



Stone Church of England Combined Primary School

Newsletter

4th September 2023

Headteachers' Message

Welcome back to the new academic year. We hope you had a wonderful holiday and the children are looking forward to coming back tomorrow - 5th September.

We are very excited to see them all and have spent the last few days completing annual safeguarding training and getting ready for the new academic year.

With recent news, we wanted to reassure parents that we have been told by the local authority that we do not have any Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in any part of our school.

School gates will open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am (Pick up at 3.15pm). You will get to meet our new caretaker Mr Bianca on the gate, who has been working over the Summer to make our school look spick and span as well as fixing all the planters in the Peace Garden, building new sandpits and working on projects on the playgrounds. Make sure you say a big hello to him when you see him.

We want to thank AVS Fencing at Hartwell for donating all the wood and sleepers that Mr Bianca has used to fix the Peace Garden and sandpit in the EYFS area.

Over the Summer, the EYFS team have been working incredibly hard to revamp the EYFS playgrounds and it looks fantastic. Mr and Mrs Sim (parents who run Simple Finds) have worked with us to provide an amazing new construction area, wooden skip, water trays and a whole array of mud kitchens. We want to thank the EYFS team and Mr and Mrs Sim for all their hard work over the Summer to bring the project together before the new school year. We look forward to the children playing with the new equipment. Year 1 will still have access to this space as well and we will organise a time for other year levels to come and see and experience the new equipment. Please find photos below of the new equipment.

Mrs S Hale and Mrs B Jones

Upcoming Dates

Autumn Term:
Tuesday 5th September 2023
to Tuesday 19th December
2023

Half Term Monday 23rd
October to Friday 27th
October 2023

- 12th and 14th September - 11+ Transfer Test - Year 6
- 13th September - Meet the Teacher - 3.30pm (Information below)
- 14th September - Year 5 Swimming begins
- 21st September - School Photos

EYFS 2024 School Tour

Do you have a child starting school in September 2024 or know someone whose child is and they are considering Stone?

We have 4 tour dates to come and look around the school for prospectus parents.

EYFS 2024 Intake Tour Dates:

- 19th September 10am
- 28th September 10am
- 3rd October - 10am
- 13th October - 10am

Call the office to book a space on one of the tours: 01296 748 340



ATTENDANCE

Our school gates open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am. Please ensure your child arrives promptly to school.

The register closes after 9am. If your child arrives after 9am they will be considered absent for the morning session on their attendance records.

We are aiming for every child to have an attendance rate of 95%+ and we will be following our attendance policy closely if children drop below the 90% threshold each half term.

We will not be rewarding 100% attendance certificates this year as we understand children are unwell over the course of the year but children should be at school if they are fit and healthy to attend.



COMMUNICATION

Last term, we asked parents how often they would like our newsletters and using the feedback we received - we have decided that this year we will be sending newsletters out fortnightly. The newsletters will still celebrate student achievements from the past 2 weeks and provide lots of updates for the families to enjoy.

We will aim to use our newsletters as our main communication method but we will also need to send additional Parentmails when needed or for class specific information.

We really do urge you to read the newsletter regularly to avoid sending lots of Parentmails or your child missing key events.



HEADTEACHERS' WORKING DAYS

Mrs S Hale will be working Monday to Wednesday and Mrs B Jones will be working Wednesday to Friday. We will be working closely to ensure a smooth transition each week.

Mrs S Hale

Mrs B Jones



MEET THE TEACHER

Please come and drop in and meet your child's new teacher between 3.30pm and 5pm on Wednesday 13th September in their classroom. The teacher will provide you with a PowerPoint of key information about Curriculum expectations, homework and more class specific information ahead of the 13th September so you can ask them any questions you may have during the 'Meet the Teacher' session.

If you have any questions for the teacher during the year, you can access them through:

For urgent messages:

- Calling/emailing the office
- Passing a message to a member of leadership on the playground each morning

For non urgent/occasional messages (Please note this email may not be checked daily)

- Emailing the class email, which is Classr@stone.bucks.sch.uk. Replace the 'r' with your child's class.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

At Stone CE School, the health, safety and well-being of every child is our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time in this school. We want to work in partnership with parents to help all children achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the school community. All our staff and regular volunteers who work with children are DBS checked. On rare occasions, our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you.

The procedures, which we follow, have been laid down by the Buckinghamshire Area Child Protection Committee, and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all. Furthermore, the school has a strict code of conduct as well as a confidentiality policy for all staff and parent volunteers.

Our Safeguarding Leads are:

- Sarah Hale and Bethan Jones- Co- Headteachers - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Assunta Loxley - Business Manager - Additional Safeguarding Lead
- Rosie Seivwright - Deputy Headteacher -Additional Safeguarding Lead
- Talisha Craib - Pastoral Leader - Additional Safeguarding Lead



BULLYING AND BEHAVIOUR

We aim to establish and sustain high expectations of behaviour for all pupils, built upon relationships, rules and routines. We never tolerate bullying. Therefore, if you have any concerns that your child is being bullied, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance who will carry out a bullying investigation.

If, following the outcome of this, your child is still reporting concerns, please contact Mrs Seivwright who manages behaviour and discipline.



DO YOU HAVE?

Do you have any scooters, garden vehicles (such as little tike cars) or helmets (ages 3/4-6) that your children have grown out of and are happy to donate to the school to boost our EYFS vehicle provision?

We are also in need of some waterproof trousers or all in one/waterproof puddle suits, that would fit Reception aged children.

If you do please contact: classr@stone.bucks.sch.uk



WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT STONE?

We are currently hiring for a Teaching Assistant position at school - starting with immediate effect. Are you interested or do you know anyone who is interested in a role like this?

Please contact the school office and speak to Mrs Loxley for more information.

MOBILES AND SMART WATCHES



Please take note of the information from our behaviour policy regarding mobile phones.

Please also note that children should not wear smart watches to school.

6.1 Mobile phones

- Mobile phones are not allowed in school with the following exception
- Pupils in Year 5 and 6 who walk to/from school alone may bring a phone to school
- Parents should inform the school in writing if their child is bringing their mobile phone to school and the reason for this.
- Mobile phones must be turned off before coming into the school building.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in the classroom and should be deposited in the school office, by the child, before the child goes to the classroom.
- The child should collect their mobile after they have been dismissed and not return to the classroom
- The mobile phone must be named or in a named bag
- Any phone not handed in will be confiscated and the parents will need to collect it.

Further information regarding the use of mobile phones can be found in our Social Media and Use of Mobile Phones and Digital Photography Policy which can be found on the Stone School Website here:

<https://www.stone.bucks.sch.uk/information/policies>

Children in Year 5 and 6, who have a phone, need to enter through the main school gate and then through the side gate to access the office. A child should not be in school with their phone.

New Equipment In EYFS Playground



Above you can see a suite of purpose built mud kitchens, including a wooden pizza oven and campfire.

This area has been completely cleared out and has been replaced with bark and a sleeper border.

Below, you can see images of the new reading area and tables for a range of activities.



Above you can see the new construction area with construction storage and skip!

Below you can see the revamped sandpit with water trays, balance scales and piping to let our EYFS children explore.





To the left, all the planters in the peace garden have been rebuilt ready for lots of planting and growing this year.