



Stuart Road Primary Academy Newsletter

To all our children and families at Stuart Road Primary Academy; we have been very impressed with the positive start all the children have made this term; they have been brilliant! We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to parents for their patience and continued support this term particularly concerning the school start and finish times and making sure social distancing is maintained. We wish you are very happy and fun half term.

Dates for your Diary

- Christmas Jumper Day 11th December – details to follow
- Christmas Lunch 16th December (FDN, Years 1, 2 and 3) – details to follow
- Christmas Lunch 17th December (Years 4, 5 and 6) – details to follow
- Shoe Box Appeal – Deadline Friday 20th November.

Messages from Teachers

Foundation

We have dressed up our home corner to follow the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have had a busy week this week continuing with practising to write our names using a pre-cursive handwriting style and developing our pencil grips. In Read Write Inc. the children continue to learn new letter sounds. Please be aware that Read Write Inc. sheets are being sent home so that your child can practise letter formation. These sheets can be returned and added to your child's Learning Journey Book. We have also been looking at written numerals and recognising numerals 1 to 10. In our PE sessions we have been practising throwing and catching using a large ball. Have a go with your child at home! Have a good half term.

Year 1

This week the children in year 1 have been exploring diary entries in English. We have looked at the features and have just started writing our own imagining we are Goldilocks.

Also, within maths we have been exploring the greater than, less than, and equal signs, ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd etc.) and looking at the usefulness of the number line.

Finally, within Topic we have been looking at our families and seeing how everyone's are different and that this is not only ok but should be celebrated. We even created a picture of our families with pastels, though this did get quite messy!

Year 2



Year 2's first exciting mini mission topic was 'The Rainbow Fish'. The children have discovered the importance of sharing and the qualities that make a good friend. They have had lots of opportunities to

great creative, creating collages and learning to use shading techniques. They also showed off their creative writing skills by writing their very own Rainbow Fish stories. What a magnificent mini mission!

Year 3

Year 3 have been working hard for the last few weeks with our new text of Jim and the beanstalk. Through this we have been exploring how plants grow, survive and thrive. The children have also carried out their own experiment to grow cress which will hopefully be able to taste once we return from half term. It has been fantastic to see the children engage so much with the weekly TT Rockstars competitions. These will continue up until Christmas. We have had a different winner every week so far which has been excellent. Enjoy the half term break and I look forward to seeing you all on the 9th November.

Year 4

Year four have been working for just over a week now on their new mini mission, "Pond Patrol ". As part of that work, the children explored the habitat around the school to look for examples of the wildlife that lived there. The investigation showed us that our environment within the school grounds is sadly lacking in wildlife. So, we decided to try to enhance the habitat around our school. All the children designed their own mini ponds. The class voted on the two they liked the best and those two were put into practice. The children worked together in teams following the design and created their own mini-ponds. These mini ponds are now out in the grounds and we are hoping that they will entice more wildlife in.



Year 5

In Year 5, we have loved our mini mission Out of This World. We were set several challenges by Gru in order to win back the planets that he stole. We had to help the minions understand about our solar system and create explanation texts about the Moon, as well as produce 3D mechanical models to show the orbit of the Moon, Earth and the other planets. We are pleased to announce that our challenges have been successfully completed and Gru has returned all the planets safely, except for Pluto, which he's kept as a souvenir!

Year 6

The last week in year 6 our mini mission has focused on Science. Our topic has been light. During this we have been learning about how light travels and how we see things. We have made periscopes to explore reflection. In English we have been writing an explanation text to explain different aspects of light. Also we have been working really hard in Maths focusing on the 4 operations. All of the children have had a wonderful first half term!

Oracy Activity

Here is a simple discussion activity that you can do together as a family. The aim is to get children sharing ideas with their families and developing their vocabulary and imagination.

Would you rather be a giant towering above everyone else for a week or a tiny person, no bigger than an earbud? Why?





Shoe Box Appeal

As with previous years we would very much like to participate in the 2020 Christmas shoebox appeal, organised by TEECH. The charity TEECH is aiming to travel to Romania & Moldova for Christmas 2020, to visit schools and people in their own homes, taking gifts & food parcels, as well as clothing and blankets. TEECH provides aid and improves basic living conditions, has worked in orphanages, schools and homes for the elderly. Please support TEECH by completing a shoebox, which will be hand delivered by the team, to those who require a little help at Christmas time.

All you need to do is:

- Wrap a shoe box in Christmas paper.
- Decide if your box is to be for a boy or girl, what age group and put a label on the box with the appropriate age.

GIRL	BOY
Age 3-5	Age 3-5
Age 6-8	Age 6-8
Age 9-11	Age 9-11
Age 12-14	Age 12-14
Age 14-18	Age 14-18

- Fill your box with gifts. See the list of ideas and the 'no thanks' list below
- Make a donation of £1 per box towards transportation by visiting:
<https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/TEECHChristmas>

Gifts Ideas for your shoebox:

Toys: Soft Toys, Balls, Building Blocks, jigsaws, musical instruments, toy cars, dolls, jewellery

Educational Items: Pens, Pencils, rubber, ruler, colouring or puzzle books, notepads, pencil case, stickers etc.

Personal Items: toothbrush & paste, hairbrush/comb, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, sanitary items, soap, flannel etc.

For 2020 Face covering and hand gel for older children.

Other Items: Sweets, Gloves, Hats, Scarves or age suitable item of clothing (i.e. t-shirt, socks)

No Thanks List:

Medicine / War Related Items / Fragile items like mirrors or glass containers / Dangerous items like scissors or any sharp objects /nothing of a political nature.

Shoeboxes can be handed into school after October half-term. The boxes will be stored and quarantined appropriately prior to dispatch. We must have all boxes in by Friday 20th November.

Many thanks for your generosity.

Notices

Parents and Carers of Year 6 children: Applying for your Year 6 Child's Secondary School Place – DEADLINE 31 OCTOBER 2020

If you have not already done so you should be applying for your Year 6 child's secondary school place before the deadline of 31st October. This is for children born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010 and are already in Year 6.

All the information you will need about secondary school admissions in 2021 is on the admissions website www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions. From here, you can apply online for school places and read the 'Next Step' guide which contains all admission policies and application forms.

Applying online is quick and easy - all you need is an email address. Once you apply online we will let you know which school your child has been allocated on Monday 1 March 2021. Remember:

- All Plymouth's 18 secondary schools hold 'open events' for families to visit the school and speak to staff. Please refer to the individual schools websites for dates and further information.
- If you are applying for a place at a faith school on faith grounds, you must also fill out a supplementary form, which you can obtain from the admissions website or from the school.
- Some schools give priority to children of members of staff and will ask for submission of a supplementary form as proof.
- Please read the admission policy for each school carefully.

The deadline to apply is 31 October 2020 so visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions now.

Rock Steady

Some parents have been asking about when the Rock Steady sessions will start again. At the moment we are unable to accommodate the Rock Steady sessions due to the current restrictions. We hope to review this in the New Year.

Individual and Class Photos

To be reviewed in the New Year.

Parents' Evening

Teachers would normally invite parents to the school to discuss their child's progress. Due to current restrictions we are not able to do this. Instead Teachers will be phoning parents to discuss progress. Details will be sent out to all parents to confirm arrangements. We are hoping to schedule this week commencing 9th November.

Microsoft Teams

To ensure that we are able to offer your children constant access to learning during these difficult times we have created accounts for all of the children on Microsoft Teams; details of usernames and passwords will be sent home with your children.

Therefore should your children need to self-isolate or that we re-enter a period of lockdown we will be able to share learning.

It will require, for our younger children, a degree of support from parents to ensure that the children can access the lessons.

We will send out instructions to support you in preparing to use Teams.

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor at Stuart Road, please email admin@srps.plymouth.sch.uk or call the office for further details.

Dropping off and collecting Children

Thank you again for your support regarding children entering and exiting the school without causing too much congestion. We have again put in the guidance to refresh your memory;

As you are aware, each floor is its own bubble and we are, where possible, giving each class its own gate.

Due to many of our Year 5 and Year 6 children now walking home by themselves, we feel we are able to combine these two classes for entry and exit from the school.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 who are collected by parents will be released first and children who walk home straight after this.

If you could ensure that you do not arrive early for your child's entry to school it would help to reduce the number of adults waiting outside the school. Can I please ask that, as soon as you have collected your children, that you leave the school to reduce congestion.

Can you please continue to maintain 2m social distancing whilst you stand on the pavement. Please also avoid standing in the road.

	Gate 1 (EYFS playground)	Gate 2 (front playground)	Gate 3 (rear playground)
08.50	Y1	Y2	Y3
09.00	EYFS	Y5/6	Y4
15.10	Y1	Y2	Y3
15.20	EYFS	Y5/6	Y4

Information for parents

There has been an increase in the number of cases, and suspected cases, of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Plymouth in recent weeks. This is resulting in a number of confirmed cases in schools.

As a city we still have fewer cases than the national average but the increase is a concern and shows the importance of everyone carefully following the guidance on how to stay safe and protect our families.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **you should inform the school and organise for your child to be tested** via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. Your household should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear.

There is also an additional testing service for children in Plymouth schools: parents or carers can also book a test by emailing d-ccg.cornwalldevon.urgenttesting@nhs.net

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a recent onset of:

- New continuous cough/and/or
- High temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline remains available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Please listen carefully to the available options and select the most appropriate to your nursery, school, or college's current situation.

Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm