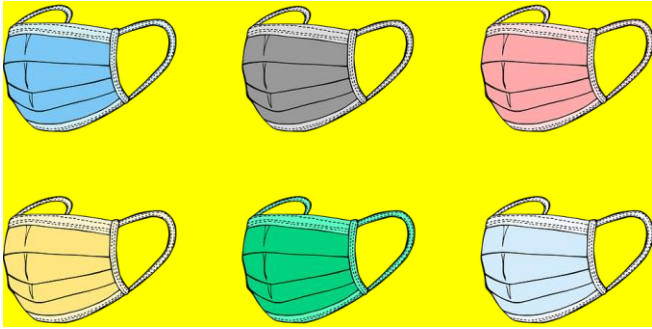


# STOGURSEY SCHOOL NEWS

February 2022



Well, January seems to have been as odd as ever! The school has experienced its first use of the outbreak management plan as the school went from green to amber and then back to green due to a rise and fall in COVID cases. Staff and children were affected and made keeping the school open for education very challenging indeed.

I have returned following a period of absence prior to this following a family emergency. I'd like to thank the staff, children, parents, governors and trust staff for keeping the school going in my absence. We have such a great team and community that despite me being absent and then children and staff being off, the school was able to continue operating. I'd like to make a special mention to the teachers, teaching assistants, Mrs Nicholls and the site staff who brilliantly stepped in to ensure the school kept going. A special mention has to go to Miss Day and Miss Dunwood who took the lead running the school on a daily basis. You are superstars!

Times like this reminds us of what a fantastic school we truly are. It shows that we are still not out of this pandemic and the recovery is going to take quite some time. With that in mind, in this newsletter, we detail what our plans are for the recovery and what this looks like in terms of

things like tutoring, after school clubs and the extra funding this all brings.

Parents recently asked about the Happiness Clubs and why some families pay and others get free places. Please read on to the section about our priorities where I outline why this is the case. I totally understand that this might seem a little unfair but I outline our thinking on this and why this provision is instrumental in our recovery from this awful pandemic.

As always, I am out on gate duty most days if you want to stop for a chat or feel free to schedule an appointment through the school office if a longer chat is needed. Please do get involved in the life of the school. There's something for everyone to play their part in this exciting chapter in Stogursey School's history.

Mr Tucker

## REMAINING INSETS

These are listed below:

- Friday 18th February 2022
- Friday 22nd July 2022
- Monday 25th July 2022
- Tuesday 26th July 2022

## OUR PRIORITIES IN FOCUS- COVID PANDEMIC RECOVERY/ HAPPINESS CLUBS



Each month, we will look at one of the 4 priorities for this year to show what we are working on. The pandemic has certainly harmed children's progress across the whole country as well as affecting

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wellbeing and experiences. Our school is recovering but was definitely affected.

Our new Happiness Clubs are a huge part of the recovery. We have attracted new funding to enable discounts and, in some cases, free places. Funding is often bound by strict conditions of usage and so we have to abide by these rules. Mr Tucker is always on the lookout for new sources of funding and is working with West Somerset Opportunity Area to find ways of keeping this provision in school and at a low rate. Compared to other schools, it currently is significantly cheaper so represents excellent value for money.

We set up free places on a temporary basis using new funding streams to pay for this. Going forwards, depending on successful funding bids, this will increasingly rely on parental contributions to keep going but we endeavour to find ways of funding it.

Our thinking is that in order to recover from the pandemic we should remove financial barriers for families where they exist. Examples have included:

- Discounts for families in receipt of Pupil Premium
- A healthy meal with physical activity for those catch-up tutoring (temporary funding for 2021/22)
- Team bonding over food for sports teams representing the school, learning about camaraderie, teamwork and the emotions of winning and losing
- Focused offers of places/ discounted places for those children who are struggling to return following the lockdowns.

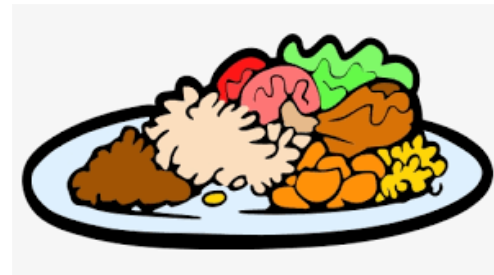
This is the ethos of the Holiday Activities with Food Programme which kick-started this whole process and fortunately we are able to offer totally free places for that. If we could offer totally free places for our wraparound care then we would! Who knows what funding we might find next?! If you are paying on normal Happiness Clubs, then we thank you with all

our hearts. You are investing in the future and this will help us so much!

## World Book Day

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we are celebrating World Book Day and this year it's their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary so we are asking everyone to come dressed up as their favourite book character and bring in their favourite book. There will be more information on letters which will follow shortly.

## School Meals



Some exciting news we can now share with you all, from the 7<sup>th</sup> March all our hot school meals will now be available to order via an app. A link will be sent to all parents the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February for you all to order your child's food ready and in time for our first week live on 7<sup>th</sup> March! We have sent menus home this week so all parents can pick their child's meal for the first week back after half term (28<sup>th</sup> February). Please note that once this app is live and food is ordered from 7<sup>th</sup> March the only way you can order your child's food is through this app only, we intend by the Summer Term to no longer be having paper copies go home, so if you need help in changing over please see Mrs Nicholls in the office. She will gladly support you to make the switch!

Also, to add to this exciting news, as you may have seen attached to the back of your child's menu we have a special "Around the World China" meal, this is to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Tiger. This set menu will be offered instead of your child's usual meal on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like your child to have this meal please come in to reception to

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book this. As a bit of fun, we will supply chopsticks if children would like to eat their food with them and to join in a fun competition to see who has “best chopstick technique” judged by Mr Tucker so get practising! Please keep your eyes open for a special World Book Day menu on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## DIARY DATES

Newsletters will be sent out in the second week of every month. Please see the website for more information.

These are the dates for this term. We try our best not to change them but sometimes circumstances require us to.

- 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – New HSM app available to download
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - Chinese Theme day menu
- 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Inset day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Feb - Half Term
- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – First day back
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day menu
- 7<sup>th</sup> March – HSM app live!
- 8<sup>th</sup> April – End of Spring Term