



# Stogursey C of E Primary & Pre-School

Tower Hill, Stogursey, Somerset TA5 1PR

Tel: 01278 732389

www.stogurseyprimaryschool.co.uk

Head Teacher – Mr G Tucker, BA (Hons) NPQH



## Weekly Newsletter No 53

19.01.2024

Dear parents/ carers

What a wonderful week with so much excellent learning happening in school. In this week's edition, we have a new feature in which we will get updates on the exciting enrichment opportunities on offer in our school. Enrichment is such an important aspect of education and help to shape well-rounded individuals for the future. Some exciting new clubs that have started include:

Homework Club  
Debating Society  
Board Games Club  
Communication Team and Action Teams

Shortly, the Communication Team will be deciding which child-led club will get to form for the rest of this half term before choosing two more for the following half term. All very exciting!

Kind Regards

Gary Tucker  
Headteacher

### Beacon

We've had a fantastic week of learning this week! One of our most enjoyable moments was using silk fabric in dance to create abstract movements which we incorporated into a sequence of moves. In our sequences, we included circular movements such as spins and twists, varied the height and speed at which we moved and listened to the beat of a range of music to ensure we were all moving in synchronization.

In English, we are thoroughly enjoying getting our teeth into the text 'Wolf Brother'. At the moment, we are learning about the interesting vocabulary used in the story (in both wolf and human language!) as well as refining our SPAG skills by repeated practice of applying relative clauses, compound and complex sentences and cohesive devices in our writing. We have been deepening our understanding of the story by getting into character; writing diary entries explaining our thoughts, feelings and actions.

In Maths, Year 6s have continued their journey into the world of Algebra! This week, we have focussed on the difference between expressions, formulae and calculations so make sure you ask us about it! Another thing to ask about is order of operations! Year 6 can outwit anyone with their BIDMAS knowledge now! Year 5s have been concluding their learning on decimals.

Please take a moment to look at our wonderful dance moves in the images provided! We look forward to updating you about all of our new learning next week!



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## Alfoxton

This week we have finished our William Morris art topic and the final pieces of work will shortly be on display. The children are very proud of the work they have achieved and are looking forward to the next topic which will involve sculpture. In English the class have been learning the model text based around the book 'Varjak Paw'. They have enjoyed creating the movements that go along with the text to help them remember it. In Science we have looked at diet and the food pyramid. The class have built their own food pyramid and learned why it is important to have a balanced diet. In History, the class have researched the similarities and differences between the rich and poor in the Victorian era. This included looking into the family home, work and school.

## Triscombe

In English, Triscombe Class are enjoying reading *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. This week, we have learned about how Floella and her brothers and sister travelled from Trinidad to England by ship, without any parents. The children have written postcards from the perspective of Floella, to her mother, describing what it was like on the ship.

The children have continued learning about Trinidad in their topic work. We found out about the weather and seasons in Trinidad, and compared them to the weather in the UK. We agreed that the winter would be a nice time to visit the Caribbean. We have continued this theme to learn some Caribbean songs. The children really enjoyed learning to sing and perform actions to Bo Calinda, a song from Trinidad which is similar to the Hokey Cokey.

## Adventurers

In Adventurers this week, Triscombe have continued the Italian theme and made fresh pasta with a tomato and vegetable sauce. They practised their chopping skills and cooked on the hob. Hopefully these are valuable skills that you can encourage and practise at home.

In Beacon, the children did Computing and French. Alfoxton are building bridges from kits prepared by Miss DH before she left. They are a real challenge so the children had to problem solve as a team to get them completed. We have lost some of our adult helpers recently due to work pressures. If you can spare two hours on a Monday afternoon we would love to see you, even if you can't do every week. The children really benefit from adult guidance as they are learning these life skills and Adventurers does not work without support. If you would like to help, please let Miss Dunwood or Mrs Nicholls know.



## Preschool

It has been lovely getting to know you and your children over the last few weeks. The children have settled back into preschool life really well. Tapestry is now up and running again, you will receive weekly updates for your child - so you can see how they are learning and developing at the preschool. We will be concentrating this half term on our listening and attention, playing lots of listening games and enjoying listening walks in and around the school and village. If you see us out and about - please give us a wave!

If your child is going to be absent from preschool - could we remind you to please either phone the preschool - the number is at the top of the newsletter or email- [preschool@stogursey-qet.co.uk](mailto:preschool@stogursey-qet.co.uk) and not to message staff over Facebook. Also, if you need to talk about any aspect of the preschool, please feel free to pop in to see me, either at the beginning or end of the day.

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## Football Club

The Football Club will resume for Year 3, 4 and 5 next half term. We have 3 schools now interested in a home and an away match each. More details will follow but we will be holding try-outs during school time towards the end of this half term and more information will be shared directly with the children. We have the first two fixtures arranged against St Mary's in Bridgwater with two other schools awaiting confirmation. This is another example of the exciting enrichment our school offers. As these fixtures are after school, we will be relying on parents to transport children to the venues and so any offers of help would be appreciated. The first fixtures are in April so information will come out well before then. Any questions please speak to Mr Tucker.



## ENRICHMENT

Children have really enjoyed taking part in these activities this week and so here are some comments on them:

### Debating Society

"I really liked it. We debated different topics such as Should 10-year-old have phones and Are cats better than dogs? I really enjoyed that." Casey

### Board Games Club

"I liked playing these new games that I'd never played before. The emoji game and the colour game I enjoyed" Eugene

"It was really good and I loved playing games with other people." Max

## FOSS

Our current group of parents who coordinate this are stepping down in March and so we have a group of willing volunteers looking to be led by another group of parents and community members. As a minimum, the AGM will need to elect a chair, secretary and a treasurer. I thank the current group for their hard work and efforts for what they have done, building on what the previous group achieved prior to the pandemic and raising a lot of money towards the redevelopment of our playground (work to start shortly). If you are interested in stepping into this very rewarding role and raising money for the school, please get in touch with either Mrs Nicholls at the office or Mr Tucker directly. Even to find out what it involves, please come forward. It would be lovely to continue this amazing legacy.



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## Wassail Queen

Congratulations to Ellie on being crowned this year's Wassail Queen. Wassailing is a tradition dating back hundreds of years. The word is derived from old English 'Was-Hael' meaning Good health. Wassail celebrations traditionally take place on 12<sup>th</sup> night (Epiphany) mainly to encourage the trees to prosper but also to look forward to the longer days and hopefully warmer weather. This has become a tradition in Somerset with special features. These include the Wassail Queen, mulled cider, 'watering' the trees with cider, a loud bang (usually from a shotgun), a cacophony, songs, dancing, Morris dancers, and cider-soaked toast put amongst the twigs of the trees. This seems rather bizarre but actually makes ecological sense. Birds attracted by this treat perch, and are able to feed on insects benefitting both the tree and themselves.



## Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in Save the Children's, Christmas Jumper Day back in December. We raised an impressive £49.40, thank you to everyone's kind donations.



Please do share important information about things happening outside of school. This helps in planning any support and making any adjustments your child might need to succeed with learning. Your first port of call would be your child's class teacher. Many thanks.

## Yeo Valley

We would like to say a massive thank you to Yeo Valley, for their generous donation of yoghurt pouches. These have gone down a treat with our preschool and breakfast club children.

## Important Dates

Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February:	Last day of term
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> February:	Half Term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February:	First day back
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March:	Inset day
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March:	Vision Screening (Reception only)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March:	School Nurse (Height/Weight Reception and Year 6 only)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March:	Last day of term
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March:	Bank Holiday
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April:	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April-Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April:	Half Term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April:	First day back

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