



# Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School

## Update 22.1.21

### **Federation News – Governor Update**

In light of the fact that both headteachers will be leaving at the end of this school year, we wanted to let parents and carers know how the governing board is approaching the task of finding their replacements.

It is evident to us that most parents, carers and staff are keen to preserve the ethos and values of the Federation, which have been instilled over a long period of time by Roy Souter and Sarah Mackay. This is a priority for the governing board as we strongly feel that the Stoke Hill Federation is a special and in many ways unique school.

We are in the process of consulting as to the best way forward. Our current intention is to complete our consultation within the next couple of weeks and for an advert to go out before the February half-term. Our hope is that we will complete the recruitment process by the end of the Easter term.

We will keep you updated in due course.

*Tom Urwin and Amy Bickford, Co-Chairs of Governors*

### **Testing**

From next week all members of staff across both schools will be offered the chance to take self-administered twice weekly Covid tests. The idea is that this will allow us to pick up asymptomatic cases, and break the chains of transmission within the community.

This does mean, however, that there is more likelihood that we will find positive cases amongst our staff which could lead to more groups of children having to self-isolate for a time. We will continue to provide online learning if this is the case, although this may have to be in a different format if a teacher becomes unwell.

### **Critical Workers**

Thank you to all the critical workers in our community, working hard to keep all our services and products available. Thank you to those critical workers who are juggling going to work and part time Remote Learning and to those of you who are working from home and also managing to achieve full time Remote Learning. Whether you need us full time, part time or to provide Remote Learning we are here to support and help you through this lockdown.

### **In School Learning**

School is busy but not as busy as last week. Huge thanks go to those critical workers who were able to reduce their child's attendance. Full time attendance has dropped by 39% making school considerably safer for children and staff. In addition this has enabled all the children of critical workers who need a place to have a place in school. There are lots of firsts right now but today we had our first outside Singing Assembly! Maybe you heard us?

### **Remote Learning**

We hope you have enjoyed a good week of Remote Learning and that the Learn and Explore or Project booklet came through the post to support you. Do not forget to send in your photos each Wednesday, which teachers will use to feedback to you through the weekly Keeping in Touch email. Teachers are always very busy people but right now they could not be any busier. They are videoing sequences of lessons, maintaining a website, preparing booklets and replying to Keeping in Touch emails as well as teaching the children in their class. Phew! They are of course more than happy to play their part as critical workers in this lockdown but they do not have time to reply to daily emails. If you have an urgent message for your child's teacher then do contact the admin team, where they will be able to help you.

### **Food Insecurity**

Food vouchers have been ordered for those families that are eligible and should be with you directly. There is also St Kathryn's Priory Community Larder open every Friday from 10-12 to all, offering FREE store cupboard and fresh food.

### **Out of the darkness...**

This week we saw America swear in their 46<sup>th</sup> president and who could not be inspired by the words of Amanda Gorman with her poem 'The Hill We Climb':

*For there is always light,  
if only we are brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

I think we are all being incredibly brave right now!

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend ~ Alison Kenney