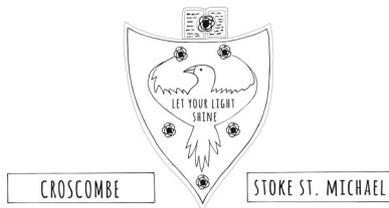


Croscombe C of E Primary School
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Somerset, BA5 3QL
School Office: 01749 343114
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Mr. Bill Moore, Co-Headteacher



Stoke St. Michael Primary School
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Mrs. Mel Vincent, Co-Headteacher

www.croscombestokefederation.co.uk

7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that everyone enjoyed their well deserved break over the festive period and had a chance to enjoy some family time. As a Federation we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. While we understand that the year ahead is uncertain, both schools have lots of exciting plans for 2022 and we are full of optimism for another fantastic year!



If however, you struggled over the holiday or since the start of the new term, please do get in touch with the school and let us know if there is anything that we can do to support you and your family. We are living in very unusual and anxious times and we must continue to come together as a school community to support each other.

Covid Guidelines Reminder

Before the start of term you would have received an email via ParentPay with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Secretary of State for Education and Somerset County Council. All schools in Somerset have been directed to maintain the new restrictions until the end of January when they will be reviewed. Given the new variant and the rising number of cases in our area we know that this is the safest arrangement for the time being. If everybody does their bit, we will get through this together!



Welcome and welcome back!

At the start of this term, Stoke St Michael welcomed Zoe Durber to the team. Some families may already recognise and know Zoe as she is a parent from the school and has been a Forest School parent volunteer for several terms. Ms. Durber will be working in Bluebells class as an Early Years Practitioner and we are delighted to have her join our Federation.



We are also very happy to welcome Mrs Bloom back to Croscombe after her maternity leave. Mrs Bloom teaches on Thursday and Friday in Chestnut class and is looking forward to the year ahead!

Federation Song

We are delighted and very much looking forward to an incredible opportunity coming our way. Jane Taylor a well known local musician is going to work with all of the children in both schools in the coming weeks to write and compose a song based on the children's dreams and thoughts about the future including our federation motto 'Let Your Light Shine'.

Jane Taylor is an English singer song writer. She won the UK and International song writing competition in 2003 with her song 'Blowing This Candle Out'. Her second album Compass was awarded the Best Album title in the Folk / Singer-Songwriter category at the 2010 Independent Music Awards. Jane is in the process of composing her next album, however her music mentioned above can be found on the [Jane Taylor Music Website](http://www.janetaylor.com). Please do listen to Jane Taylor's music with your children to help spark their enthusiasm for the project which we hope will have lasting memories for them all



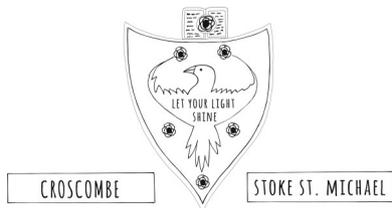
School Application Deadlines

Please remember that if your child is starting primary school in September the application deadline for school places is **Saturday 15th January 2022**. For more information please visit the Somerset County Council website www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/#starting-school or the Somerset School Admissions Facebook page [@Somersetschooladmission](https://www.facebook.com/Somersetschooladmission)

Let Your Light Shine



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Forest School

This term Owl class at Stoke and Conkers at Croscombe will be going to Forest School. Please remember to ensure your child has suitable clothing for their Forest school sessions, including waterproofs, wellies and warm layers.



Please note that from January 14th, Forest school at Croscombe will be on a Friday afternoon and not on a Wednesday. Please also ensure you have paid for your child's session on ParentPay as soon as possible.

Chinese New Year

Over the next few weeks the pupils will be learning about Chinese New Year and why it is important in certain cultures. This year, it falls on the 1st February 2022 and is the year of the Tiger! Keep your eyes peeled on our social medias and website for updates.



Cold Weather, Warm Clothes

There is no denying that there is a chill in the air with frosty mornings becoming more regular. Please ensure that your child(ren) are coming in with layers to put on top of their uniform during break times like hats and gloves. Particularly, while we know not all of our pupils are the most co-operative when it comes to wearing coats if they have them in school we can encourage them to put them on!



Also with the need for good ventilation to help reduce the spread of germs, we understand that sometimes the classrooms can be a bit chilly. If your child(ren) would like to, they are welcome to wear layers under their school uniform to keep them warm.

School Dinners

If you would like your child(ren) to enjoy school dinners this term, and you have not already done so, please ensure you order their meals on ParentPay. As usual, the deadline for booking is **midnight of Wednesday the week before**. If you have any problems placing meal choices, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.



Breakfast and After School Clubs

Both schools have great interactive wrap around care facilities available each day after school, term time only. Breakfast club runs from 8am until the start of the day while after school club runs from the end of the school day until 4.15pm. To book any wrap around sessions please use ParentPay or contact the school office.

Please note that breakfast club does not provide food however we are happy for pupils to eat meals provided by parents.

Facebook

This is a reminder that both schools have recently started new Facebook pages! We are planning to phase out the old public pages by the February half term. We will be posting updates including upcoming events at the schools, children's learning, pictures of their activities and any relevant information such as the weekly newsletters. Links to the new pages are below so make sure you 'like' us!

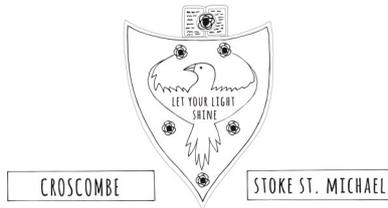


- www.facebook.com/croscombefprimary
- www.facebook.com/StokeStMichaelPrimary

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Save Your Stamps!

Mrs. Amor is collecting stamps, both new and used, to help raise money for RNIB. Over the next term we will be accepting stamps at both schools, which will then be sent to the charity, who raise £20 per kilogram of stamps received. New, old, British or foreign; they want them all! For more information on how it works, see their website: www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal



And Finally..

As 2021 drew to a close, the great advocate of decency and kindness Archbishop Desmond Tutu passed away in South Africa. He was an advocate for justice and peace and a shining example to us all. Please take a moment to reflect on the love that he demonstrated throughout his long and eventful life and to remember how powerful 'little bits of good' can be in our every day lives. *'Let your light shine'*.

We wish you a happy start to the new year and upcoming term!

Mel Vincent & Bill Moore
 Co-Head Teachers



Dates for the Diary

Stoke St Michael		Croscombe	
Tuesday 11th January	Celebration Assemblies at 2.45pm in the school hall. Parents to be invited once re-	Monday 10th January	Tiddlers starts again. Every Monday, term time only. 10-11.30 am
Thursday 13th January - 17th February	Year 5 & 6 Forest School!	Friday 14th January - Friday 18th February	Year 3 & 4 start Forest School!
Saturday 15th January	Primary School Application Deadline	Friday 14th January	Celebration Assemblies at 2.45pm in the school hall. Parents to be invited once restrictions are lifted!
Monday 17th January	Jane Taylor Composition Workshops	Saturday 15th January	Primary School Application Deadline
Monday 31st January	Jane Taylor Composition Work-	Monday 17th January	Jane Taylor Composition Work-
Tuesday 1st February	Chinese New Year Day	Monday 31st January	Jane Taylor Composition Work-
Friday 18th February	Last day before half term!	Tuesday 1st February	Chinese New Year Day
Monday 28th February	Start of the new half term!	Friday 18th February	Last day before half term!
		Monday 28th February	Start of the new half term!

Dates for the Diary: Please note that we will do everything we can to ensure that the dates above are correct however, with rising cases of COVID-19 in our area, they may be subject to change. Thank you for your understanding.



Let Your Light Shine

