set to go home on Wednesday.

Christmas is Coming!

Children are working hard to learn their lines and words for the songs, please support and encourage them at home, thank you! Our Christmas shows this year involve the whole school. Whilst the younger children will still be taking on the lead roles in the Nativity, Key Stage Two will form the choir and perform Nativity Readings. Bluebells and Acorns classes will dress up in Nativity costume whereas the older children in Years three and above will wear school uniform, but with a Christmas jumper.

Croscombe

It's a Baby

Tuesday
6th
December



2pm
In the
village Hall

Stoke St Michael

Christmas with the Aliens

Wednesday
7th
December



2pm
In the
School Hall

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Flu Vaccine

Please can you complete the online consent form as soon as possible (you will find this in your ParentPay email inbox). This will enable your child to receive their flu vaccine from an NHS nurse in school on:

Croscombe: Tuesday 22nd November

Stoke St Michael: Wednesday 23rd November

We will be arranging a call back day for the Year 5's at Stoke St Michael School as the Y5 children will be attending the Primary Dance Festival that day. (More Details to follow) This will ensure that the Y5's will still be able to receive their flu vaccine in school.



After School Care at Croscombe

We are delighted to announce that we will be able to provide after school care for children of all ages at Croscombe from **Tuesday 15th November**

The bookable slot will be **3:15pm to 4:15pm**. Over time we will be looking to extend this cover to 5pm. In the new year we plan to start a breakfast club from 8am to 8:45pm each morning, so that we have a full wrap around care provision to meet the needs of parents.

Our out of school hours care is

- Open to our students of all ages
- Various activities will be on offer, both indoor and outdoor, (weather dependent) including quiet time, arts and crafts, movies and games.

Please book your child places on ParentPay or by clicking this link, thank you!

<https://www.parentpay.com>

Remembrance Assembly

The children have been remembering the people who fought in the two World Wars and reflecting on how war effects the lives of people around the world. Sensitivity has taken place regarding emotions as this may spark due to the war happening now in Europe. The assemblies were beautiful and dynamic, well done all. 'If we are to create peace in this world we must begin with our children'. Ghandi



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Eco-Warriors

This week we have reflected on our planet earth and how precious our home is and how important it is to care for our environment as it cares for us. World leaders have been meeting in Egypt at Cop27 (Conference of Parties) under the United Nations to talk and work together in a spirit of cooperation to help solve the climate crisis. Our children are always developing their key Gem Power skills and today they demonstrated marvellous understanding of our planet and were able to discuss and share ideas in a democratic way. This week the School Councils have been running an election to appoint an eco-warrior from each class onto the school council. Eco-warriors must demonstrate passion and ideas of caring for planet Earth. They will be awarded a Green cap in celebration assembly next week.

- Topaz Power** - Working together in a group
- Amethyst Power** - Working together in a pair.
- Ruby Power** - Being aware of others
- Sapphire Power** - Focusing on the task

God of blessings,
the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment
to care for the earth and each other.
Inspire world leaders at COP27,
with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change
and with courage to act urgently and wisely,
so that our common home may be healed and restored
and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.



POP Live Event Activity: Design and Create your own flood defences and test whether the water flow (marbles) could be slowed.

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Message from the Governors

Thank you to those of you who attended our second Parent/governor feed back session at Stoke St Michael School. The general feedback was positive however there were suggestions for further improvement. We have discussed these matters with the Co-Headteachers who are working hard with the teaching staff to respond. Response in **BLUE**.

SENDCO & ELSA: Parents felt that these aspects for the school have improved considerably over the past 12 months and that those parents which SEND children definitely felt better informed and supported.

Homework: Parents felt there was too much inconsistency around the setting and monitoring of homework. There was not set days or set amounts for some classes which confuses both the pupils and parents whilst making it more difficult for parents to establish consistent home work routines. Acorns class was the exception in this case. **Thank you for highlighting this. Please see 'Home Learning' paragraph on the front page of this newsletter.**

Open Afternoons/Learning Sessions: Parents enquired whether we could plan in some of the sessions we ran previously where parents were invited into the school and did some learning alongside their children to better understand how topics were delivered and to see first hand what their children are doing. When these were run previously parents felt better able to support the children's learning and were able to interact more about what they did at school each day. **Yes of course, we will plan these in for the Spring Term.**

Pictures of the Pupils Learning: Linked to the previous discussion there was a separate discussion around seeing pictures of what the children are doing more and whether platforms like Tapestry could be used to enable parents to visually see examples of the children and their classroom activities. We also discussed using the website more and including more details in the newsletters. The Governors pointed out that teachers are very focussed currently on delivering and developing the curriculum and they weren't sure they would have the time to update a platform such as Tapestry regularly and there was also challenges with this as some parents don't want pictures of their children shared on platforms. **As an alternative we would like to invite you in towards the end of each term to witness your children's learning first hand, we will call this 'Sharing Time' and it will run from 3:00—3:30pm on the date given. You will be able to sit with your child and look through their books and learning displays together. Keep a look out in the Dates for Diary Section. Tapestry will continue to be used in the Early Years. Please also keep a look out on our Website newsfeed for photos. We are currently training staff to be able to update this regularly again.**

Communication: Whilst acknowledging that the admin team is current 1 team member short which puts a lot of pressure on the other team members, parents felt that communication from the school needed to be better. The general observations were that sometimes communication about events or trips was sent too late, or that there was not enough information given for parents to fully understand what was being asked of them. We also discussed the need to sometimes better explain the 'why' behind certain decisions such as the lack of swimming and Forest school for years 5 & 6.

Trip letters will be sent out well in advance especially now that we have had the opportunity to train new office staff with processes. We appreciate that a couple of communications this term have been sent with only a four days warning. Forest School is being enhanced in the younger years and replaced by further extra curricular activities in the older years to ensure that the Upper Key Stage Two children are able to gain a greater depth to their Curriculum to prepare them for life at Secondary. We are however working on finding a way to give Y5/6 forest school experience moving forward as we appreciate this is a loved and important activity.

Self Esteem: Parents have fed back that our children performing at Wells Cathedral, stood out above all demonstrating Emerald Power confidence when they spoke to the audience; pride when they sang so loudly and beautifully and excellent behaviour.

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Stoke St Michael

November

Monday 14th	UK Parliament Week
Monday 14th	Bluebells Nursery Rhyme Week
Tuesday 15th	Open Evening 5:30 - 6:30pm
Friday 18th	Children In Need—Spotty Mufti
Friday 18th	PTA Christmas Bingo Fund Raiser
Wednesday 23rd	Flu Vaccines
Wednesday 23rd	Whitstone Dance Festival
Tuesday 29th	Parent Teacher Meetings
Wednesday 30th	Parent Teacher Meetings

December

Thursday 1st	Open Day - Taster Sessions for all ages
Thursday 1st	Year 5 - Downside Language Day
Wednesday 7th	Christmas with the Aliens School Nativity Show—2pm
Thursday 8th	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 9th	Christmas Lunch Christmas Jumpers
Friday 9th	Father Christmas visiting the children from the North Pole
Monday 12th	FGB—Governors Meeting @Croscombe 6pm
Tuesday 13th	Community Carols for the Elderly Christmas Jumpers
Thursday 15th	Christmas Family Art Morning Christmas Jumpers
Friday 16th	Last Day of Term Christmas Jumpers

January

Wednesday 4th	First Day of School Term 3
Thursday 12th	Bluebells class trip to see The Snow Mouse in Bath

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* RED TEXT = New dates added this week