



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 56

09.02.2024

Dear parents/ carers,

As this half term closes and we start our week's break, I'd like to thank you for your support of our small, rural village school and the contributions you make towards it. I am in a reflective mood and so it is always good to point out some of the highlights about this half term just gone:

- We welcomed new staff members, Julie in Pre-school, Mrs Gentile in Triscombe and seeing the positive impact they are making already in their classes.
- The exciting developments in the pre-school. I've even been in helping our youngest learners in running a role play doctor's surgery, reading Billy Goats Gruff, singing and other exciting learning!
- Seeing our Stogursey Blueprint for improvement happening and making a difference already!
- Seeing how self-perceptions of groups of children are changing for the better in year groups where we have switched to the new Maths schemes and Mastering Number.
- The recent increase in enrichment and the uptake in these activities with 81% of children choosing to do this. Wow! When we started this a few years ago, we had an uptake rate of 25% so this is huge improvement.
- The overwhelmingly positive parent survey showing that parents really appreciate the step-change in our ambitions to ensure all children are ready for their next stage of education.
- Improved behaviour this term on the playground with the new rotas in place for activities.
- I wish you a restful week's break and see you when we are back.

Kind Regards

Gary Tucker
Headteacher

Beacon

English

This week in English we have been continuing our work on non-chronological reports. We have learned about first second- and third-person perspectives when writing. We converted a piece of text about Stone Age weapons from the first person to the third person perspective very effectively! We've used this piece of writing for our reports (which are looking rather impressive).

In Year 5 Maths we have just finished our unit on area and perimeter (so we can measure shapes and rooms etc with accuracy now). In Year 6, we are working on fractions, decimals and percentages. We are quite good at finding fractions, decimal and percentage equivalence.

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We are still working on our demonic bears from the Wolf Brother text. These have been sculpted from clay using techniques inspired by our focus artist, Henry Moore. We have started painting them but have not quite finished all the details yet so we will have them varnished and displayed once this is complete.

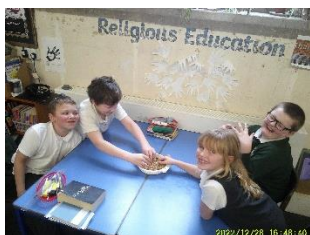
We've used the text, A Street Through Time, to think about what evidence may be left behind from the Stone Age period. We thought about what evidence might remain after all these years and what might have decayed by now.

Music Festival Notice

Miss Day would like to add that all children who have returned their forms have secured a place for the festival which takes place in the Summer Term. A letter will follow in the second half of the spring term providing more details about rehearsal times for this festival. There are still some spaces available if your child would like to take part in the festival.

Alfoxton

This week we have been very busy finishing off all our work before the half term break. We are planning and writing the next chapter of narrative in English. For this we are using, among other grammatical features, speech marks, fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. In Science, we have been learning about the digestive system and will be completing a task called 'First chew to poo' which involves using equipment to simulate what happens to our food as we digest it. We have concluded our work about the Victorians and the poor laws. The children have enjoyed researching about work houses and have discovered that it was not a very nice place to have to go to and the days and work were long and hard. The children have worked hard this term and are looking forward to a well-deserved break.



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Triscombe

This week, Triscombe Class have been busy completing assessment tasks in Phonics, writing and wellbeing in preparation for the Summer Term. They have also made cards for Rosh Hashanah as the Jewish New Year has been explored. The children have also tasted bread and apple dipped in honey with pomegranate. In Science, the children have learned about gravity.



Preschool

This week we have been learning about Chinese New Year- the year of the dragon. We have watched an animated story about how the zodiac signs of the Chinese calendar were decided, coloured in some Chinese dragons, did a fine motor activity with dragon pictures and buttons and tried some Chinese food.

We have also introduced 'Dough disco' into our daily routine to help with our fine motor muscles, which in turn will help with our pencil and scissor control.

After half term, we will be introducing new registers to the preschool, so you will be signing your child in and out of our care each day they attend.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term break!



ENRICHMENT

Debating Society this week

Madam Speaker India held a formal debate "This house believes that the last day of term, there should be no lessons." Also, Madam Speaker Jasmine allowed honorable members of the debating society to debate Alfie's motion, "All children from the age of 5 should be able to drive a normal-sized car."

Members were passionate arguing either for or against the motions with highlights such as,

"How would you reach the pedals?"

"The honorable lady mentioned that children cannot be trusted to drive sensibly on the roads, but there are some adults that also cannot be trusted to drive sensibly!"

Some good points were made and one debate ended up in a draw and the other a clear win. You will have to ask the debating society what happened next. They also learned about the casting vote being made in the event of a draw. Why not ask them about that?

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Parents Evening

Our parents evening will be held on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th February. We will be having our booking in boards available for parents to book in, on Monday 19th February. If you would like to book in an appointment but are unable to pop in, please call Mrs Nicholls and she will book this in for you.

Important Dates

Friday 9 th February:	Last day of term
Monday 12 th -16 th February:	Half Term
Monday 19 th February:	First day back
Thursday 7 th March:	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March:	Inset day
Wednesday 13 th March:	Vision Screening (Reception only)
Friday 15 th March:	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20 th March:	School Nurse (Height/Weight Reception and Year 6 only)
Thursday 29 th March:	Last day of term
Friday 29 th March:	Bank Holiday
Monday 1 st April:	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd April-Friday 12 th April:	Half Term
Monday 15 th April:	First day back

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