

STOGURSEY SCHOOL NEWS

September 2021



Welcome back to the new Academic Year at our school. I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and are refreshed, ready to return back after what was a strange ending to our school year. Having to close the school due to various cases of COVID in each bubble was disappointing for everyone because the end of year festivities were about to take place.

It was quite upsetting for the Year 6s and the 3 members of staff who were leaving, not getting a chance to say goodbye but luckily, we had a farewell in the first week back. More on that below.

My own personal teaching commitment this year is slightly different this year as I am job-sharing with Miss May in Alfoxton class as she begins her new role as Recovery Teacher. I do ask if you wish to contact me then please catch me in the mornings each day. I should be available all day on Mondays.

With the new risk assessment in place and the success of the vaccination programme against COVID, we are hoping for a less disruptive year than the previous two and have started to work together to understand the school's new vision around 'Growth'.

We have had a steady supply of new children joining our school, obviously hearing good things about us and choosing to attend our school and our numbers are slowly picking up. Many newcomers I have spoken to have said they chose to send their children here due to word of mouth. This obviously shows the important role the community plays in expanding our school and with more children, we can offer more.

I'm looking forward to seeing trips happening once again, the launch of the Breakfast and After School

Happiness Clubs as well as the launch of the Stogursey Adventurers programme. Our school offers so much now and please keep up the excellent word of mouth as it seems to be working!

We will flesh out what 'Grow in the Grace & Knowledge' means as well as our six Christian Values as the year goes on. We are always looking for parent helpers for trips and for hearing children read. If you have time to spare, please see Miss Dunwood or class teachers or if you have a particular skill set, contact me and I will see what needs doing!

Once again, it is delightful to be back and please stay in touch. I am usually at the gate at the start of the day and with Alfoxton at the end so please don't hesitate to have a chat.

Mr Tucker

STAFF NEWS



We said goodbye to Mrs Cavill, Mrs Wall and Mrs Stark at a special service in the first week back. Presentations were made and speeches were given in recognition of the many achievements they had made in their many years of service. We wish them all the best in what they do next and they will be missed!

Mrs Alison Pear, our School Office Manager, has decided to move on in October. She has a job that works better for her family arrangements. We thank her for the radical changes she has brought to the running of the school office and it certainly is very slick and efficient. Although she has been in post for less than a year, the impact she has made has been enormous. Mrs Pear will be missed by us all and good luck in your new job! We are currently recruiting for a new office manager.

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We welcome to our school three new teaching assistants- Mrs Hannah Buller, Miss Laura Barnwell and Miss Isabelle Logan. All three TAs have settled into the Stogursey family really well and have their own experiences and expertise.

Hannah comes with experience and knowledge of special needs so children will gain from her being at the school. She will be working mainly 1:1 with a child as well as working in Triscombe class. Laura is career-switching, being one of our parents. She knows the school well and has made a great start in Alfoxton class. Isabelle is mainly working 1:1 with a child in Beacon class but also has sports coaching experience so she is offering her expertise to benefit children's health and wellbeing in both playtimes and the After-School Happiness Club. We welcome our three new TAs to Stogursey!

We welcome Miss Charley Retallick to our Happiness Clubs and as a back-fill TA. Charley has been around qualifying with us and is also a parent. She comes with lots of early years expertise and so will assist where needed mainly in Triscombe and Pre-school.

FIRST WEEK BACK

It has been so delightful to see how sensibly the children have settled back in after a very long summer holiday. The uptake on the Summer Happiness Club was high and we believe children got a lot out of this and it put them in a good position for the exciting learning that lies ahead. It has been so nice to see children playing on the climbing frame after nearly two years of it being taken away from them. Having assemblies together has been a joy and the new-look dining hall with posh table cloths and children as dining hall assistants in their blue tabards has added to an incredible sense of calm in the school.



Teachers have been working hard in class to ensure they instil good habits for working, making sure no learning time is wasted and that children are ready to learn, all wrapped up in building a safe environment to take risks and make mistakes. This is crucial for the learning that lies ahead.

YEAR 7s RETURN



We were so lucky that their new secondary schools authorised the former Year 6s to come back for a final farewell that they had missed due to the school closing. We really enjoyed seeing Amelia, Rebekah, Roman, Oakley, Connie, Abi and Kaycee receiving their leavers' gifts and have the chance to have shirts signed. We will miss them! Please stay in touch and good luck in your new schools!

REMAINING INSETS

These are listed below and please notice the addition of the extra July one that was not previously published. This is in lieu of the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- Wednesday 29th September 2021
- Friday 22nd October 2021
- Friday 18th February 2022
- Friday 22nd July 2022
- Monday 25th July 2022
- Tuesday 26th July 2022

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OUR PRIORITIES

As a small school with huge ambitions, we have to be realistic about what can be achieved over a short space of time. Our ongoing work around the vision and curriculum will continue this year with a focus on 5 key areas:

1. Working to gain the Trauma-Informed Award by providing higher quality mental health education.
2. Working on the Cognitive Science of Learning so that children remember more.
3. Beginning a new phonics and spelling scheme across the school to turn children into passionate readers!
4. Developing greater depth of learning in all subjects.
5. Ensuring Happiness Clubs meets the needs of the community.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We are still planning this and hope to have this at the church. Our provisional week for this is the week beginning 4th October. It is likely to be at the end of a day. Please keep an eye out for further announcements and to offer something that will end up going to the local Foodbank.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr Tucker for passing his National Professional Qualification for Headship. This was a great achievement to do whilst running a school in the backdrop of a global pandemic. Well done to him!

TOYS

Just a reminder that toys should not be coming into school unless agreed in advance with a teacher for educational purposes. Things like fidget toys were making an appearance at the end of term last year and unless this part of an educational plan or a teacher has asked for this to be brought in, they should not be in school. Many thanks.



ATTENDANCE

Obviously, now we are getting back to normal, attendance monitoring will continue with the help of our Attendance Officer Elaine Detain.

We noticed last year children arriving late to school after registers had closed. This automatically results in an unauthorised absence, even if your child is here! You can do your bit by making sure your child is not late to school and gets here on time before 9am, preferably.

Please don't be afraid to ask for help if your child is finding it difficult to get back into the routine of school.



PE DAYS

A measure we have continued from the pandemic is that children may come to school in a tracksuit on PE days. These days are outlined below:

All classes - Fridays
Triscombe + Year 3 - Tuesdays

COVID RISK ASSESSMENT

In short, here are our risk assessment measures:

General Operations

- ❖ School site opens at 8.45am. No children should be on the site prior to this time as there is no one to supervise.
- ❖ Triscombe enter the classroom at 8.45am, Alfoxton and Beacon wait in the area by the side gate. These two classes enter at 8.55am.

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- ❖ Distancing etc will no longer be required, as well as mask-wearing.
- ❖ Pre-school arrangements remain unchanged.
- ❖ Gates will open at 3.20pm each day and all three classes will be brought out at the side gate area.

Prevention of Transmission Measures Remaining

- Classrooms will continue to be well-ventilated and aired out after each session.
- Regular stops for handwashing.
- Staff and children may home test twice a week.
- Regular review of our risk assessment.
- Enhanced cleaning of frequently-touched surfaces daily.

We have a COVID19 outbreak plan to reinstate measures if that is what Public Health England requires us to do and if we meet certain thresholds of cases:

- 3 members of staff in close contact contracting COVID19.
- 5 children in close contact contracting COVID19.

In the event of positive cases, self-isolation for 10 days is required and a switch to remote learning (if applicable). This would have to be confirmed following a follow-up PCR test.

Close contacts are not required to self-isolate if:

- Double-jabbed
- Under 18

Contact Tracing responsibilities have now been taken away from school but if you have information on cases, please do share with Mr Tucker directly.

KILVE RESIDENTIAL- YEAR 5/6

This is happening Monday 28th February - Weds 2nd March 2022. A letter will go out about this exciting residential for Year 5/6 and we hope this gives ample time for payment. Please speak to Miss Day or Mrs Pear for further details. If you would struggle with payment, please talk to Mr Tucker as we have contingency for discounts for those families eligible.

HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENTS

There are still a number of home-school agreements outstanding. Mrs Pear has sent a new copy to those who have not returned theirs. Please can you return these signed to the office or alternatively you can consent to this via the Arbor App we have recently launched. Please can these be signed and returned by 30th September.

HAPPINESS CLUBS/ TUTORING

Tutoring will be starting up very shortly and parents will be approached about this. Sessions start at 3pm and last until 4pm. Your child is then automatically entitled to a free place in After School Club and they will get dinner. This is for the day they are doing the tutoring.

More details to follow...

CURRICULUM TOPICS

Our homework policy is to hear your child read at least 3 times a week and to record in reading logs. Year 4 upwards, it is to do TT Rockstars. The Year 4s are to start this programme of work very shortly. In addition, it would be a lovely idea to encourage and be curious about the topics your child is doing in the classroom. These are outlined below:

Triscombe - Minibeasts

Allfoxton - Theme around poverty since 1066, covering Medieval, Tudor, Stuart, Georgian and Victorian History.

Beacon - Space Race and the continents

SWIMMING

Swimming starts for years 4, 5 and 6 this week. Please can you ensure consent forms and payments are made to the school office.

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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.

Tues 15th September	Beacon Class Swimming starts
Wed 29th September	INSET DAY
Mon 18th October	Open Day 10-11 and 1.30-2.30 – For prospective reception children
Tues 19th October	Box of Delights Wellbeing Day
Fri 22nd October	INSET DAY
Mon 2nd November	Term 2 starts
Mon 16th November	Friendship Week starts
Mon 16th/Tues 17 th	Parents Evenings (Remotely)
Mon 30th November	Box of Delights Wellbeing Day
Fri 4th Dec	End of Topic Celebrations
Mon 7th Dec	Christmas topic begins
Fri 18th Dec	End of Term