

Stanhope Barrington Co E Primary School Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020



A Huge Thank You

I wanted to start our Autumn Term newsletter by saying a huge Thank You to everyone for sticking to our one way system and our Covid Risk Assessment .

This is a situation none of us have ever experienced before and it is definitely the most challenging time of my 20 year career in Education!

Despite the necessary safety measures to ensure our school is Covid secure, the entire team have worked so hard to keep the school day as 'normal' as possible for our children.

Our focus has been to welcome our children; to make them feel happy and safe; to give them positive and supportive experiences and to focus on their emotional well-being and mental health. As such, our whole school have focused on a text called Here We Are by

Oliver Jeffers.

I strongly believe that this approach has helped our children to adapt and ease back into school life.

Our team are delighted to have our children back in school and I am so proud of every single person who works for our school. They are working way over and above what can be reasonably expected of them whilst at the same time putting their own anxieties to one side for the benefit of the children.

Our Covid risk assessment has worked so effectively that we have been able to invite our music teachers (Miss Millar—Violin and Miss Casewell—Brass) back into school and week commencing 21st September 2020, we welcomed Josh Ridley—Sports Coach back to delivering PE lessons. Again, this helps us to structure the school day in a way the children are used to and therefore things are more familiar.

We hope to be introducing our volunteer readers in the next few weeks who will help us to deliver our 'catch –up reading ' programme.

My favourite part of the day is between 8.30am and 9.20am when I get to welcome our children into school. It has been a real privilege to see them skip, run and bounce into school which is what we aim to achieve.

Once again thank you so much for supporting our school through this incredibly difficult and challenging time.

Mrs D Cross, Acting Head Teacher

New section on Website

Over the last few weeks I have heard our children (and some adults say things which have stopped me in my tracks and made me feel extremely humble.

One child in Nursery (Aged 4) said: "My favourite 2 people in the world are Santa and God, Santa because he brings presents and God because he makes everything alright."

A child in class 5 said: "Kindness is the key which opens the smallest doors."

We wondered how we could capture and share these golden nuggets and have decided to set up a new section on our website for quotes from children and adults.

If anyone would like to contribute a quote please email admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk



MacMillan Cancer Coffee morning

The advert is right. Nothing stops a MacMillan cancer coffee morning.

We decided to hold two events. On Friday 25th September our children enjoyed a juice and snack break in their classrooms/bubble.

In addition, we are holding a photographic competition. Your family can submit a photo of themselves having their own coffee morning or of a cake they have baked for a MacMillan Coffee morning.

You can email your phot entry to admin@stanhopebarrington.org.

Entry is £1 per photo. The deadline for entries is Friday 9th October 2020.

The winning photo will be announced on 12th October 2020.

Can all donations and entry fees be handed in to the cash collection box (which is at the main gate onto the yard every morning). All cash should be in a sealed and labelled envelope.

Thank you for helping us to continue to support this charity.

So far we have raised over £84.

Supporting Separated parents

If you and/or a separated partner would like to be sent copies of letters or information from school please contact the school office.

Please note that all letters are available on our school website.

In order to reduce wasted paper all general letters are now available on our website.

Letters which are specific to your child or require a signature will be sent home with your child or posted (with prior agreement).

Welcome to Mr Storey

I'm sure you will all join me in formally welcoming our new EYFS Co-ordinator Mr Storey.

Mr Storey has made a huge impact in a very short period of time and we are delighted to welcome him and his family into our Stanhope School community.

Childhood Illnesses

Although Covid-19 is the headliner at the moment—we all need to be vigilant for other childhood illnesses:

Flu— please make sure you register your child for their free flu vaccination which is administered by nasal spray and will be delivered in school on 6th October 2020.

Sickness and diarrhoea—Please keep your child off school for 48 hours.

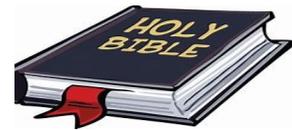
Thread worms - These are tiny worms in poo and are very common in children. They spread very easily. They can be treated via a pharmacy and your child doesn't need to stay off school but you must inform us so that we can adjust our cleaning schedule to reduce the spread.

Cold—Consider if they are having Covid symptoms or is it just a common cold?

If a common cold decide whether they are fit to attend school or not in the normal way.

Covid—19—if you think your child (or anyone in your household) is showing signs of Covid—19 you should follow government guidance. Your whole household should isolate and arrange a test. Your household should continue to isolate until a negative test outcome is received. You should inform school immediately if you think your child is showing Covid symptoms.

If in any doubt - please ring the school for further advice.



Collective Worship without “Collecting”.

This was a challenge but as always we have developed a creative solution. Collective worship is taking place within classrooms every day rather than with the whole school in the hall.

Every Wednesday is our ‘Bible Story Day’ and initially I intended to deliver this via Teams or Zoom. However, due to staggered starts, breaks and lunchtimes, there is not one slot in the timetable when the whole school could watch a Teams or Zoom session together at the same time.

So we have decided to record the reading of Bible Stories on video so that teachers can show them when it suits their class sometime on a Wednesday.

We then saw this as an opportunity to ask a range of different people to read our Bible Stories and video them!

So far we have videos by staff, Foundation Academy Councillors, The Bishop of Durham (Bishop Paul) and parents.

If anyone would like to record a video of reading a Bible Story please contact us at

admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Our Bible story planning is scheduled to reflect the Christian calendar. If you would like to take part you can either arrange an appointment to come into school to record or we can email you the story for you to record as a .MOV to email back to us.

Our Bible Stories are supported by an animation and discussion topics.

We are very proud of this creative and positive solution which allows us to engage our wider school community in delivering Collective Worship.



Enquiries

Please continue to raise any questions, queries or concerns vis either telephone or email.

01388 528218 or admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Text Messages

If you are not receiving text messages from school please contact the school office to ensure we have your up to date mobile telephone number.

Parent Pay

We are currently exploring the possibility of introducing Parent Pay. This is a service whereby parents can 'Ping' payments direct to the school account via an App.

We have explored this possibility in the past but some of our families did not have the necessary facilities and we were unable to run two different systems.

During the pandemic we have seen more and more of our families accessing online services and use of our website has increased significantly.

We will be sending out a letter shortly to ask for parents to vote for us to either introduce Parent Pay or continue with our existing cash system.

Hopefully Parent Pay could make things easier for parents and reduce the risk of Covid for our Admin team who handle cash.

They currently have to handle cash using PPE in line with the Risk Assessment.

In addition, the school currently has to pay for a security team to collect and bank all cash—moving to Parent Pay would eliminate this cost to the school budget.

I would therefore urge parents to vote for Parent Pay if at all possible as this will significantly help our school.



Inspiring Readers

We have introduced a new whole school approach to inspiring reading. Our younger children (EYFS & KS1) can read 3 times per week– in school or at home, and then they win a raffle ticket. This is based on completion of their reading record so when you read at home with your child please remember to complete their reading record book. Children in KS2 have a reflective reading record which they can complete 4 times to win a raffle ticket. Our older children reflect on their reading time, identifying who they read with, how the text made them feel and identify any new vocabulary they have learnt.

Every Friday the raffle tickets are collected in and a prize winner is drawn from EYFS/KS1 and from KS2. the

Winning children then choose a prize from Mrs Cross' basket of goodies. The children are loving this new approach and we thank you for supporting their reading at home.

Donation of board games.



We are asking parents to donate any unwanted or unused complete board games.

All donations will be held in isolation prior to being made available to children.

They will be used in both Breakfast Club and After School Clubs.

Many thanks.

HOLIDAYS 2020-21

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open
Autumn half-term 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 02 November 2020
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	Monday 04 January 2021
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 04 May 2021
Summer half-term 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	Monday 07 June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16 July 2021	Monday 06 September 2021

If your child will not be attending school, due to illness, medical appointments etc., please can you call the school office before 9.00 am to let us know the reason why? Any absence that is not reported will be recorded as 'Missing from Education' on your child's record. If they are 'Missing from Education' for more than 48 hours we are required to inform County Hall.

Please remember to pay dinner money every week, on a **Monday**. Please put the correct money in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class and amount paid on the front of the envelope, and put it in the cash collection box on the yard when your child arrives at school. As we are unable to hold petty cash at school, any surplus money will be carried forward to the next week, as change can not always be given. Many thanks for your co-operation. Dinners cost £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week.

If you would like to change from school meals to packed lunch, please let the school office know and preferably give us a weeks notice. A school meals menu, which can be collected from the main office, will also need to be completed.

BREAKFAST CLUB

is open every day from

8.00 am until the start of school costing £2.50 per day which includes cereal, toast and a drink. There is no need to book a place—just turn up on the day! Please pay daily or a week in advance. The school is not insured to have children on site prior to 8am so doors will not open until 8am.

Parents, please drop children off at the main entrance. Due to Safeguarding regulations Parents should not come into the school.

Don't forget ...

If you do need to take your child from school during term-time, for whatever reason, please complete a 'Leave of Absence' form which is available from the school office. This form should be completed and returned to the school in advance of the absence.

**Mrs D Cross, Acting Head Teacher
Tel: 01388 528218**