



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **New Head Teacher**

This has been a very significant week at Little Stoke Primary when our Governors have successfully recruited a new Head Teacher to begin after Christmas.

The Governors, under the confident leadership of Scott Pells and Kirstie Wilmot, have worked with the local authority to find the best possible candidate and after a successful two-day, rigorous interview process have recruited Dan Ross. I am reattaching the letter sent out from Scott last week in case any of you missed it or were unable to open the Word version.

As Scott details in his letter, Dan Ross will be very keen to continue all the many strengths already in place, particularly linked to child-centred learning, parent participation and community links. I know he will immediately value the strong relationships we have forged with so many of you and love working alongside your amazing children. I feel 100% confident that our school will be passed into strong leadership hands and that all the aspects of Little Stoke that you value such as our focus on Outdoor Learning, Forest School our interactive and vibrant curriculum and Inclusion to name but a few, will be protected and strengthened for years to come.

All change can feel unsettling so do come and talk to me if there are concerns you have; I am very happy to talk with you. However, it is important to remember that our amazing teachers, support and office staff are still in place and they are what makes the school the special place it is. Dan will undoubtedly be making several visits to the school in the coming months and hopefully will get the opportunity to meet many of you before he starts in January.

### **Parent Evenings**

We unfortunately have to hold our Autumn Parent Evenings remotely this year due to Covid-19 regulations. To find out whether parents would prefer a phone call or zoom meeting or do not mind either way, we have sent out a short Google survey this week. If we don't hear from you we will assume you don't mind. Either way, we would very much want to talk with you to find out how you feel your child is settling in, how well they have resumed positive learning attitudes and the progress they are making during the first few weeks of term. The main week will be October 12<sup>th</sup> and appointments may be any day, Monday-Thursday. We are not going to try to tie in siblings so you would receive multiple calls during the week from different teachers. We will make these at mutually convenient times.

### **Celebrations**

We are continuing to celebrate your children's successes in school, now on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, we are unable to have any assemblies at the moment but we hope you are enjoying seeing their certificates and photographs coming home. We know how proud you are of your children and we are too! We have been overwhelmed by the way they have taken the return to school in their stride and their positive attitude to their learning this term.

These are the children who have received certificates over the last two weeks:

*..dream - plan - achieve..*

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**Well done to the following children for showing great examples of our six learning skills:  
kindness, resilience, teamwork, creativity, curiosity and participation!**

**Week Ending 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 1 :	Roscoe (Kindness)	Logan (Creativity)
	Johnny (Teamwork)	Tom (Resilience)
Year 2 :	Kaelan (Teamwork)	Sophie (Creativity)
	Christian (Teamwork)	Kai (Resilience)
Year 3 :	Jack (Resilience)	Rebecca (Participation)
	Belhemy (Curiosity)	Ruby (Creativity)
Year 4 :	Mia (Resilience)	Viola (Creativity)
	Ethan (Resilience)	Olivia (Teamwork)
Year 5 :	Ollie (Curiosity)	Oliver F. (Teamwork)
	Cole (Teamwork)	Martha (Resilience)
Year 6 :	Austin (Resilience)	Grace (Resilience)
	Chloe (Kindness)	Will (Resilience)

**Week Ending 25<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 1 :	Adebola (Participation)	Alena (Kindness)
	Max (Participation)	Sienna (Participation)
Year 2 :	Isobel (Participation)	Charlie (Creativity)
	Lana-Jane (Teamwork)	Tyler (Kindness)
Year 3 :	Tianna-Mae (Participation)	Mason (Resilience)
	Carter (Participation)	Annabella (Creativity)
Year 4 :	Riley (Resilience)	Sophie (Resilience)
	Joshua (Teamwork)	David (Teamwork)
Year 5 :	Will (Participation)	Emily Ann (Participation)
	Leyton (Kindness)	Lex (Curiosity)
Year 6 :	Oliver (Creativity)	Sky (Creativity)
	Swarit (Participation)	Thomas (Resilience)

**Safety Precautions**

We continue to put in place rigorous safety measures in school which minimise the risk of infection as much as possible. The children are fantastic at our hand hygiene procedures now and the staggered and separated break and lunchtime changes are working well. We have been fortunate that so far we have had no positive cases in school; any tests taken have come back negative and illnesses have mostly turned out to be some of the nasty cold and flu bugs which were inevitable with children mixing again after so long apart. We are hoping of course that this situation will continue and it will not be necessary to send any children home. I would like to thank parents for their understanding when we have had to ask children and siblings to stay at home whilst awaiting test results.

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## **End of Day**

Thank you as well for your continued efforts in moving off school grounds as quickly as possible at the end of the day. With Years 3 and 4 leaving at 3.25, there has been a marked difference in congestion and mixing over the last week and less children waiting then wandering off and playing. We are very grateful and would urge you to keep up your efforts in this area.

## **Tales by Torchlight**

In term 2 we are hopeful that we may be able to still hold our popular Tales by Torchlight. This will have to be restricted to class groups and would need to have staggered start times with parents not able to wait as we normally do. Hopefully you will feel able to support this event even in its restricted format. We will send out more information nearer half term.

## **Little Apples**

The new pre-school who have moved into the old Bright Sparks space have made an excellent start and have a core of children attending. The Little Apples team are already building strong links with EYFS and we are certain this will enable smooth transitions to take place over the coming years. There are still spaces, so if you have children eligible to attend or friends or neighbours looking for places, please let them know about Little Apples.

## **Harvest**

Although we will not be able to get together for Harvest Celebrations this year, we will be posting class musical and poetry contributions online for your enjoyment. As a school, we also feel there is never a more important time for helping the local foodbanks. We will send out information about contributions you can make next week and we will liaise with the Food Banks to get these contribution collected for the distribution centres. You are so generous and I know many of you have spoken about your desire to continue helping other people. Thank you.

## **Clothes Drive**

On the same note, Mrs Potterton has devised a way to continue the Clothes Drive initiative next term. We will be sending out a request list this week and I have attached this and an explanatory letter to this email.

It is incredible how schools are able to find ways to continue many of the things that we love at this difficult time and as always I thank you for your continued support and positivity that enables our school community to grow and thrive.

Kind Regards,

Anne Sargent

(Head Teacher)

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