

DALE AND STONEHILL NEWS



FEBRUARY 2024

We've had a super half-term, with so much happening straight after Christmas. A big thank you to all the families who attended parents' evenings and continue to support us at assemblies, fundraising events and supporting at home, listening to children read and helping them to complete their homework. Thank you also to everyone who attended our ILP open afternoon this week, it was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in school. Please keep an eye on Parent Pay for events and trips next term, there will be a school disco, as requested by our School Council children on Thursday 21st March. It will be available for payment after the half-term break.

Please ensure that children are arriving on time and are coming to school everyday. Please call school before 9am if you child will not be attending. We have been struggling with lots of illness doing the rounds this half-term and have put measures in place to try and limit the spread of infection. Please take time for lots of rest, recovery and fresh air over the half term holiday and I will look forward to seeing you all raring to go on Monday 26th February and have my fingers crossed for some nicer weather as spring approaches - **Louise Foster, Head Teacher**



Stonehill Nursery

This half term, our 2 Year Olds have been learning all about animals in the zoo and the jungle. They've been reading *Dear Zoo*, *Walking Through the Jungle* and *I Don't Want To Go To Bed*. They have created their own jungle in the classroom too! Perhaps you could visit a local zoo like Twycross, or watch animals on a web cam over the half-term holiday San Diego Zoo

have live streams of their animals 24 hours a day! You could also visit a pet shop and talk about what animals make good pets. After the holiday we'll be learning all about the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. Perhaps you could make a cave at home to hide inside, using your blankets and put your teddy bear in there? You could also go on a visit to the park and walk through *long wavy grass* or *thick, oozy mud...* Whatever you do, make sure you have lots of fun!

The 3 and 4 Year Old children have been busy learning about the story *There's a Dragon in your Book*. We thought about dragons and how to look after them. This then led onto Fire fighters, as in the story our dragon was breathing fire, which led onto learning all about what happens at the doctors surgery. The children showed such kindness and loved helping each other at the doctors. We then went onto learning about Chinese New Year and they loved learning to say hello in Chinese! We also enjoyed playing Chinese restaurants and creating handmade lanterns, which decorated our classroom beautifully.

We have also started our Stonehill **Stay and Play Sessions** for the community, every Tuesday afternoon 1.30pm - 2.15pm, please come along and join us. Our Stonehill book swap is now also up and running

and the books have brought so much joy to our families already.

Thank you to all our staff and parents for supporting and delivering such fantastic opportunities for our beautiful children.

Stonehill Nursery School

Stay & Play Sessions

for parents and carers

45 minute sessions
Meet our lovely staff
Get to know our Nursery
1 adult per child
Refreshments provided

Every Tuesday in term time from 1.30pm-2.15pm

For children aged 18 months and above.

Please call: 01332 341636 to book a place.

TERM DATES

BREAK UP for HALF TERM
Friday 16th February

BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 26th February

INSET: Wednesday
20th March

BREAK UP for EASTER
Thursday 28th March

BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 15th April

INSET: Wednesday
22nd May

BREAK UP for HALF TERM
Friday 24th May

BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 3rd June

BREAK UP for SUMMER
Tuesday 23rd July

FOUNDATION STAGE

Next term, we will be thinking about animals that live on a farm. We will kick start our learning with the story of the Three Little Pigs. We will learn about the different building materials, with our own building yard in the garden and find out which ones are the strongest. We will also be learning about the signs of spring and what changes we can see. We will enjoy a walk to the park and take photos of the new life all around us!

We will end the short term talking about what Christians believe about the festival of Easter and hope to have an Easter egg hunt and share some tasty treats.

Over the holidays please continue to help your children with their phonics practice, as it is key to their reading and writing development. You could even take a trip to a local farm. We are hoping for some lovely spring weather next week and look forward to hearing all about your outdoor adventures. Please share your activities and family photos on class dojo for us to see. Thank you for all your support this half term and to those who attended our parents' evening. Happy Holidays, from the whole FS Team Xx.

YEAR 1

In English, we are going to be working on a book called *Astro Girl* by Ken Wilson-Max. It is about a little girl called Astrid, who loves space and wants to be an astronaut! She has lots of fun with her Papa, finding out what it takes to become one: from doing experiments and eating dried food, to getting used to near-zero gravity. She really wants to meet her personal hero and real-life astronaut soon!

In Maths, we are going to be working on numbers to 40, comparing these using our knowledge of tens and ones. We are going to revisit addition and subtraction strategies and use these to help solve word problems. We are also going to practice counting in tens and fives and this would be a good thing to practice over the holidays.

In our topic *Moon Zoom*, we are going to be thinking about space and learning about the first moon landing by astronaut Neil Armstrong. We will also be looking at the art work *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gough. It would be nice to spend some time together, looking up at the stars and talking about what you can see over the half term holiday :)

YEAR 2

In English, we are going to be continuing our learning based around bears. Our writing story is *The Bear under the Stairs* by Helen Cooper. We will be learning how to retell the story in our own words and learn and share details about our own fears!

In Maths, we will be starting our journey into fractions. This will mean that by the end of next half term we will have done $+$, $-$, \times , \div AND fractions. At this point we will have totally covered our arithmetic papers. Please continue to practise your times tables at home. Times tables fluency is essential to our maths learning throughout our school journey. Please use the cards we have sent home to help with this.

Our next topic learning is focused on The Great Fire of London. Please take time over the holidays to do some research about London, past and present, looking at the famous landmarks and how it has changed since the Great Fire of London in 1666. Please also do lots of shared reading and take time to have lots of fun with family and friends. We can't wait to see you again in the Spring term! Stay safe and happy during the February half term.

YEAR 3

In English next term, we will be reading the wonderful text; *Africa – Amazing Africa* In Maths, we will be focusing on measuring and comparing length in metres and centimetres. We will also be working on our skills with the weighing scales and measuring volume in millilitres and litres.

Our ILP next term is *Tribal Tales* and we will be learning all about the Stone Age. We challenge you all to find 10 facts about the Stone Age to share in class after the half term holiday. In ICT, our focus will be Internet safety and the importance of being safe online. There are lots of useful tools and support for families on the [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) website, please go online and take a look.

In Science, we are studying magnets and how they work. Please find five facts to share about magnets after the half term holiday too. You could take a trip to the Silk Mill Museum in Derby or, if you fancy an adventure, why not hop on the train to Think Tank Science Museum in Birmingham or Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham! We hope you have a lovely holiday from the Year 3 team.



YEAR 4

Next term in English, we are looking at *The Lion and the Unicorn* by Shirley Hughes. Children will explore the text in its historical context and discuss the themes and imagery within. They will also explore a range of grammatical concepts including dialogue to create inference about a character, a variety of noun phrases to create description, character comparisons using conjunctions, personification and prepositions to describe a setting. They will write a range of diary entries, letters, character comparisons, setting descriptions and finish by writing their own evacuation narrative.

In Maths, we are learning graphs, including how to draw bar and line graphs as well as being able to answer questions by interpreting the data. We are continuing our learning of the times tables to improve our fluency.

We would recommend the children practising their violin, noticing how the strings make a vibration which creates a sound. Please also go for a walk in the half term and listen for any bird songs as the weather is starting to get warmer and continue to practise your times tables as well as reading everyday.

Year 4 Violin Concert, held by Mr Miller for the Year 4 parents & friends.

YEAR 5

In English, children will continue to read *The Lost Happy Endings* by Carol Ann Duffy, which is a narrative themed around dreams, fate and fortune. Children will be practising skills around writing poetry, letters, diary entries and how to construct direct speech in writing. Children will then move on to reading *Freedom Bird* by Jerrine Nolan, which is themed around belonging and equality. Children will be practising their biography writing skills.

In Maths, children will be looking at Decimals (including reading and writing decimals as a fraction, ordering and comparing decimals), Percentages (including writing percentages as a fraction and a decimal), and Geometry (including estimating and comparing angles, and drawing and measuring angles in degrees).

In their next topic *Beast and Biomes* we will be looking at mini-beasts. During the holidays please visit the local park or go out in the garden and keep your eyes peeled for all kinds of mini-beasts and the types of habitats they are living in. We look forward to seeing you all after the half term break. Stay safe and have fun, from the Year 5 team :)

YEAR 6

In our writing lessons next term, we will be delving into a fascinating text *Suffragette: The Battle for Equality* by David Roberts. Through this text we will be continuing to develop our formal letter writing skills and learning to write a balanced argument. In reading, we will be studying *Malala: My story of standing up for girls' rights* by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick. This text is an illustrated adaptation for young readers of the best-selling memoir, *I am Malala*.

During Maths next term, Year 6 will be tackling some new concepts as we will be learning all about ratio and algebra. Please keep practising on TT Rock Stars - this always helps!

In order to prepare for next term, children should find out about World War Two. We will be focusing on children's experiences during this time in our history. Encourage children to research this topic by looking online. *BBC KS2 History: World War Two*, is a good website. You could also find books in the local library or visit a museum such as the Imperial War Museum in Manchester! Have a great week off! From the Year 6 Team!

Fussy Eating
Free local workshops

henry
Healthy Start, Brighter Future

Come along!

Fed up with stressful mealtimes? We're here to help...

As parents we want our children to eat well – and to enjoy mealtimes together

Come along and get support and new ideas for:

- How to encourage your child to try new foods – and begin to enjoy them!
- Child-friendly foods that provide what they need to grow and be healthy
- Happier family mealtimes

Venue:
Age 0-7
Blagreaves Library,
Date:
14th March 2024
Time: 10.30am
Contact:
sarah.tessier@derby.gov.uk

Healthy Teeth
Free local workshops

henry
Healthy Start, Brighter Future

Come along!

Get some practical tips for looking after your child's first teeth – because they really matter

Having healthy teeth is important for young children's development and wellbeing. But did you know that decay in first teeth can affect their adult teeth?

This session will help you understand:

- Everything you need to know about toothbrushing
- How you can make toothbrushing fun
- When to start helping children brush their own teeth
- How what children eat and drink affects their teeth

Venue:
Age 0-5
Blagreaves Library,
Date:
28th March 2024
Time: 10.30am
Contact:
sarah.tessier@derby.gov.uk

Use your existing skills to **support** our wonderful nursery

Gain valuable **experience** at board level

Develop **strategy** alongside the leadership team

A fantastic opportunity to **add to your CV!**

Join our team
Nursery Governor VACANCY

To apply: Stonehill Nursery School
admin@stonehill.derby.sch.uk 01332 341636

FLORISH at Dale and Stonehill



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
OUR OPEN AFTERNOON AND
ALLOWING THE CHILDREN
TO SHOWCASE THEIR WORK!

COMING UP NEXT TERM...

Term 2: Whole School Disco: Thursday 21st March from 4.30pm

Whole School Curriculum Open Afternoon for Families:

Wednesday 27th March from 2pm to 3pm.

Term 3: Whole School Film Night: Friday 3rd May 3.30pm to 5.15pm.

Year 5 Class Assembly: Parents invited on Friday 10th May at 9.30am.

Year 6 SATS: Week Commencing 13th May.

Year 4 Multiplication Checks: Week Commencing 3rd June.

Year 1 Phonics Checks: Week Commencing 10th June.

Year 3 Sports Day: Monday 10th June at 1.30pm.

Year 4 Sports Day: Tuesday 11th June at 1.30pm.

Foundation Stage Sports Day: Wednesday 12th June at 9.30am.

Year 5 Sports Day: Wednesday 12th June at 1.30pm.

Year 1 Sports Day: Thursday 13th June at 9.30am.

Year 2 Sports Day: Thursday 13th June at 1.30pm.

Year 6 Sports Day: Friday 14th June at 1.30pm.

Summer Family Celebration: Friday 28th June.

Year 6 Leavers Assembly: Thursday 18th July from 2pm

Food Banks

www.derbycitymission.org.uk

www.padleygroup.com

www.newlifederby.org.uk

www.rccgsolidrock.org.uk

www.springwatercharity.com

Please call the School Office
for more information
01332 760070

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