



# Newsletter - 19th January 2018

I am really pleased to be able to announce Stoke Gabriel's Five Star Pledge. As a school we will guarantee that every child who spends the whole of their primary education with us will have the opportunity to:

- Contribute to both the local and international community, including engaging with older generations
- Participate in a minimum of two trips, every school year, and at least one whole school trip
- Travel to another town or city beyond Devon, visit Dartmoor, and experience being on the River Dart
- Grow and eat their own food, cook in the outdoors and spend a night under the stars
- Attend a professional sporting or theatrical performance

As a school, we feel that the pledge will ensure that the children have an enriching, exciting and rewarding time with us. I am very grateful to all of the staff who will make these experiences possible for the children.

As a result of professional development opportunities for the staff next week, there will be quite a few days where the normal classroom teacher is not in the class. I will be providing the cover for the classes as much as possible. Mrs Foley is out on Monday but will be in the class on Thursday. Mrs Letten will be taking Butterflies on Tuesday and Friday next week. Mrs Kerr-Brown will be out of class on Wednesday morning and Mr Butt will be out of class on Thursday morning. They are both going to watch some teachers from Shanghai teaching a Maths lesson. Professional development ensures that our teachers are able to provide the best education for the children but does mean that they have to be out of school occasionally.

Parking and driving outside of school is still a problem unfortunately. As a school, we do our utmost to keep the children safe once they come through the school gates and we have to rely on the whole school community to keep them safe on their way to and from school. Please think about where you park and how you drive around the school. We have had a complaint from the community about parking in the disabled bay at school pick up and drop off.

As part of keeping the children safe in school, can I remind you not to come into the classrooms at drop off. It always unsettles the children when parents are wandering through the class. Please don't take offence if staff ask you not to come through the classroom door. You are welcome to look for missing items at the end of the school day or chat to staff at the door. Could you also make sure that you arrive on time to pick your children up. There have been a couple of occasions where children have been picked up after half-past three which isn't fair to the children or the school staff after such a long day in school. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Of course we understand that we can all be unavoidably delayed at times but it is the repeat offenders who cause concern!

You may find the following link useful regarding online safety for children and families

<http://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/>

Don't forget to make your parents evening appointment. Sign up sheets are in the hall at drop of and pick up times. You can also ring the office and request a time slot.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Wassail celebrations tomorrow. It should be a great evening and is one of the reasons why I feel so lucky to be working at Stoke Gabriel Primary School.

## Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities in our School

Mr Matthew Medd, Head of School - Designated Safeguarding Lead 01803 782469 [mmedd@thelink.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mmedd@thelink.devon.sch.uk)  
 Kelly Yeo, Reception Class Teacher – Deputy Designated Lead 01803 782469 [kyeo@thelink.devon.sch.uk](mailto:kyeo@thelink.devon.sch.uk)  
 Anna Neville, Governor - Safeguarding Governor 01803 762113  
 Local Authority designated Officer - 01392 384964  
**For more information, please visit our website**  
<http://stokegabriel.thelink.academy/safeguarding/>

Weekly Attendance 15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018		Days Missed	Lates
Whole School	95.23%	25	10
Butterflies	97.00%	4.5	3
Ladybirds	95.95%	3	0
Dragonflies	93.33%	1	3
Spiders	89.00%	16.5	4
<b>Well done to Butterflies for great attendance!</b>			

Diary Dates	
20 January	Stoke Gabriel Wassail
23, 24 and 25 January	Parent Consultations
25 January	Butterflies - Outdoor Education at PCSA
30 January	Ladybirds to visit Dinosaur World
1 February	Spiders - Outdoor Education at PCSA
12 - 16 Feb inclusive	Half Term Holiday
21 February	Butterflies - Swimming at Totnes Pavilion (5 weeks)
22 & 23 February	Year 4 Residential
22 March	School Photographs
30 March - 16th April	Easter Holidays
23 - 25 May	Year 5 and 6 Residential
28 May - 1 June	May Half Term
22 June	Sports Day

### Ladybirds

We have had a lovely week in Ladybirds. We have started a new dinosaur book called 'Dinosaur Roar' and discussed opposites such as short, long and above and below. In Phonics we have learnt 'ee' and 'igh' and tricky word 'we'. We have been investigating 2d shapes and sorting in our maths learning and the children have enjoyed chalking shapes in our outdoor area. In Mucky monsters the children have gathered natural resources to show how big a T-Rex was – up to 6 meters! Hopefully you have all received the Dinosaur World letter that was sent out on Wednesday. Please can I have your permission slips back ASAP.

Please continue to practise tricky words and read with your child, recording in the yellow reading diaries each time.

### Dragonflies

Please ask your child...

- What colours have you been using to help punctuate your sentences?
- When estimating, why is it so important to use what you already know?
- How have you been using money to help you count in tens?
- Why is Dangerous D&T really not dangerous at all?
- Where did Mr Medd take you on Thursday?

### Butterflies

We've had another busy week in Butterflies! Ask your child to tell you all about different skeleton types! For your information, they should be able to give you examples of endo-skeletons [internal skeletons like you and me], exo-skeletons [like a beetle] and invertebrates with hydrostatic-skeletons [like an earth worm]. Perhaps you could help them to secure these Science terms! Have they told you about the senses workshop in the hall on Thursday or their dragon's eggs..?

### Spiders

Ask your child what their date of birth is in Roman numerals.  
Get them to tell you about the piece of writing they have done on "The Secrets of ....."  
Can they explain how to get perspective in a landscape painting.

### STARS OF THE WEEK

**Caleb**  
Ladybirds

**Jemima and Elsa**  
Dragonflies

**Ben and Oliver**  
Butterflies

**Grace and Jack**  
Spiders

