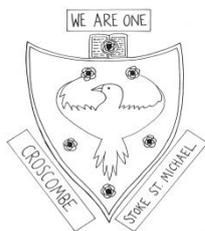




Stoke St Michael County Primary School Little Roots @ Stoke St Michael

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs M Vincent

28 February 2020

Dear Parent/carer

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 25 th February 2020 - Tuesday 31 st March 2020 (Every Tuesday)	Mrs Rice's Recorder Club for Years 2 - 6. 3.15pm - 4.15pm (Maximum of 8 children)
Wednesday 26 th February 2020 - Wednesday 22 nd April 2020 (Every Wednesday)	Green Gait Gardening Club for Years 1-6 with Paul Green and Gordon Gait 3.15pm - 4.15pm
Thursday 27 th February 2020 - Thursday 2 nd April 2020 (Every Thursday)	Holly and Hawthorn Forest School for Years 3 and Year 4
Monday 2 nd March 2020 - Monday 30 th March 2020 (Every Monday)	After School Football Club (Years 1 - 6) Monday 2 nd March - Monday 30 th March £2 per child, per session to be paid termly in advance (Maximum of 15 children)
Tuesday 3 rd March 2020 - Tuesday 31 st March 2020 (Every Tuesday)	Celebration Assembly All welcome! Please join us at 2.45pm (Refreshments available)
Tuesday 3 rd March 2020 - Tuesday 31 st March 2020 (Every Tuesday)	Miss Foord's Year 6 Marvellous Maths Club 3.15pm - 4.15pm
Wednesday 4 th March 2020 - Wednesday 22 nd April (Every Wednesday before Easter Break and first Wednesday back after)	Reception and Little Roots children Music with Mummy (Term 1) 10.00am (45 minutes) (Please note change of start time)
Friday 13 th March 2020	'Get your kit on for Sport Relief' - Children are encouraged to come to school dressed as a sports person. (For example a tennis player, football player, gymnast or their sporting hero or heroine for a donation of £1 towards Sport Relief)

Friday 13 th March 2020	Bags 2 School Collection (Please ensure all bags for donation are in school for collection at 9am)
Friday 20 th March 2020	PTA Mothers Day Afternoon Tea 3.15pm
Wednesday 25 th March from 1.30pm - 3pm	Free Themed Stay and Play Session for Pre-School Aged Children in Acorns Class (All Welcome)
Friday 27 th March 2020	Easter Bingo in the School Hall (Doors open at 6.30pm, Eyes down for 7pm)
Friday 3 rd April 2020	Finish for Easter Break at 1.30pm
Friday 3 rd April 2020	PTA Easter Egg Hunt 1.30pm £1 entry
Monday 20 th April 2020	Back to School
Friday 8 th May 2020	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 20 th May from 1.30pm - 3pm	Free Themed Stay and Play Session for Pre-School Aged Children in Acorns Class (All Welcome)

Little Roots Dates for the diary

Wednesday 4 th March 2020 - Wednesday 22 nd April (Every Wednesday before Easter Break and first Wednesday back after)	Reception and Little Roots children Music with Mummy (Term 1) 10.00am (45 minutes) (Please note change of start time)
Thursday 12 th March 2020	'Get your kit on for Sport Relief' - Children are encouraged to come to Little Roots dressed as a sports person (for example a tennis player, football player, gymnast or their sporting hero or heroine for a donation of £1 towards Sport Relief)
Friday 13 th March 2020	Bags 2 School Collection (Please ensure all bags for donation are in school for collection at 9am)
Friday 20 th March 2020	PTA Mothers Day Afternoon Tea 3.15pm
Wednesday 25 th March from 1.30pm - 3pm	Free Themed Stay and Play Session for Pre-School Aged Children in Acorns Class (All Welcome)
Friday 27 th March 2020	Easter Bingo in the School Hall (Doors open at 6.30pm, Eyes down for 7pm)
Thursday 2 nd April 2020	Finish for Easter Break at 1.00pm

Thursday April 2nd 2020	PTA Easter Egg Hunt taking place during session. £1 entry
Monday 20 th April 2020	Back to Little Roots
Friday 8 th May 2020	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 20 th May from 1.30pm - 3pm	Free Themed Stay and Play Session for Pre- School Aged Children in Acorns Class (All Welcome)



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:

Owls Class

Awarded to **Billy** for using your **Emerald Power** to have a go at everything with maximum effort. If you are not sure about something, you are not afraid to ask, you try to make your learning the best that it can be.

Oaks Class

Awarded to **Livvy** for amazing **Emerald Power** in both Maths and English to challenge herself to understand multiplication of 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers and to write descriptively using five senses and personification!

Acorns Class

Awarded to **Hywel** for all round amazing shining Gem Learning Power behaviour in class.

Little Roots

Awarded to **Billy B** for his amazing ideas for our story board. Well done Billy!

Our Wonderful Writing Wizards of the Week:

Owls Class

Awarded to **Maddy** for using **Super Sapphire Power** to stay focused and write a powerful introduction to your 'Deforestation' speech.

Oaks Class

Awarded to **Lily C** for wonderful **Emerald Power** in challenging herself to write descriptively using the five senses, personification and similes!

Acorns Class

Awarded to **Theo** for using **Super Sapphire Power** to greatly improve his grammar and story writing.

Our Magical Maths Magicians of the Week:

Owls Class

Awarded to **Inara** for using your **Diamond Power** to face new challenges. When the questions look unfamiliar, you are not fazed. You start with what you know and use your brilliant, logical brain.

Oaks Class

Awarded to **Jude** for excellent Sapphire focus in learning his 0 - 12 times tables off by heart! Wow! Amazing!

Acorns Class

Awarded to **Corey** for using **Engaged Emerald Power** in being able to find the difference mentally subtracting through multiples of 10.

The Sportsmanship Cup

Awarded to **Libby** and **Lola** for being kind and helpful towards others. You are very good at helping the younger children at playtimes and regularly give up your own playtimes to look after others.

SENCO availability for next week

Emma will be available in Stoke on Friday and in Croscombe on Wednesday.

Little Roots News

Our Topic

Next week our focus is Science. We will be looking at shadows and light using torches, how magnets work, explosions and crystal growing as well as incubating our eggs.

Our Story

We will be learning about the story *Why is the Sky Blue?* By Geraldine Taylor. This story is a first step in teaching children to care for the world around us and what makes it special.

Late Collection Charges

Please ensure your child is collected on time after their sessions. Children can become very anxious if they are waiting for you to arrive at the end of the day. We do understand that there are times when this is beyond your control. However, as of Monday 13th January we will be charging £10.00 per 15 minutes late for collection after your child's session has ended.

World Book Day 2020

It was fantastic to see all the children arriving in their World Book Day Costumes yesterday! You could be forgiven for thinking you had arrived at Hogwarts as we had lots of Harry Potter characters as well as Mr and Mrs Twit, A cat in a hat, Tigers coming for Tea, The BFG, Super Heroes and many more. Needless to say they all looked incredible! We will let you know



Acorns News

This week we have been focusing on our Victorian topic. We have been using the knowledge we gained from our school trip to Radstock Museum and applying it to our own Victorian school house. We have also been researching Victorian Toys. The children have enjoyed designing and illustrating their own Victorian toys. In our Topic Talks the children have been bringing in their favourite toys to share with the class and discussing why they are favourite so special.

The children have been learning and reciting the well known nursery rhyme; One, Two, Buckle my Shoe as well as learning the actions. In outdoor play we have enjoyed playing Victorian games such as hopscotch and hoola-hoop.

In Maths our focus has been money, we have been looking at the value of lots of different coins as well as handling money in our own Victorian Toy Shop where we have been adding up the values of different coins.

For World Book Day we drew pictures of ourselves dressed in our World Book Day costumes and shared some of our favourite books with the class.

Oaks News

Wow! What a week! I am so proud of all Oaks have achieved this week. They have worked so hard on their suspense writing in English, learning to write descriptively with detail, the five senses, similes, metaphors and personification. In maths, multiplication has continued, with the children particularly enjoying the online times table songs which help their recall and build confidence when attempting the grid method for multiplying a two digit number by a 1 digit number. Whilst in science, we have begun a new focus – muscles and bones. Do you know what the smallest bones are in the human body? Can you name them? We will be comparing human skeletons with other animal skeletons and thinking about invertebrates too. I hope that you enjoyed our rainforest body percussion performance at Tuesday's celebration assembly. As mentioned, we will be looking to extend our musical composition with percussion instruments as the term continues.

World Book Day was wet and soggy but the children's enthusiasm wasn't dampened. There were so many Harry Potter characters in Oak Class that we almost had enough to make our own film! Other characters included Cat in the Hat, a lion, Little Red Riding Hood, Tilly and super girl Elsie! After the morning's book activities, Oaks had a change of outfit for forest school and a busy afternoon in the woods learning fire striking, elephant knotting and tree cookie drilling. Some of the children did get quite cold if they didn't have gloves or hats. Although it is March, it is still very cold. Please ensure that your child has enough layers for forest school.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the children that have taken part in 'Rosie's Adventure' at St Paul's School, both from Oak Class and from Owls. You've learnt your lines and rehearsed our circus scene over and over again and showed such commitment to this wonderful inter schools project over the past few weeks. You have been amazing! A special thank you to Emily for stepping in at the last minute. What a star! Thank you to parents who have helped with costumes, lifts to and from St Pauls and for supporting the children in learning their lines. I'd also like to thank Rachel McEntee and Samantha Carver for

volunteering as parent helpers for the dress rehearsal and performances to support the children with costumes, props and reassurance! Much appreciated! Finally, I hope you all have a well deserved rest over the weekend!

Owls News

This week in Owls Class, Year 6 have been enjoying their maths, as usual, learning how to convert fractions into decimals. Year 5, meanwhile, have been multiplying three digit numbers by a one digit number. Equipped with more than one strategy, pupils will, hopefully, be able to choose one and explain their thinking, should you ask them to do a calculation at home!

In English lessons, Owls Class have been leading up to and executing a grand debate. The motion was: Deforestation is necessary. Proposers and opposers were brilliant at arguing their points of view in a lively and constructive style (with the speaker having to call 'order' from time to time!)

In Science, children have been continuing to learn about the human body, it's functions and how to stay healthy. This topic has crossed over with some food choice issues that were raised in the deforestation debate as well as issues that are currently in the news.

As ever, thank you for your amazing support. The children looked brilliant in their character costumes on Thursday! Please can you remind your son or daughter to bring in their favourite reading book of choice, ready to write a book review, on Monday.

Have a great weekend. Owl Class.

We need your help!

Owls class would love your old washing up liquid bottles for an art project we will be doing. So please save your empty washing up liquid bottles for us. Thank you!

Stoke St Michael School News

Sport Relief

This year Sport Relief takes place from Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March using the power of sport to help raise money to tackle some of the world's biggest issues, including homelessness, protecting children's futures, fighting fear, violence and discrimination and championing mental health. On Friday 13th March we would like to encourage children to 'Get their kit on for Sport Relief' and come to school dressed as a sports person (for example a tennis player, football player, gymnast or their sporting hero or heroine) to take part in a morning of fun sporting activities for a £1 donation.

Coronavirus

We hope you will find the following information helpful.

Public Health Update from Somerset:

There are no positive COVID-19 (Coronavirus) cases in the South West, but our local health and care services are well prepared with well-rehearsed plans in place to deal with any potential outbreaks.

We would like to reassure people that, should a case be confirmed anywhere in the country, Public Health England would contact all those who have come into close contact with them and give specific advice of what action to take.

Government advice is reviewed daily and updated regularly. For the latest information, advice and guidance, check out:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

If you have visited any of the areas of concern in Europe or further afield, or have come into contact with people who have visited these areas, please contact NHS 111 to get individual advice and guidance.

Please be assured that we will continue to monitor the advice from Public Health England and keep you updated.

Government Coronavirus action plan

On Wednesday, the Coronavirus action plan was launched. This document sets out what the UK as a whole has done to tackle the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and what it plans to do next.

The action plan can be found

here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

The document includes:

- what we know about the virus and the disease it causes
- how we have planned for an infectious disease outbreak, such as the current coronavirus outbreak
- the actions we have taken so far in response to the current coronavirus outbreak
- what we are planning to do next, depending upon the course the current coronavirus outbreak takes
- the role the public can play in supporting this response, now and in the future

Current advice remains in place: No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The importance of hygiene

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing

hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

Please help us in sharing simple and effective hand hygiene messages.

<https://twitter.com/NHSuk/status/1235112744917049346>

Public Health England has a dedicated webpage with a range of posters and digital materials at:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources>

Sign up is quick, free and means you will be alerted as more resources are made available.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

On Monday we launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Lost Property

Our lost property box is currently overflowing! We will be having a sort out over the following week or so and anything without logos which has not been collected by Friday, 13th March will be given to Bags 2 School and everything else donated to charity.

Please feel free to come in and have a rummage before then if you are missing anything. Many thanks!

SEND News

The latest edition of the SEND Newsletter has been uploaded to the school website. The Newsletter shares some information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Some of the highlights are listed below:

This week...

Ofsted and CQC inspection of SEND services is to take place

Next week we will receive a joint visit from OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) and CQC (Care Quality Commission). They will focus on how well the local area is providing for, and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.

Why is there an inspection?

In May 2016, the Government announced a new framework for inspections of local area services that support children, young people and their families.

What are inspectors checking?

They will be checking how well education, health and social care are working together ensure their duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 are met.

We need you to get involved and have your say

The views of parents and young people are vital - with your views Ofsted and the CQC and build a picture of what is working well and what needs to improve.

Provider visits

The Inspection will identify a range of educational settings from across the age range of 0-25 that they will visit during their time in Somerset.

Please click the following link or copy and paste in to your browser

<https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/> If you would like to know more...

PTA News

Fundraising

The clothing and shoe swap event we held in conjunction with Stoke St Michael Events Committee raised a fantastic £239.40p! This will be divided equally between the PTA and SSMEC meaning each will receive £119.70p each. Any of the goods left over will be added to our donation to bags 2 school on Friday 13th March.

Tea and Coffee sales at the Celebration Assembly on Tuesday 3rd March raised £5.50p.

With the money that you have helped us raise from recent events we have been able to purchase compost and trowels for the gardening club and will continue to help provide resources. We are also in the process of buying lots of valuable resources for Little Roots further details to follow soon.

Thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming Events

Friday 13th March

Bags 2 School Collection - The children have each been given a bags 2 school collection bag today. Please have a rummage and if you have any unwanted items that you wish to donate please return to school ready for collection on Friday 13th March. (We do have some spare bags in school if you need them, however, other bag types will be accepted and there is no limit on how many bags we can donate)

Bags 2 School **accept** the following good quality items:

- * Adult's and Children's Clothing
- * Paired Shoes
- * Hats
- * Belts
- * Handbags
- * Soft Toys
- * Bedding
- * Curtains
- * Towels

Bags 2 School **do not accept** the following:

- * Duvets
- * Pillows
- * Cushions
- * School Uniform (with school logo)

Please ensure all bags for donation are in school for collection at 9am.

Friday 20th March

Mother's Day – Inviting all mums, aunts and grandmas to join us for Afternoon Tea. Gift Bags are also available for £5 each. Please speak to a member of the PTA or the school office to order yours by Friday 13th March at 3.15pm. These will be distributed at the Afternoon Tea on Friday 20th March in the school hall.

Friday 27th March

Easter Bingo – A fun night for all the family!



Friday 3rd April

Easter Egg Hunt – After school, start your Easter holiday in style with our fabulous Easter Egg hunt.

Many thanks

Melanie Vincent
Acting Head of School