

Stone Church of England Combined Primary School

Newsletter

15th September 2023

Headteachers' Message

Dear Parents,

Firstly, it has been an absolute delight to see the children settle into their new classes and immerse themselves in their learning. They have embraced their new routines and have already begun to demonstrate excellent learning behaviours. As part of our focus on school vision and values, I encourage you to engage with your children by asking the following questions:

- What are the three school rules? (Hint: Be....., Be....., Be.....)
- What does sitting like a STAR mean and look like?
- What is our school vision?
- What are the school values? (Hint: 2Rs, 2Cs and HP Sauce)

Please take a moment to read the newsletter in its entirety as it contains valuable information, as well as exciting updates regarding our Trip Planner and Story Time Journey.

Additionally, we have provided a calendar of upcoming events and activities which you can add to your diaries for future reference. We will confirm specific timings closer to the dates to ensure that you and your children are well-prepared.

Lastly, I would like to express our gratitude to the PTA and the generous donations from parents last year. Thanks to your support, we have now raised enough funds to purchase a class set of Chrome Books. These will be ordered shortly and soon be available for use in the classrooms. We are excited about our next fundraising project, aiming to enhance our field and playground. While we do not want to give too much away just yet, we are confident that it will significantly improve our children's experiences during playtime.

Thank you for your continued support. We value your partnership in your children's education, and together, we will make this academic year a resounding success.

Mrs Sarah Hale and Mrs B Jones

Upcoming Dates:

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

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

- Thursday 21st September - Individual and sibling photos
- Monday 25th September - Year R Enterprise Week starts

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

CLASS NEWS



CLASS R

We are so proud of how all the Reception children have settled into school life, and what a busy first few weeks it has been! The children have been superstars when learning the classroom rules and routines. They have been exploring all of the different areas on offer and making full use of our newly refurbished and beautiful outside area! There has been flower arranging, ice-cream making, tower building and mud cupcake baking – it really has been a busy time.

As well as this, the children have been practising how to sit like a star, how to help at tidy up time and earning many gems for our class jar as part of our reward system. We have explored the stories, 'Have You Filled A Bucket Today?', 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and this week we listened and responded to 'The Good Samaritan' which we will explore further next week. There has been lots for our youngest members of the school to get used to and they have done so well. We are really looking forward to the year ahead



CLASS 1

Year 1 picked their class tree this week. This is the tree that we will be observing through every season this year. From extensive leaf identification software it has been identified as a Hornbeam but if anyone knows different then please do let class 1 know.

CLASS 5

This week in Class 5, we've started exploring our new Geography topic - Breathtaking Brazil! We used atlases to find out more about Brazil and its geographical features. We have also spent a lot of time thinking about and exploring our school vision and values. We are just settling into our routines, while helping Mrs Masters to settle in too! In Maths we have started looking at place value, specifically numbers to 10,000, 100,000 and 1,000,000. In science we've started to explore forces, we have developed lots of interesting questions about forces as a class already - which is amazing!

CLASS NEWS



CLASS 4



Class 4 have had a fantastic first official week back at school, getting stuck into all our curriculum topics and growing our brains each day. I have been so impressed with their hard working attitudes and passion for learning. A highlight this week was exploring how computer networks operate through a router. Children were tasked with sending emails across their network to their friends using the correct web addresses. The 'routers' then had to deliver these messages which was all sorts of fun! We have done lots of incredible writing this week and worked collaboratively in all subjects to build on our teamwork and empathy skills. A truly wonderful week Class 4!

BOOK DONATION



We are so grateful to Lucy Meichsner, who used to work at Stone as a teaching assistant and runs her own Usborne Books franchise. Lucy who was able to source a donation of over £900 from Cala Homes for a wide range of new books for our school as part of the Usborne Community Book Pledge.

We cannot thank Lucy and Cala Homes enough for this amazing donation. Lucy worked tirelessly to order a range of books to suit our school's needs, including books linked to the topics each class covers throughout the year to go in classes, as well as books focusing on mental health, diversity and life skills for our library.

Reading makes a huge difference to children's life prospects and by providing access to more varied, high quality literature, the children's vocabulary will be enhanced, their knowledge and understanding of the world will deepen and they are more likely to develop a life-long love of reading.

Thank you again to Lucy and Cala Homes for helping to contribute to positive futures for our children at Stone through reading.

Lucy's Usborne Book Shop can be found here:

<https://usborne.com/gb/partner/berryfieldsbooks?fs=e&s=cl>



CHILD OF THE WEEK

Week Beginning: 5/9/23

Class R :Lacie V for brilliant focus and work in the maths area this week.

Class 1: Owen W for coming to school so well.

Class 2 : Benjamin F for his wonderful work in science.

Class 3: Rudraksh K for great independent work on his safety poster.

Class 4: Theodore T for setting a fantastic example to others.

Class 5: Jace M for consistently showing kindness and respect to Mrs Masters in her first week.

Class 6: Jacob C for an excellent start to Year 6.

Week Beginning: 11/9/23

Class R :Oliver R for having an amazing memory for all he has learnt since starting school.

Class 1: Ethan for being a superstar class role model.

Class 2 : Aria P for taking care of her friends and making good choices in tidy up time.

Class 3: Aurelia S for her wonderful enthusiasm and sharing her ideas in English.

Class 4: Madilyn W for having a super week full of trying hard, showing effort and feeling proud.

Class 5: Georgia B for sitting like a star and working so hard.

Class 6: Tilly H for settling in really well and being super-positive towards learning.



STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS

Week beginning: 5/9/23

Community :Olly Y(Class R) for being such a happy and enthusiastic member of your community this week.

Christian B (Class 4) for making a real effort to engage in class.

Perseverance: Quinn T (Class 1) for perseverance with tasks.

Respect: Rayan K (Class 2) for treating others with respect and being kind.

Karen B (Class 3) for showing great respect in her first week at Stone School.

Responsibility: Sienna C (Class 5) for thinking so deeply about all of our values in PHSE this week.

Holly M (Class 6) for focusing on her work and earning her class a pearl.

Week beginning: 11/9/23

Perseverance:

Teddy C (Class 4) for working his brain hard in writing and striving to be independent.

Harry E (Class 3) for overcoming his worried in PE and giving his best effort.

Rosie G (Class R) for always making such an effort to answer questions on the carpet.

Imogen B (Class 6) for leaping out of the "dip" with a very positive attitude.

Community:

Finley M (Class 1) for sharing our value of love.

Lily (Class 5) for being such a kind, thoughtful member of class.

Responsibility:

Peyton for taking responsibility and trying her best in her work.



KINDNESS AWARD

The following children were nominated for their acts of kindness last week and this week. They all had hot chocolate with Mrs B Jones

Week beginning: 5/9/23

Molly L - Class R, for helping the teacher tidy up without being asked, Mollie T - Class 1, for helping others, Lily S - Class 2, for sharing her sunglasses, Alex - Class 3, for saying thank you for using the EYFS playground, Olly H and Amelia C - Class 4, for welcoming 2 new members of our class with warmth and friendship, Trent D - Class 5, for showing kindness to a new pupil asking him if he was ok, and Jacob T - Class 6, for cheering up a classmate when they were upset.

Week beginning: 11/9/23

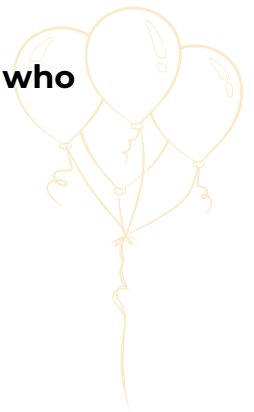
Jonah E - Class R, for inviting others to join his games, Freya D - Class 1, for being kind to a friend that was upset, Leah V - Class 2, for being a kind friend, Lillie B - Class 3, for playing with a classmate, Oscar K - Class 4, for apologising to his friend when he got angry, Leo W - Class 5, for making his friend laugh and Thomas F - Class 6, for helping a friend.



BIRTHDAYS

A very happy birthday to the following children who have had a birthday in the last 2 weeks:

Class R: Aleena B and Connie U
Class 1: Darcy C
Class 2: Reina P
Class 3: No birthdays
Class 4: Darcie P and Maxwell S
Class 5: Freya C-B and Grace C-B
Class 6: Thomas F and Kenuli W



ATTENDANCE

Going to school regularly is very important as it will help your child to: Develop social skills and confidence by making friends and socialising. Prepare for adult life by getting used to a routine. Get better results and so improve his or her chances in life.

**Whole school attendance
Week 1**

98.8%

**Whole school attendance
Week 2**

97.1%



HOUSEPOINTS

Children earn house points for showing the school values:
Please find the current totals below:

1st: Green House/St Patricks = 240 points
2nd: Blue House/St Andrews = 225 points
3rd: Yellow House/St Davids = 209 points
4th: Red House/St Georges = 107 points

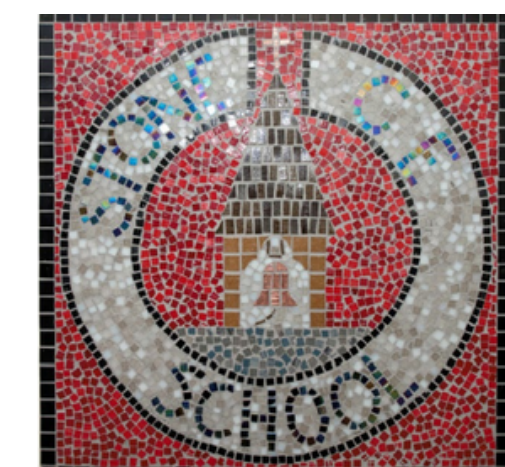
The winning House at the end of term gets extra playtime on the last day of each half term.



STORY TIME JOURNEY

Our aim is to provide our students with reading opportunities from a wide range of authors, text types, traditional stories, stories from different cultures and diverse and inclusive texts. During Story Time, children will have the opportunity to enjoy at least 15 minutes of the teacher reading to them at least 4 x a week, in addition to their regular Reading and Writing lessons.

We have carefully mapped out the texts that each year read. We have attached a copy to the Parentmail.



TRIP PLANNER

We have carefully planned out the educational visits for each year level to ensure they are not only enjoyable for the children, but also align with the curriculum and show progression across the year levels. By linking the visits to the curriculum, we aim to provide practical, real-life experiences that reinforce classroom learning and deepen understanding.

We have attached the whole school plan for the upcoming educational visits.

While we strive to maintain consistency in the visits each year, it is important to note that there may be some changes compared to what your children experienced last year. Rising costs and changes in providers occasionally necessitate adjustments to our plans.

We believe that these educational visits play a vital role in broadening our students' horizons and providing memorable learning experiences. They expose our children to new environments, different cultures, and diverse perspectives, enhancing their understanding of the world around them



NAMING ALL BELONGINGS

If you haven't already, please ensure all your children's items are clearly labelled with their name and class. This will help us return any lost items.

Last year, we had a huge amount of lost property left at the end of the year, which was never claimed and we therefore donated.



WALKERS FOR HARVEST

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help walk the children to the church for our Harvest service on Wednesday 4th October.

We are still in need of more parent helpers - if you are able to help please email class1@stone.bucks.sch.uk.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

My name is Miss Anderson and I am thrilled to be back at Stone! I am the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO) and my role is to oversee and manage the provision for children with additional needs at the school and to support the teachers with this. I work Monday-Wednesday and hopefully will be working in all of the classes at some point during the year.

For anyone who does not know me, I previously worked here at Stone for 6 years before I took a year out to try something different. I worked across all the year groups, from Reception to Year 6, during my time here and therefore know a lot of the children and parents of the school well, and I was also the SENDCO when I first started. Before working at Stone I spent 10 years working in schools in Milton Keynes. I taught across all the primary year groups and held a number of senior leadership positions.

Outside of school I live with my partner, our 2 young children and our 2 dogs who all keep me very busy! I had both my children during my time working at Stone - my eldest has just started Year 1 and my youngest has just started preschool. I'm not sure where the time has gone!

I will usually be on the playground on a Monday morning so please feel free to come and introduce yourself to me if we haven't met and to come and say hello and catch up if we have! I'm looking forward to a great year ahead.

READING RECOMMENDATION

Welcome to another school year! As well as beginning a new year, some of our school community are starting a brand new school. As well as our new Reception class, we have new starters in other year groups, and this can be both very exciting and, at times, a little challenging!

This week's recommendation is: Meesha Makes Friends

Meesha loves making things . . . but there's one thing she finds difficult to make - friends. She doesn't know quite what to do, what to say or when to say it. But one day she discovers that she has a special talent that might just help her navigate social situations - and maybe even make new friends. Happy Reading!



SKILLS FOR LIFE

For the past two weeks, we have been focusing on filling our own and other people's 'buckets', using the story 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' by Carol McCloud: <https://youtu.be/JEg38zCOMgk?feature=shared>

We have talked about ways in which we can be 'bucket fillers' rather than 'bucket dippers' as well as how we can make ourselves feel good and fill our own buckets. We spoke about the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and how using these on a daily basis can help us feel good and keep our buckets as full as possible: <https://youtu.be/yF7Ou43Vj6c?si=yFYVYZu2oQw0GqTj>

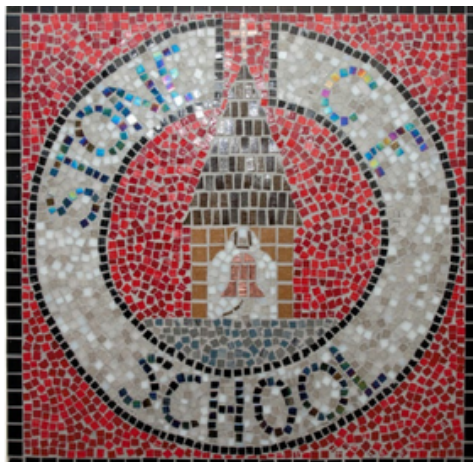
SPOTLIGHT ON INCLUSION

We are an inclusive school and our aim is for every child to feel positive about themselves and a part of our community. We strive for every child to reach 'their star' - their potential. Each week, we will be including information about different areas of inclusion.

This week, we are including information about how parents can support children's emotions using the Zones of Regulation. This is a really interesting read which explains some of the language that we use in school around emotions and self-regulation. This can be a really powerful way to encourage children to recognise and regulate their emotions.

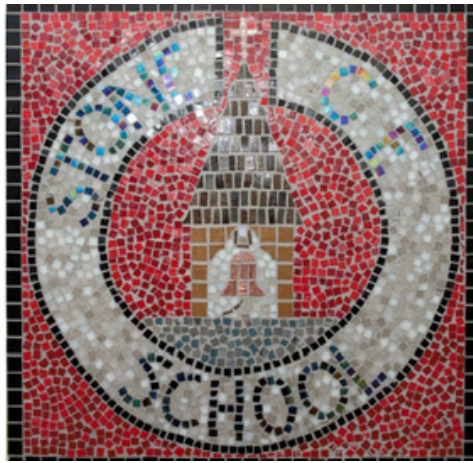
<https://hes-extraordinary.com/the-zones-of-regulation>





WELLIES

As the seasons change, we invite all children to have a clearly named pair of wellies in school. We aim to use our field all year round for playtimes and have welly racks for each class to store their wellies on. When we have more wet weather and the field becomes muddy, only children with wellies to change into will be allowed to use the field at playtimes to protect their school shoes and to avoid the inside of the school becoming muddy/slippery. We are mindful of the fact that the cost of living has increased so you are welcome to keep their home wellies in their bag each day so that they move between school and home. Please speak to us if you need extra support or if you have wellies you would be happy to donate for other children to use.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Our Safeguarding Leads are:

- Sarah Hale and Bethan Jones- Co- Headteachers - Designated Safeguarding Leads
- 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.