



Stoke St Michael County Primary School Little Roots @ Stoke St Michael

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Headteacher: Mr Stephen Heath

03 May 2019

Dear Parent/carer

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 23rd April – Tuesday 21st May (Every Tuesday) 3.15pm – 4.15pm	Miss Foord's Marvellous Maths Club – Year 6 only.
Tuesday 23rd April – Tuesday 21st May (Every Tuesday) 3.15pm – 3.30pm	Mrs Spencer's Homework Club (Oaks class only)
Tuesday 23rd April – Tuesday 21st May (Every Tuesday) 3.415pm – 4.15pm	Mrs Vincent's Marvellous Maths Club – Year 2 only
Friday 26th April – Friday 24th May (Every Friday) 3.15pm – 4.15pm	Multi -Sports After School Club with Premier Sport - Whole school (not including Reception children)
Monday 29th April – Monday 20th May (Every Monday) at 2.45pm	Celebration Assembly – Parents please join us at 2.45pm in the school hall.
Friday 3rd May	Year 5 Taster Day at Whitstone School
Thursday 16th May (Parents to collect from Whitstone at 2.30pm)	Year 5 Growing Futures programme at Whitstone School
Thursday 16th May 2.30pm – 3.15pm	Parents meeting with Mr Heath



Celebration News

In each class we celebrate children for showing progress in their learning and for shining in a particular area.

Our Super Stars of the Week are:

Oaks Class

Awarded to **Émile** for great focus on independent work in maths and literacy this week, and good teamwork in RE and PE.

Awarded to **Jessica (Year 5)** for being so kind and helpful. Your great sense of humour cheers everybody up!

Acorns Class

Awarded to **Jake** for showing many super Gem Learning Powers: for showing courageous **Emerald Power** in independently finding three quarters of quantities; for staying focused showing lots of shining **Sapphire Power** and wilfully completing extra home learning; for showing wonderful caring **Ruby Power** who always checks on and helps others with kindness.

Little Roots

Awarded to **Florence** for being amazing at eating her lunch this week, well done!

Our Wonderful Writing Wizards are:

Oaks Class

Awarded to **Lola** for a super factfile about Edward I.

Awarded to **Madison** for your very interesting research and writing about Queen Elizabeth II.

Acorns Class

Awarded to **Mayci** for being able to write beautiful sentences about what she can see using finger spaces between words and a capital letter and a full stop.

Our Magical Maths Magicians are:

Oaks Class

Awarded to **Emily** for excellent independent work on converting pounds and pence.

Awarded to **Connor** for working systematically on your triangle number investigation.

Acorns Class

Awarded to **Reece** for being able to independently find three quarters of a quantity using sharing and pictorial diagrams of tens and ones.

Acorns News

Acorns have been learning in their individual year groups this week. Year two have been focusing on revision using their **Amethyst Paired Learning Power**. They have been using their Maths vocabulary to explain their thinking to their partners and progressing in their understanding of how to answer mathematical questions. Year one have continued their project on fractions and time. Reception have been adding one, two and three to numbers of mini beasts under twenty. We have all begun our research into our non-fiction writing. Throughout the week children have found, caught and brought back to the classroom many mini beasts including a bumble bee, a millipede, a woodlouse, spiders, earwigs and snails. We have been sorting the animals into groups and classifying them by counting the number of legs and whether they have wings or not. Excitingly our caterpillars have cocooned themselves we are now waiting (patiently!) for our tadpoles to become little froglets.

Please can you ensure the children have P.E. kits in school on a Tuesday and a Friday if not all of time. Thank you!

Oaks News

Thank you very much to those of you who were able to come along to the consultation meetings on Monday. It was great to meet you and we look forward to meeting those of you, who couldn't make it, at some point in the near future.

This week, the children in year 5 & 6 have been learning about Pythagoras and some of his theories. They have been buzzing about their angles work, using reasoning to calculate missing angles ("I know that..... so.....") and making great progress.

Our 'British Values' theme in assembly, this term, is 'democracy' so if your children have been coming home and talking about 'Brexit' you'll know why! Instead of playing out battles, Year 3 & 4 have used this theme in the classroom this week, when they have carried out a debate and vote regarding 'Who should be King?' in 1066. The candidates gave rousing and impressive speeches giving the voters a difficult decision.

On Wednesday, the children listened intently to our visitor from 'Somerset Road Safety'. Please ask your children what they have learnt about keeping safe. This truly is an important issue.

Our sunflower seeds are popping up! Sun or no sun, they have peeped through the soil and some of them are beginning to look like strong seedlings. Once the seedlings are strong enough, your child can bring theirs home. You may want to help your child re-pot the

seedling, or transplant it into the garden. Let's see if any of them manage to grow high and flower; a small prize for the pupils who have nurtured their sunflowers. 😊

The annual Year 5 visit to Whitstone is about to take place today. I am sure they will have a great time and will be excited to tell us all about it when they get back. 😊

News from Our Senior Teacher Mrs Vincent

Gem Power

We have our up and coming second visit due from Tom Robson on Thursday 9th May. He will be working with some of the children at Stoke on Gem Power before he ventures over to Croscombe to hold a seminar for all staff in the afternoon. As mentioned in the last newsletter we have begun to learn about **Amethyst Learning Power** this term. This focuses on the skills needed for paired learning. The idea with Amethyst Power is that the children work their way through the objectives in order. The children plot themselves where they think they are with paired learning with a little adult guidance if they need it and then work on the next objective down. When children are recognised or show that they have progressed with Amethyst Learning Power they are rewarded with Amethyst Power Gems for the whole class collection, if the class beats the adults with winning gems they win an extra play time. Here are the Amethyst Learning Power objectives for you to see:

I find it really tough to work with others.

I learn by doing what the other person did.

I learn alongside another person and share.

I learn alongside another person and show I listen to them.

I learn alongside another person and talk and explain my thinking to them.

I can share ideas on what has to be learned by talking, listening and sharing when working with another person.

I can apply all of my other Gem Learning Powers (**Ruby**, **Emerald**, **Sapphire** and **Diamond**) to learn and achieve with a partner.

As always if you would like to find out more, please do not hesitate to ask.

Attached to the newsletter is a reminder of the Gem Learning Powers that we encourage the children to use and be aware of to aid in being successful not only in lessons but in and around the school and at home too. Below is a reminder of Amethyst Power.

News from Our Headteacher Mr Heath

Police Meeting

Some time ago, some parents raised the questions of "County Lines" with us (gangs from larger cities getting local children in smaller towns to do their work for them). We have been keenly aware of the existence of County Lines operations in our local area, with a particular focus in Wells, but radiating out to other local towns and secondary schools. Although seldom involving primary aged children, there is relevance for older siblings and people being aware of what to look out for with your own children. We raised the question with our local police

and they are prepared to come into the schools to talk with parents and explain the local situation if there is a desire from parents to be so informed. You should, therefore, find a slip attached to this newsletter asking whether you would want to attend such a meeting and preferences for timetabling. Please return the slip if you think that this would be of interest to you.

Your Name:

- I would be interested in attending an information meeting with the police
 - I would attend a meeting during the school day
 - I would attend a meeting after school
 - I would attend an evening meeting
 - I would attend a meeting if held at another school
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School Development Plan Update

We wanted to take a little time to update parents on progress against the federation development plan that was sent home to parents last term.

Talk for Writing: Training was received by staff towards the end of the Autumn Term. All staff have used the techniques with the children during the course of this term. There will be more units taught using this method during the Summer Term in preparation for a full implementation during the course of next year.

Maths Mastery: Two members of staff from across the federation have been attending a Teachers' Research Group looking at teaching Maths for Mastery. This really focuses upon the language used in the classroom and breaking down concepts into very small steps to ensure that children develop a deeper understanding. This will then be rolled out to the rest of the staff. Parents were very impressed by our Maths Inspire session and, whilst plans did not come together to repeat the process as soon as hoped, we will run a similar session during this term.

Parental Involvement: We have endeavoured to give parents more opportunities to join us in school and to share with the children. The regular Celebration Assembly has a small, but perfectly formed audience and the children love to receive their certificates in front of their parents. Attendance at Parents Meetings with Mr Heath have fallen away a little, but we will try to ensure that you have plenty of warning about upcoming meetings so that we can have some meaningful discussions. Our next meeting is at 2.30pm on 21st May.

Gem Learning Power: The children are very aware of their Gem Learning Powers as introduced so far. As reported previously, parents have sometimes been told off for not using their power suitably – which is excellent. We continue to add new powers so that children develop positive learning skills and this will continue to help us reinforce the attitudes and behaviours which will stand the children in good stead as they continue through their lives as a community of learners.

PTA News

Fundraising

Refreshments sold at the Celebration assembly on Monday 29th April raised £11.00p

Summer Fair

This year's summer fair is fast approaching we are pleased to announce that the legendary Michael Eavis will be opening our summer fair this year and judging our make an animal out of recyclable materials and make your own miniature garden in a tray competitions.

We are looking for donations of jars filled (with sweets, toys etc) for our hoopla stall, any unwanted toys or books for our table top sale and any donations of uniform for our 2nd hand uniform stall. All would be gratefully received!

If you are able to volunteer to help run a stall or setup please let a member of the PTA know.

Stalls available £5 per stall + raffle donation.

RUN FOR ELLIE!

Saturday 11th May, 10am - 12

Come along for a morning of fun in aid of Ellie Payne and her chosen charity 'Time is Precious'.

With the fantastic and much-loved 'Rocky's Magic Show' MC-ing and entertaining, it is going to be a really fun event, including face painting, family fitness, mini yoga, bouncy castle and of course the main event - the tot's fun run around the sports field!

The event is aimed at children aged 2-5, though older siblings will of course be welcomed.

Spaces are by donation (suggested £10 per family) – book now on 01749 346644.

RUN FOR ELLIE!
TOTS' FUN RUN
SATURDAY
11 MAY

Time is Precious
An Memory of Ellie Payne
www.timeisprecious.org

SHEPTON MALLET LEISURE CENTRE
SHEPTONMALLETLEISURE.UK | 01749 346644

Shepton Mallet has a junior parkrun!

Collett Park junior parkrun is a free weekly 2km run held every Sunday morning in Collett Park Shepton Mallet. The run is open to children of all abilities between 4 and 14 and we value our fun, friendly and encouraging atmosphere. Register with parkrun at bit.do/parkreg and turn up on the morning with your barcode at 8.45. For more information go to bit.do/collettjuniors or find us on Facebook. To volunteer email colletpark-juniorsoffice@parkrun.com

Many thanks

Steve Heath
Headteacher