



18th January 2024 Newsletter

Diary Dates Week Commencing 22nd January

Mon 22nd January	- Craft Afterschool Club
Tues 23rd January	- Sports Afterschool Club
	- Drama Afterschool Club KS2
Wed 24th January	- 9:00 Running Club
	- Stencil & Spirograph Afterschool Club
Thurs 25th January	- Forest School for Eagle & Kestrel Classes
	- Ali Heath Sewing Club
	- Lego Afterschool Club
Fri 26th January	- Celebration Assembly
	- 9:00 Rugby Tournament Stonehouse KS2
	- Mad Hatters Reading Afterschool Club
	- Board Games Afterschool Club

Diary Dates Week Commencing 29th January

Mon 29th January	- Craft Afterschool Club
Tues 30th January	- Sports Afterschool Club
	- Drama Afterschool Club KS2
Wed 31st January	- 9:00 Running Club
	- Stencil & Spirograph Afterschool Club
Thurs 1st February	- Forest School for Merlin Class
	- Ali Heath Sewing Club
	- Lego Afterschool Club
Fri 2nd February	- Celebration Assembly
	- Gymnastics Year 3/4 Stratford Park 11:00
	- Mad Hatters Reading Afterschool Club
	- Board Games Afterschool Club



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Dear Parents & Carers,

Following the Christmas break the children staff would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Last term seemed like one of the longest terms ever with the late break up date of 21st December. In comparison Term 3 seems very short being only 5 weeks long, which means there is a lot to fit in! Theme webs from class teachers are attached with this newsletter and our theme for this term is 'Full of Beans'.

Term has started really well and even though the weather is cold we are pleased to still have been able to go up to Ebworth with Eagle and Kestrel for Forest School, with children all wrapped up well. During these winter months the children also make tea on the fire to help keep warm during the sessions. Over the next couple of sessions we may need to stay closer to home as there is work being carried out at Ebworth on the tracks that surround it.

We've also started our next block of whole class ensemble lessons across the school. This term children in the younger years are learning to play the recorder, including Nursery (who can choose whether to join in) and Reception. Children in Year 3 and 4 are learning to play an instrument called a PBuzz. The PBuzz is a simplified version of a trombone that teaches the basics of playing a brass instrument. It has a range of 6 notes, a moveable tube and a mouthpiece. Our children in years 5 and 6 are learning to play the trumpet. At the end of each block of lessons children perform in a concert to parents and this is something that is always looked forward to. We're so grateful to FOSS who raise the money for these music lessons each year. As a result of our commitment to high quality music provision within the school we've been awarded the Music Mark for the third year in a row. This recognises our instrumental offer and teaching, but also looks at our singing and performance skills and appreciation of a range of music and composers. It also recognises the strategies for music provision that we have in place which gives opportunities to all children.

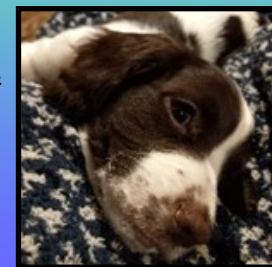
Sports wise, we have a busy term ahead with a Tag Rugby tournament, gymnastics competition and a cross country running event all coming up. Year 5 and 6 are taking part once again in the Stroud Mock Trials. The Magistrates' Association has been organising the Stroud Primary Schools Mock Trial Competition since 2000 and during that time more than 5,000 pupils have taken part. The aim is to help pupils understand the legal system and gain skills such as self-confidence, team work, public speaking and developing arguments. Pupils take on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, magistrates and court staff and this year we are the defence team. This is one of the things that children also look forward to as they reach years 5 and 6 and this year the case looks particularly challenging for the defence.

This week our children in years 4,5 and 6 took part in the K'NEX challenge led by STEMWorks. 100 schools are taking part in this challenge with 2 children from each school going to the finals. This year Yasoda and Emily were selected as our champions and we look forward to seeing how they get on in the final.

Our governors continue their important roles within the school, making their termly subject visits and helping to shape the direction the school takes and to quality assure our offer to children and families. As you'll know we have strong focus on all things environmental and this provides one of the 'golden threads' through our curriculum each term, which governors also take an active role in and which we thank them for.

Finally, today we welcomed the youngest member of the Sheepscombe Team to the school. Dora joins us as our school dog and we hope that she will be at school most days. She is just 9 weeks old and a brown and white sprocker puppy. She was very excited to be at school and took it all in her stride.

Kind Regards,
 Vicky Dangerfield
 Head teacher





The K'nex Challenge & PBuzz

