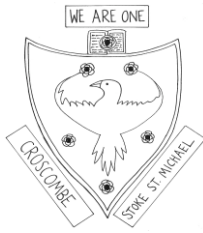


Stoke St Michael County Primary School

Little Roots @ Stoke St Michael



Moonshill Road
Stoke St Michael
Radstock
BA3 5LG



School Office: 01749 840470

Little Roots @ Stoke: 07565 931718

E-mail: stoke-st-michael@educ.somerset.gov.uk



Headteacher: Mr Stephen Heath

13 November 2018

Dear Parent/carer

Dates for the diary!

Tuesday 6 th November – Tuesday 18 th December (Every Tuesday) at 2.45pm	Celebration Assembly – Parents please join us at 2.45pm in the school hall.
Wednesday 7 th November – Wednesday 19 th December (Every Wednesday)	Creative Aquatic – Whole school (*We will not be going to Creative Aquatic on 5 th December due to children watching Christmas pantomime. Snow White)
Thursday 8 th November – Thursday 13 th December (Every Thursday)	Forest School sessions for Year 3 & 4
Friday 9 th November - Friday 14 th December	Team Sports after school club - Whole school (not including Reception children)
Friday 16 th November	Children in Need (Please bring any spare silver change to school to cover 'Pudsey')
Friday 16 th November	Bag 2 School collection
Thursday 22 nd November - 2pm – 3pm	Acorns Stay and Play sessions for Pre School age children.
Friday 23 rd November	Christmas Bingo in the School Hall Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7pm
Monday 26 th November 9am – 9.45am	Parents Meeting with Mr Heath
Wednesday 5 th December at 1.45pm	Christmas Pantomime - Croscombe will be joining us at Stoke St Michael School to watch Rainbow Theatre Productions perform Snow White.
Thursday 6 th December – 2pm – 3pm	Acorns Stay and Play sessions for Pre School age children.
Thursday 13 th December at 9.30am	Acorns Nativity Performance
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Break – Children finish at 1.30pm

A message from our Senior Teacher Mrs Vincent

Merit Awards

We are currently updating our behaviour and anti-bullying policy. In line with this we are beginning a merit award system across the school which will begin with the Reception children starting on the red merit card; Year 1 on the yellow; Year 2 on blue; Year 3 on green; Year 4 on purple; Year 5 on Bronze and Year 6 on Silver in hope that they will reach Gold before they leave the school. Each child will be given an individual merit card with their name on and Year group on it with 50 squares to be filled with merits. However, merits will not come to them easily. The children will have to show effort and progress in their learning within the lesson or series of lessons to achieve a special circled 'M' marked into their book. They will then be able to mark this onto their merit card with an adult initialling that it has been collected by the child. Once all 50 merits have been earned and collected they will take their merit card to Mr Heath who will congratulate them and sign it off so that the corresponding merit badge can be awarded in the next celebration assembly. With this we are asking that parents donate £2 a year, per child, to cover the cost of the merit badges awarded to all children. More to come on this...

House Points

In addition to the merit points being awarded for individual progress in their learning, in line with our new behaviour policy, we have updated our house points system for general kindness and wonderful behaviour being spotted and recognised in and around the school. House points can also be given for Gem Power recognition at playtimes; lunch times; in and around the school. At the end of last year the children voted on the theme and names of the teams and have now therefore been split into four family teams: Seahorses, Manta Rays, Turtles and Dolphins. Each week before celebration assembly the children will collect and add all the points together so that the winning team can be congratulated and given a winners point. At the end of each half term the team with the most winner's points will receive an award of an extra 'House' play time.

Rainbow Readers

Thank you for all the wonderful 1:1 reading you are doing at home with your children. We can see such a difference in the children and their confidence and willingness to read. Please keep going with it, as for the children who don't make the December Rainbow treat afternoon, it would be wonderful to see them in the Easter Rainbow treat afternoon next year. Some children are nearly there and will be receiving their badge, certificate and ticket to the rainbow treat afternoon very shortly. We would like to ask for a £1 donation to cover some of the cost for their rainbow badge. More to come on this...

Celebration Assembly

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the celebration assembly will continue to be on a Tuesday afternoon this term at 2:45. We will change the afternoon each half term due to requests from the parents' feedback session. This will ensure parents have more flexibility in being able to attend, especially for those with work or other commitments. The children will perform a class assembly most terms except for when there is a yearly performance taking place i.e. the Nativity concert will take centre stage for both classes at the end of this term with Acorns leading the show with support from Oaks class on Thursday 13th December at 9:30am for a 9:45am start.

The Nest

Last term Acorns were able to split into smaller groups and work in a safer and quieter environment due to the new lay out of the building. Now a term has gone by it is clear for us to see the benefits that this had had emotionally and academically for the children in Acorns class. Personally, I would like to thank Mrs Bannister for giving up lots of her free time over the summer holiday period in order to manage this project successfully. We greatly appreciate your hard work and commitment which has had an enormous impact on our ability to cater for the individual children in Acorns class which will ultimately impact on them as they move up into Oaks class.

Thank you Mrs Bannister!

Parents Meeting with Mr Heath

As the celebration assembly is being held on Tuesday afternoons this term, we have decided to re-schedule the next parents meeting with Mr Heath to ensure parents can attend both if they wish. This will be held on Monday 26th November at 9am it is an opportunity for parents to hear about developments in the school, to discuss options when possible and ask questions.

PTA News

The PTA would like to say a big thank you for your continued support so far this year; we feel it is important for you to know how much money you have helped us to raise for our school.

So far since the start of the school year we have raised a wonderful £404.75p!

Below is a breakdown of the events we have held and how much each event has raised.

The Scarecrow Trail held in conjunction with village events committee raised £138 this was shared 50/50 with the events committee.

The Halloween Disco raised £167

The Christmas Cards made by the children raised £118.75

The Cinema Club held in October raised £26

Donations for Teas and Coffee's at the Harvest Festival raised £24

Christmas Bingo

Don't forget our next event is the Christmas Bingo on Friday 23rd November in the School Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm. – Eyes down for 7pm.

We would also like to say a big thank you for all the wonderful donations we have received for the Christmas Bingo. If anyone would still like to donate please ensure all donations are brought in to school by Friday 16th November 2018.

Governor News

The Full Governing Body met on Monday the 8th of October at Croscombe. The key messages from the meeting that I thought Stoke St Michael parents might be interested in are...

* We reviewed the current SEND provision, performance and progress and agreed to take part in the optional Somerset CC SEND provision audit.

* We did some more work on the School Development Plan - the next step is to make some of the objectives clearer and then a version will be made available to parents.

* A governor representative is attending a planned staff meeting in Stoke on 25th October to monitor marking procedures, and their effectiveness.

* A governor representative is meeting the members of the School Council at their meeting on 27th November – this is an opportunity to chat to the children informally and hear direct from them.

Siobhan Cargill
Governor

Your school needs you!

We are looking for a volunteer to move our parent noticeboard from outside acorns classroom. If you are able to help, please contact the school office or speak to Mr Heath.

St Andrew's Christmas Fair – Holcombe

*** Christmas Gifts * Produce * Plants * Raffle * Toys * Tombola ***

Bric-a-Brac * Lantern-making * Refreshments *

Where: Holcombe Village Hall

When: Saturday, 1st December

Time: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

The Playing Field Committee would like you to bring your children along to make lanterns, including LED candle, for the Christmas tree Lighting-up Ceremony on Sunday, 2nd December. All essentials will be provided.

Family Gaming Advice

As Christmas approaches, many people will be considering games consoles and video games as gifts but it can be difficult to know which games are suitable for children. Christmas can be a fantastic time to start playing games together and to show children that you are interested in the games they enjoy. A great source of advice for Family Gaming is Andy Robertson, a writer and vlogger who has years of experience covering Family Gaming for national newspapers, TV and radio. His YouTube channel, [FamilyGamerTV](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8), posts regular videos to guide families on the best video games for families.

Special offer!



Andy has written a book, called *Taming Gaming: A light-hearted, informative guide to what screen-time, gaming and gadgets are doing to children, for parents who'd rather lock it all in a cupboard.* Readers of this letter can get an exclusive 10% discount on pre-orders of the book using the promo code: **SchoolSafeGaming** and can also have their name printed in every copy as a supporter of the book.

Just visit: <https://unbound.com/books/taming-gaming> to order your copy.

Many thanks

Steve Heath
Headteacher

