

# Stedham Primary School Weekly Newsletter

18.09.2020

## Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our new weekly update. I will endeavour to send this out each Friday and will try to capture some of the highlights of children's learning as well as essential news and updates. In time, I would like to have more input from the children so we capture their reflections on their experiences.

I hope you find it interesting and informative.

## Contact details

We will soon be sending home new contact forms for parents to complete and send back. However meanwhile I cannot stress how important it is that you inform the office immediately if you have recently changed any phone numbers or email addresses. It is crucial that we hold up to date contact information for all our families as this will be our main method of communicating over the coming weeks. If your child is ill at school, we will need to get in touch with you as a matter of urgency – not having correct details could put your child and others at risk. Thank you for your support with this.

## Loving Learning!

It's been wonderful to see the children settle in to normal school life after the long summer break. The children have clearly been enjoying their learning and have been keen to share some of their work with me. I clearly cannot reflect on all the learning that has taken place but some highlights include:

- **Rabbits:** Seeing the happy faces of all our Rabbits class as they learn through play and interact with each other has been a joy. The new starters in reception have benefitted from having both the Year 1's and the Year 2's setting a good example and offering guidance each day. They have mixed incredibly well too! I can honestly say, that the confidence of our new starters has been amazing. They seem to have taken to school like a duck to water and make you feel like they have been part of Stedham Primary for months rather than just two weeks. The first school dinner can often be an interesting affair but, again, our new starters showed how capable and confident they are.

The children have been enjoying the Early Years outdoor area and have also produced some wonderful art including self-portraits.

- **Hedgehogs:** This week has shown how Mrs Helas and Mrs Hines are utilising the space they have to provide individualised learning. The class of Year 3 and Year 4 children have been using Hedgehogs class (previously Foxes) as well as the Learning Hub (previously Owls) to conduct small group teaching. The new Nurture Room at the back of

Hedgehogs class has also been enjoyed by children who may choose to have a quiet place to work or to relax.

The children have loved striding through the village in their wellies for their weekly walk. It is proving to be a great way to start the week as the children benefit from being outdoors and from the exercise. They return with smiles on their faces which sets them up perfectly to focus on their learning. I was very pleased to accept a small blackberry, apple and pear crumble which the children made after one of their walks. It was delicious!



An interesting crime scene has appeared outside of Hedgehogs class which had, in the middle of it, a strange iron hand! Please ask your children to tell you more? I am sworn to secrecy!

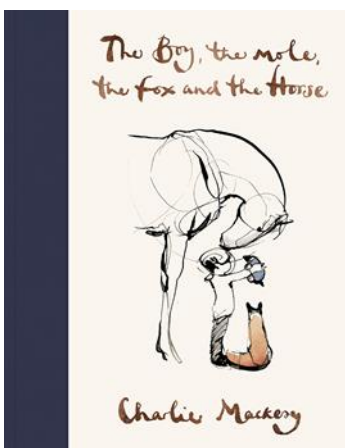
- **Foxes:** Now a mix of Year 5 and Year 6 children (with a small sprinkling of year 4's for good measure), Foxes class have quickly shown that they are the leaders of the school. Their mature attitude to their learning has been very pleasing. With all the children facing towards the front of the class, a measure that has been introduced as part of our Covid-19 risk assessment, it is easy to see how they are enjoying and engaging with their work.

The Foxes have loved working from their new book:

The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy.

This is a beautiful book with fantastic illustrations. The children have been reflecting on some of the quotes written in the book and have been writing their own too!

You might want to ask you children about a few of them:



"Sometimes I feel lost," said the boy. "Me too," said the mole. "but we love you, and love brings you home."

"We often wait for kindness... but being kind to yourself can start now."

"So much beauty we need to look after:"

"Is your glass half empty or half full?" asked the mole. "I think I'm just grateful to have glass:" Said the boy.



## Covid 19 updates:

**Hand sanitisers:** As you are aware, we have our very detailed risk assessment saved on to our website. Since then, we have added hand sanitisers around the school to add to the frequent hand washing that already takes place.

**Pupil Survey:** If you haven't yet helped your child complete the 'Pupil Well-being Survey', please use the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DM3PLNX>

We will be using the results of the survey next week to help us provide targeted and specific emotional support.

**Remote Learning:** If you are absent from school for a longer period, the teaching staff will endeavour to send out home learning to your child.

**Drop off and Pick up times:** Thanks for your continued efforts to socially distance outside the school gates. I appreciate your help and support with this.

### **What to do if your child is unwell?**

- Keep your child off school, as you would do normally, until they are fit and well. If you are unsure of what to do, please ring the school for advice.
- If your child has:
  - a new continuous cough
  - a fever (high temperature of over 38c using a thermometer)
  - a complete loss or change of smell or taste

then keep your child off school and at home. Speak to 119 (NHS test, track and trace) or go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and arrange a self-test.

Your child and your household must isolate until you receive the test results. What happens next is dependent on the results of your tests.

The school will require proof of test results.

## **Diary dates (forthcoming events):**

It was with a heavy heart that we looked through the normal planned events that normally occur in a typical autumn term. Sadly, much of what we do will not be able to take place due to the Covid-19 restrictions. These include our Welcome Wednesdays, Parents Evenings and Harvest Festival.

We are working hard as a staff team to find creative, alternative ways to deliver these important events. We will let you know more as soon as we have further information.

## Jeans for Genes:

Thanks for helping us with our Jeans for Genes day. The children have enjoyed wearing their jeans, learning about genetic disorders and playing fun games such as 'Take on the Teacher' to celebrate the day. Well done to Rabbits class who beat both Mrs Dinnis and Mrs Ford at 'shooting hoops' in basketball.

We raised £64.85 which will help towards transforming lives. Thanks for your generosity. If you forgot to donate, we can happily accept any further donations next week.

## Y6 Application for Secondary School

West Sussex County Council have changed the way they are sharing information with parents regarding applications for secondary schools. This has now been emailed directly to parents from primary schools using our teacher to parent communication. Please make sure you apply for a place before the deadline on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## Mid-Morning Snack

If your child is bringing in a snack to eat mid-morning, please make sure this is either **fruit** or **vegetable** based. Also please remember that children should only bring water in their drink bottle – **not** squash.

## Governors' Newsletter

I hope you have seen the new Governors' Newsletter. It is full of useful information including: a reflection on last year; some news about our vision and values; an explanation of the role of governors as well as an introduction to the school governing team.

Many thanks to the governors for their continued hard work and support of the school.

## MRC's Virtual experience day for Year 6

MRC intend to host a 'Virtual Year 6 Experience Day which they are hoping to have on Wednesday 23 September. We will give you more information when we get it.

## Active 8

It is great to have Aidan back covering our wrap around care (breakfast and after school clubs). Evie has now joined Aidan in delivering a fun-packed mixture of activities. The children continue to enjoy each session. For more information, please see the Active8 newsletter (copies are in the office which can be given to your child).

## Sue Brett retiring

It is with great sadness that I share the news of Sue's pending retirement. She will be leaving Stedham Primary School at the end of October after almost 20 years of dedicated service. We will clearly be wanting to recognise her incredible contribution to the school.