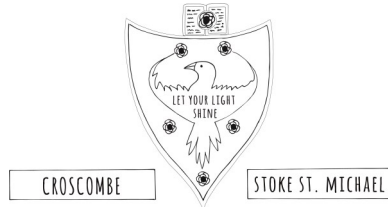


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Mr. Bill Moore, Co-Headteacher



Stoke St. Michael Primary School
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Mrs. Mel Vincent, Co-Headteacher

www.croscombestokefederation.co.uk

14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We did it! Congratulations, we have all made it through the 1st full week back after the festive holiday. Staff, parents and pupils can pat ourselves on the back for such a smooth and happy return to school. Both schools have planned lots of exciting things for the coming term! Make sure you are keeping up to date by checking our website and following our Facebook pages.



Covid Guidelines Reminder

This is a reminder that, before the start of term you would have received an email via ParentPay with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Secretary of State for Education and Somerset County Council. All schools in Somerset have been directed to maintain the **Amber** restrictions until the end of January when they will be reviewed. Given the new variant and the rising number of cases we know that this is the safest arrangement for the time being. If everybody does their bit, we will get through this together!



School Application Deadlines

Please remember that if your child is starting primary school in September the application deadline for school places is **tomorrow, Saturday 15th January 2022**. For more information please visit the Somerset County Council website www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/#starting-school or the Somerset School Admissions Facebook page [@Somersetschooladmission](https://www.facebook.com/Somersetschooladmission)

Forest School Payments

This is a gentle reminder that there are some Forest School payments outstanding at both schools. To help make life a little easier, you can now make payments in three installments. Getting money for these sessions is essential for them to be able to continue in the future.



Please note that if you already receive Pupil Premium support from the school and are struggling to make payments, please get in touch with the office via phone or email. We will do our best to help.

Please also ensure that you send your child to school with warm layer, wellies and waterproofs! Thank you.

Looking after ourselves

The term 'January blues' is a phrase often used to describe feeling a bit low after the festive period during the 1st month of the new year. While it is important to look after ourselves all year round, as we approach 'Blue Monday' on the 17th it is more important than ever.



The mental health charity, Mind has plenty of tips on how to improve our wellbeing on their [web-site](#). They include:

- Taking breaks
- Finding ways to bust stress such as doing exercise or completing a puzzle
- Talk to others

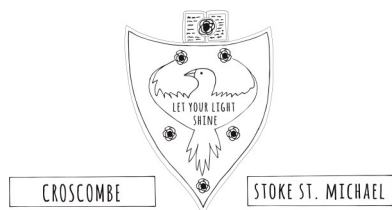


If you are struggling, please do get in touch with the school and let us know if there is anything that we can do to support you and your family. We are living in very unusual and anxious times and we must continue to come together as a school community to support each.

Let Your Light Shine



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PTA and FOCS Money Raised

Earlier on in the school year, parents had the opportunity to purchase pupil school photos. As part of this process, the PTA and FOCS have managed to raise some money in the form of commission. What a win, win situation! You get photos of your child, while money is raised to go back into helping fund activities and resources. **Stoke St Michael raised £117.29 and Croscombe raised £113.13!**

Our FOCS and PTA do vital work to support the schools and they run events and activities throughout the year. If you would like to get involved please speak to Shaun Horan (FOCS) or Lucy Stott (PTA) at the school gates or let the office know and we can put them in touch with you! Willing volunteers are always needed!!

Finally, the PTA have their next meeting on Friday 28th January at 7.30pm at the Chair's (Lucy) house. For more information please speak to Lucy at the gate or contact the school office.

Giant African Snails

Exciting news! Chestnuts at Croscombe and Oaks at Stoke St Michael have got new pet Giant African Snails. Chestnuts have called their shelled friends Buzz and Woody! Stoke have named theirs Slippy and Slimy! The snails are helping the children with this terms class learning which is focusing on Rain Forests.



Thank you to Miss Hole and her lovely friend Julie Ellis who arranged with Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Dymond for the school to receive the snails and a special thank you to Julie for donating food and soil for the snails.

ADHD Training For Parents

The Educational Psychology Service is running free training for parents with a child who has a diagnosis of ADHD. The two-hour training session will look at ADHD, what it is as well as what it isn't, explore differences (neurodiversity), and offer practical strategies and guidance to support children and young people with ADHD.



The session will take place virtually on Thursday 10th February from 1.30 - 3.30pm. If you would like to register your email address for the session please do so at the school office, for the attention of the SENCO, by **Friday 21st January**.

Save Your Stamps!

Mrs. Amor is collecting stamps, both new and used, to help raise money for RNIB. Over the next term we will be accepting stamps at both schools, which will then be sent to the charity, who raise £20 per kilogram of stamps received. New, old, British or foreign; they want them all! For more information on how it works, see their website: www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal



Facebook

This is a reminder that both schools have new Facebook pages. We will phase out the old public (not private) pages by the February half term. We will be posting updates including upcoming events at the schools, children's learning, pictures of their activities and any relevant information such as the weekly newsletters. Links to the new pages are below so make sure you 'like' us!

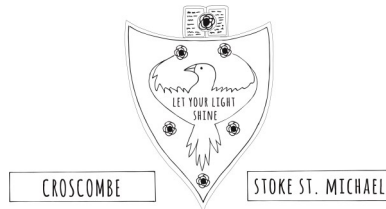


- www.facebook.com/croscombefprimary
- www.facebook.com/StokeStMichaelPrimary

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BIG Boxes Needed

On 1st February both schools will be celebrating Chinese New Year and as part of that celebration the schools will be making Chinese Dragons! Please can we have any BIG cardboard boxes you no longer want to help craft these magnificent creations. Thank you.



And Finally..

This term we are focusing on compassion. While Croscombe are looking at it from a Christian point of view, we think it is an essential quality for all children to learn and as a Federation we highlight it as our **Ruby** Learning Gem, 'I can support others and recognise their achievements'. Here is a quote from Dieter F. Uchtdorf which we feel is very apt for the current climate:



**"Let our hearts and hands be stretched out in compassion toward others,
 for everyone is walking his or her own difficult path."**

Mel Vincent & Bill Moore
Co-Head Teachers

| Stoke St Michael | | Croscombe | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Tuesday 11th January | Celebration Assemblies at 2.45pm in the school hall. Parents to be invited once restrictions are lifted! | Friday 14th January - Friday 18th February | Year 3 & 4 start Forest School! |
| Thursday 13th January - 17th February | Year 5 & 6 Forest School! | Friday 14th January | Celebration Assemblies at 2.45pm in the school hall. Parents to be invited once restrictions are lifted! |
| Saturday 15th January | Primary School Application Deadline | Saturday 15th January | Primary School Application Deadline |
| Monday 17th January | Jane Taylor Composition Workshops | Monday 17th January | Jane Taylor Composition Workshops |
| Friday 21st January | Deadline to register for free ADHD training for parents. See newsletter for details. | Friday 21st January | Deadline to register for free ADHD training for parents. See newsletter for details. |
| Monday 31st January | Jane Taylor Composition Workshops | Monday 31st January | Jane Taylor Composition Workshops |
| Tuesday 1st February | Chinese New Year Day | Tuesday 1st February | Chinese New Year Day |
| Thursday 10th February | Online ADHD training for parents. 1.30—3.30pm | Thursday 10th February | Online ADHD training for parents. 1.30—3.30pm |
| Friday 18th February | Last day before half term! | Friday 18th February | Last day before half term! |
| Monday 28th February | Start of the new half term! | Monday 28th February | Start of the new half term! |

Dates for the Diary: Please note that we will do everything we can to ensure that the dates above are correct however, with rising cases of COVID-19 in our area, they may be subject to change. Thank you for your understanding.

Let Your Light Shine

