

DALE AND STONEHILL NEWS



DECEMBER 2023



We are so proud of our successes this half term!

I am so happy to share our **GOOD** OFSTED Report, after they visited just before the October half-term holiday. Our inspector was able to witness all the hard work and commitment that our staff, pupils and wider community put in on a daily basis to ensure our children receive the best possible education. She was particularly pleased with the children's behaviour, respect and understanding for one another and that the school was a happy and welcoming environment for learning to take place... even Bramble got a mention! We must now work together to improve our overall school attendance and I implore you to support us with this. **Children must be in school and on time**, unless they are too ill to attend. Please call the office every morning if they are unable to be in school. Finally, I would like to give a warm welcome to our new members of staff, Mr Meakin, our new Site Manager and new TAs Miss King and Mrs Khan. I would also like to wish a fond farewell to the lovely Mrs Bassi, who is sadly leaving us. She is moving to work closer to home and we all wish her well. Sending you all wishes for a very Merry Christmas. We hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year! - **Louise Foster, Head Teacher**



We have been very busy in Nursery celebrating 50 years of Stonehill!

Our 3 and 4 year old children have been learning all about the story *What Ever Next*, which got us thinking all about space, the magic of the planets and the world around us. Our 2 year old children have been learning about *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and had great fun pretending to be the characters in the story as well as learning how to be kind to others. We would like to thank our families for their support with our

recent book sale and we hope the children who visited the garden centre this week had a wonderful time! If you need some ideas to keep your little ones busy over the holidays, you could explore the wintry weather in your local park, cosy up warm with a hot chocolate and read a book, learn some songs and sing together or take a trip to the local library. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024!



TERM DATES

BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 8th January

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 in English, we will be... reading *Eliot Jones*, *Midnight Superhero* by Anne Cottringer and *A Superhero Like you* by Dr Ranj. Our theme is (you guessed it!) Superheroes and people who help us. We will also continue learning new graphemes and digraphs in phonics and have lots of fun in drawing club.

In Maths, we will be playing dice games to consolidate our understanding of order and investigating pairs of numbers that make 5. We will also be exploring numbers that are made up of '5 and a bit.' Using the language of *more than*, *fewer than* and *an equal number*, we will be teaching how to describe how many objects there are in each set.

To support next term's learning, we would recommend talking and listening to the people in your family who are real-life Superheroes. You could also get involved with recycling at home and when you're out and about.

Over the holidays, please continue to practise phonics with the home learning sheets. You could also help your child to fasten and unfasten their coat zip, share stories with one another, practise writing their name together and play lots of games!

Have a great break,
from all the FS Team x

YEAR 1

Next term in English, we will be... reading *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers. This is a story about friendship. We will be writing instructions and character descriptions, as well as our own story about losing something and then finding it again. After that, we will be using *Cave Baby* to practise writing labels and captions and narrative retelling.

In Maths, we will be... separating numbers into ones and tens. We will also be adding and subtracting using the ones column first and then the tens. We will be recognising basic 2D shapes and 3D shapes in our environment and grouping them using different criteria. At the end of the half term we will be comparing height and length.

To support next term's learning, we would recommend visiting a zoo and taking a trip to the library to read some non-fiction books on Arctic animals. Please also help them to practise counting forwards and backwards to 20.

Over the holidays, please keep reading all the e-book library books you have. Please also practise the sounds they have learnt this half term using the *Little Wandle* phonics sheets in their homework books and have fun playing lots of games together during the festive period.

We hope you have a fantastic break and come back excited for our spring learning.

YEAR 2

Next term in English, we will be... reading *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield. We will be learning to write letters of advice, short news reports and our own narratives of the story.

In Maths, we will be looking at multiplication and division of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Our maths targets for the half term are to recall their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and be able to count in 3s!

To support next term's learning, we would recommend going to the library and reading for pleasure as much as possible. It would also be nice to go on winter walks and have fun in the park too.... We have been looking at different types of trees in English, as part of a factual report, so it would be great to go tree spotting or even on a bear hunt!

Over the holidays, try to read together every day and practice learning their 2s, 5s and 10s timetables. They would also benefit from practising some addition and subtraction sums in the column method.



YEAR 3

Next term in English, we will be... reading poems selected from Carol Ann Duffy's collection. We will be looking for patterns in poetry and how to use poetic devices. We will also be studying *The Barnabus Project* by the Fan Brothers.

Our topic work will be focused on the cities of London and New York and we will be creating art work inspired by artist Paul Klee.

In Maths, we will be multiplying 2-digit numbers with 1 digit numbers and learning our 3, 4 and 8 timetables to correspond with equivalent division facts.

To support next term's learning, we would recommend visiting the local library and exploring books written by Emily Gravett.

We hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you in January.





Year 4 visited St Augustine's Church on Upper Dale Road to learn about the Christian festival of Christmas and what it means to them.



YEAR 4

Next term in English, we will be... we will be reading *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister, in this unit children will explore and immerse themselves in the theme of the story, making predictions about what might happen if you are not careful what you wish for. Children continue to explore the themes and language of the text, particularly identifying noun phrases and prepositional phrases and how they are used to create images. Children go on to predict what might happen after the story, as it becomes spring, and write their own simple sequel, applying the grammatical skills learnt.

In Maths, we will be using the multiplication and division skills we have learnt this half term to help us with formal methods for multiplication and division.

Over the holidays, please encourage your children to read and complete TT rockstars every day.

If we get very cold weather or snow over the Christmas break it would be good if children could go for a walk in a park to experience a walk on a winters day.



YEAR 5

Next term in English, we will be... reading *The Lost Thing*, a fantasy narrative which teaches children about belonging and equality. Children will be writing diary entries, formal letters, adverts, character descriptions, setting descriptions AND non-chronological reports. Lots of exciting writing happening!

In Maths, we will be interpreting graphs to begin with and then moving onto comparing and ordering fractions.

To support next term's learning, we would recommend reading as much as possible either together or independently and encouraging children to practise their times tables regularly to keep up their skills.

Over the holidays, children have been given some fun tasks to complete that relate to next terms Space topic. Please encourage them to complete these tasks, as they will help with their spring-time learning.



YEAR 6

Next term in English, we will be... starting our first reading unit from Literacy Tree, using the book *The Little Match Girl Strikes back* to inspire our learning for spring 2024.

In Maths, we will be continuing to work hard with fractions and decimals and kick-starting our measurement unit with lots of unit conversion practise for time, length, mass and volume.

Next term our ILP will be Mexico. In preparation, you can take a look at our latest Knowledge Organiser on the Year 6 web page: dale.derby.sch.uk/year-six for some Mexican inspiration!

Over the holidays, Please complete the festive homework and don't spend the whole two weeks on your screens! Go outside, visit friends, try a new hobby and enjoy time with your families. We will be working very hard next term, so make sure you get plenty of rest :)



The Importance of great Attendance

Everyday Counts!

Our Attendance TARGET is 95%
Our Attendance for this half term is 92%.

This is way below our expectations and the National average. So many children are not achieving their potential due to unnecessary absences.

Reaching their potential

Attending school is essential to ensure your child reaches their full potential. Learning is vital at every stage. If content is missed, it is very hard to catch up and this will impact on future learning.

Getting to school on time

Please ensure your child arrives on time, everyday. Gates open and learning starts promptly at 8.40am. Gates close at 8.50am. Later than this and you must take your child into school via the school office and provide a reason for your late arrival.

If your child does not attend school, they will be recorded as absent. This will either be authorised or unauthorised. Both count towards a lower percentage score. **You must call every day, before 9am if your child is absent.** Please leave a voice message or email: attendance@dale.derby.sch.uk with details of the absence. Please arrange medical appointments outside of school hours where possible. **No holidays during term time will be authorised.**

COMING UP NEXT TERM...

Term 2: Whole School Film Night: Friday 19th January from 3.30pm - 5.15pm.

Young Voices Choir: Wednesday 24th January. *Details to follow.*

Parents' Evening: Tuesday 30th January from 4pm to 6pm & Thursday 1st February from 5pm to 7pm.

Year 3 Class Assembly: Parents invited to attend on Friday 9th February at 9.30am.

World Book Day: Thursday 7th March. Dress up as your favourite book character!

Whole School Curriculum Open Afternoon for Families: Thursday 15th February from 2pm to 3pm.

Year 4 Class Assembly: Parents invited to attend Tuesday 19th March at 9.30am.

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 to attend 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.newliferderby.org.uk
www.rccgsolidrock.org.uk
www.springwatercharity.com

Please call the School Office
for more information
01332 760070

Rucksacks in School We have very limited locker space in school. **Please do not bring rucksacks and other large bags into school.** You can purchase a book bag from the school office for £5.45 and similar small bags are available elsewhere.

DALE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL - PORTER ROAD - DERBY - DE23 6NL
(t): 01332 760070 (e): admin@dale.derby.sch.uk (w): www.dale.derby.sch.uk

STONEHILL NURSERY SCHOOL - STONEHILL ROAD - DERBY - DE23 6TJ
(t): 01332 341636 (e): admin@stonehill.derby.sch.uk (w): www.stonehillnurseryderby.com