

Stedham Weekly News



7th January 2022

Week 1 at Stedham

Welcome back to a new exciting year at Stedham Primary School. The Stedham team would like to wish all of our families a very happy New Year 2022.

We are all clearly hoping that with the increase of vaccinations across the country, that we can begin to enjoy a trouble free year ahead.



As you can see, this is a very full newsletter with new changes and developments across the school. We have welcomed lots of new staff members this week and are excited about the prospects that this will bring.

We have a huge focus on reading this term. Next week's newsletter will include our detailed approach to reading which will give advice on how you can support your child at home. To kick start our focus on reading, we have added an interview with Mr Noble who has just published his third book! If you haven't yet read one of his books, we highly recommend you do as they are great!

Please also read the updates to the new Covid-19 changes that affect schools.

Our termly topic letters will be sent out this week. We hope that these provide an insight into the learning in each class. It will also give you an opportunity to discuss the learning with your child.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of our pupils and staff a great Spring term full of exciting learning opportunities. Enjoy!

Malcolm Meaby

Dates for your diary

INSET DAY 1	Monday 17 th January
INSET DAY 2	Tuesday 18 th January
Installation of new outdoor play equipment	Week commencing 24 th January
Half term holiday	21 st – 25 th February
Last Day of Spring term	Friday 8 th April

Congratulations to all those children who were awarded a Reading Rocket certificate in our 1st week of term

Exciting developments / Staffing updates

Update on Stedham developments:

- Reading will be our main focus this term. Next week's newsletter will provide more detail about the steps we will be taking to develop this area of the curriculum. Please can I ask parents to support their child reading every day. Research shows that being able to read accurately at age six has a strong correlation with future academic success. The children love to receive their Reading Rocket certificates as recognition for their reading at home.
- The children have enjoyed playing as a whole school at break times. With the Autumn outbreak of infections now contained, it was a pleasure to share with children that we no longer had to stay in bubbles.
- The current picnic tables have been given a fresh lick of paint over the holidays. The two benches are next to be tackled.
- Rabbits class has also been decorated. Mr Parr will be painting Foxes class next.
- Year 6 pupils will begin their SATs revision programme that next week. Parents will learn what the expectations are and how they can support their child at home.
- The new outdoor play equipment is due to be installed on the week commencing 24th January 2022

Recent appointments:

- A huge welcome to our new members of staff who have just finished their first week at Stedham Primary. They have hit the ground running and have already made a great contribution to school life. We are incredibly excited about working together in the coming months.
 - Mrs Sarah Alexander has started to get to know the role of the office administrator with Rachel Dennis giving support.
 - Mrs Hannah Thomas has made an excellent start assisting the teaching in Hedgehogs.
 - Mr Philip Gago will continue to teaching Foxes class throughout this half term.
 - Mrs Rosey Harris will teach the year 2 pupils each morning replacing Mrs Katie Cooper who now has a full time position at Fernhurst Primary.
 - Miss Gina Beresford enjoyed her first Tuesday morning supporting Foxes class.

General Reminders:

- *Lunch boxes* – Please can you ensure that your children's lunch boxes offer a healthy and balanced diet (think about the '5 a Day'). We are noticing an increased volume of chocolate and other items with a high proportion of sugar. NHS advice is to 'Switch the Sweets' – swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for malt loaf, fruited tea cakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh or dried).



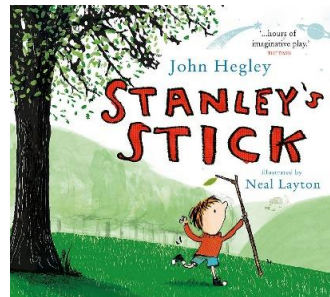
- *Fidget toys* – With an increase of popularity of various fidget toys we are finding that, rather than enabling children to concentrate better, they are distracting children's focus and attention. We have decided that unless Anne Roberts (Stedham's Special Needs Coordinator) has specified a pupil's need for a fidget toy, we will not allow them in school.



What's happened in the last week?

Rabbits Class

This week Rabbits class have started their brand new key text: Stanley's Stick. All the children enjoyed a walk into the forest to collect their own 'magical stick'. They have looked at ice in the frozen water tray and enjoyed smashing it. This then followed with an investigation about which location the ice would melt in first: radiator, desk or inside.



Hedgehogs Class

This week Hedgehogs have had a good start to the New Year. They have been looking at New Year traditions around the world and have learnt that some countries do some strange things. They also looked at New Year's resolutions and they all set their own personal goals. A really positive start to the term.



Foxes Class

Foxes have had an exciting week learning about percentages with further revision on area, perimeter and volume. They have been analysing sentence structures with a focus on prepositions, verbs and pronouns. Their hard work in the class was broken up by a fun dodgeball game and a swimming session.



Dodgeball

Phonics Bug Club!

Don't forget to access Phonics Bug Club, to support your child with reading at home.



Times Table Rockstars and Numbots!

We also have access to TTRockstars and Numbots, so the children can practice their times tables and number bonds.



Meet the new author at Stedham Primary

Meet the Author:

Exclusive news on Stedham's Author

Interviewed by Charlotte and Elsa



'What was your inspiration for the story?'

"Well, I really love animals and I know lots of children like animals. There's lots of normal animal books but I wanted to put a little twist on the animals and that's how Mixed Up Zoo came along with animals, that we recognise, all squished together."

'Did any author influence your style of writing?'

"Well I am a big fan of doctor Suez who wrote The Cat in the Hat and the Lorax so that's where I think the rhyming came from but obviously I think there is some comparison to Julia Donaldson as well. That's where I got the rhyming couplets from. I'm not sure that I necessarily copied her exactly but I think that's where I got the idea from."



"We thought the story had a moral do you agree?"

Yes, I think it has a moral. It's probably the first book I've written with a moral and yes I think we talked about it in assembly with everyone."

"What was the moral you intended to deliver?"

Well I think throughout the story, you've got the two character's: Squirrel who's only interested in himself and he wants people to cheer for him and Qwabbit who's more interested in the world and other people. Hopefully the message that comes through is that it's good to it's good to look after other things and not just yourself.



"We loved the Mixed Up Zoo collection. Are you working on a new story?"

"I am working on a new story. My next story and I'm giving you an exclusive on this one is Mixed Up Dinosaurs and Pandaguin and Kwabbit do come back into this text."

Which company did you publish with?

I published with Amazon because they were the cheapest one to go with and they can go straight on to the Amazon website.

What is your favourite character?

My favourite character is Pandaguin. He is probably the easiest to draw as well.

As well as being the easiest to draw, why is he your favourite?

I like his personality. He's a little bit naughty as he writes on walls and he is full of character.

Thank you for this interview it's been fascinating. We'll put it on the BBC news. It just leaves us to say good luck with your books. We think they'll be a great success.

Summary of the new Covid-19 changes

- From 11 January, people who don't have Covid symptoms who receive a positive lateral flow test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure.
- Anyone who has any one of the three Covid symptoms should self-isolate and book a PCR test
- The 10-day isolation period for someone (pupils and staff) with a positive result can be reduced to 7 days if they take 2 lateral flow tests on day 6 and 7 and both results are negative (tests must be taken 24 hours apart)
- People aged 18 years 6 months or over who are not fully vaccinated and are a household contact of someone with Covid are legally required to self-isolate.
- Household contacts aged under 18 years 6 months, those fully vaccinated and those not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons are not legally required to self-isolate, but are strongly advised to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days. [See Stay at Home guidance](#).
- The government has updated its [definition of critical workers and broadened the list of children considered vulnerable](#)

Where staffing is an issue, some schools are suggesting merging classes to maintain face to face provision. Our local education authority has asked schools to consider such action as part of our risk assessment.

A revised and updated risk assessment will be added to our website later this week.