



## Stokenham Area Primary School Newsletter 2020-21/38

Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021

[www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stokenhamprimaryschool.co.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible year it has been. We could not have done it without you, our parents and carers, and so on behalf of my staff team I would like to thank you all for your support. You have helped us to navigate through a range of ever-changing guidance that has required us to adapt and change in order that at all times our children, staff and parents have been as safe as possible.

It seems strange to think that we have not been able to hold a face to face whole school assembly since March 2020, something we pride ourselves on doing to keep our school family together. However, we have been able to maintain our school family through Teams and the determination of all staff members, and the attitude and resilience of our children. We are so very proud of everything we have achieved this year together.

With a heavy heart we say 'Goodbye' to Mrs Watt and to Mrs Lansdale who leave us this week. Mrs Watt joined us as Miss Pluckrose in September 2011! She is now married with a young family and she is going to take a career break to focus on them for a while. We will miss her greatly and we wish her well. Thank you Mrs Watt, for everything you have done over the years for all our children, and for our school family.

Mrs Lansdale has been a teaching assistant at Stokenham since 2004 - she has been part of our school family for a long time and will be remembered particularly for doing PE and swimming with the children. Mrs Lansdale moves on to pursue other interests and we wish her well.

We look forward to seeing everyone in September and to welcoming a new Reception class who will begin their primary school journey. We wish our Year 6's going on to secondary school the very best of luck. We will miss you all! Most of all we wish all of you and your families a happy healthy summer break.



Our Year 6 Leavers performance of Bugsy Malone was truly spectacular! Our KS2 playground became the backdrop to New York gangster world with Fat Sam's Bar and plenty of splurge guns and foam.

Fantastic singing, a few solo performances, excellent costumes. Oh, and the dancing!! .....

A wonderful and memorable performance which we were able to show outside on Wednesday night to our Year 6 parents. Thank you to our parents for maintaining a social distance to keep everyone safe.



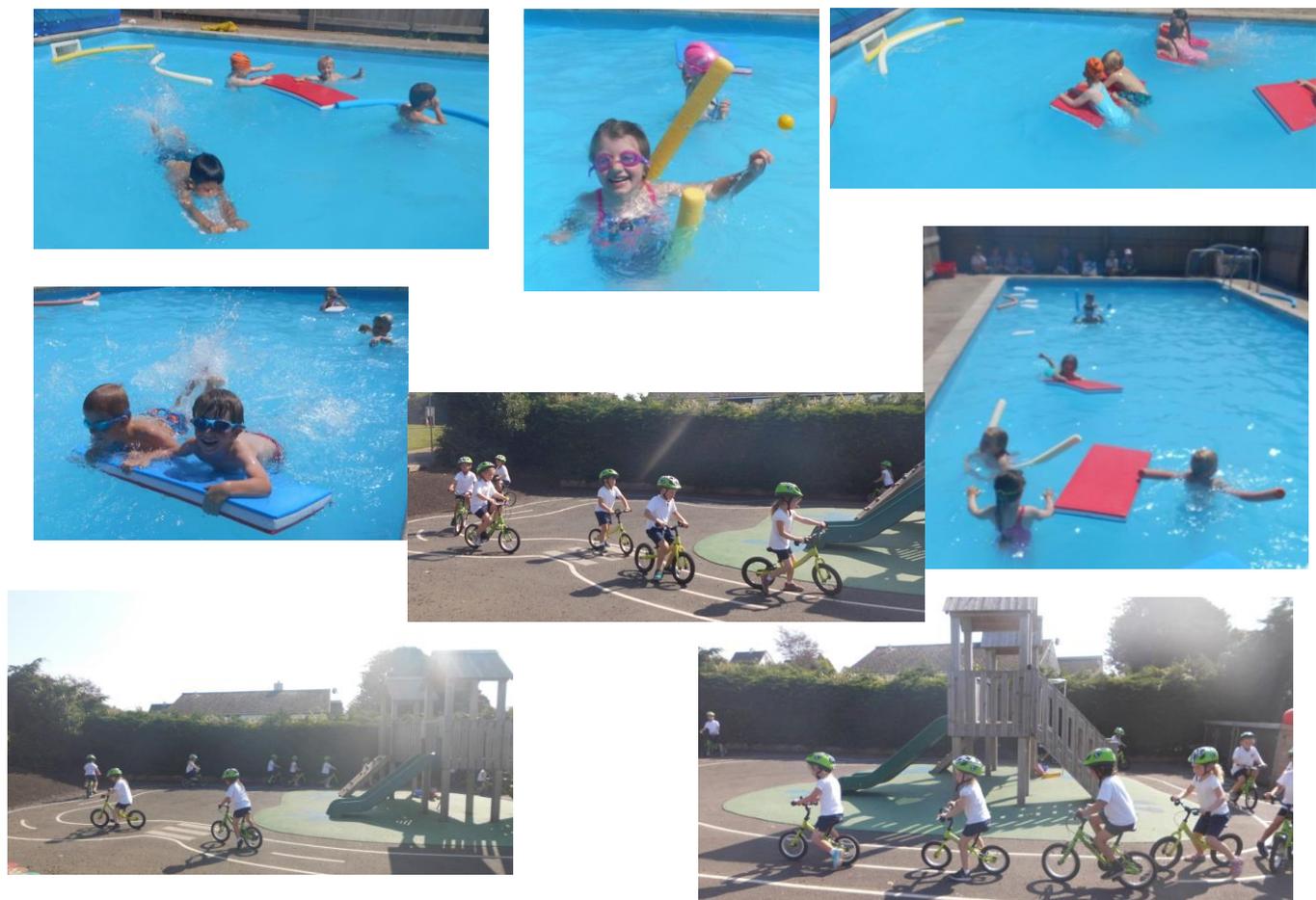
Meanwhile in Year 5, they loved having Alex Cotter in the class to talk all about her new book 'The House on the Edge' which is based on the area of Hallsands. She gave us lots of great writing tips and signed all of our books and bookmarks! We have also enjoyed our 'booknic', looking through lots of fiction and non-fiction texts (and eating biscuits!), we had a brilliant afternoon at forest school and finished our week off with some swimming.



Our Year 3 class have had a super week up in the Forest School area, as well as using the outside space for outdoor reading sessions.



Our Reception class have thoroughly enjoyed their last week of summer term with swimming and having a go on the Balance Bikes



### Governors Awards

Congratulation to Rowen and Tilly who were awarded the Governors Award for this term. Perfectly fitting for two year 6 pupils to be presented with the award. They have both throughout their 7 years at Stokenham school shown great resilience, worked hard, wonderful respect, friendship and kindness and always a smile. Well done to both Tilly and Rowen and we wish them the very best at secondary school.



### Just What Have We Been Doing This Past Year?

It's been a funny one, what with a coronavirus pandemic, a couple of lockdowns and year groups isolating - but we have still achieved so much! We successfully moved to online teaching at relatively short notice, a massive learning curve for us all, and many of the annual celebrations such as Harvest Festival, Christmas performances, Eastertime were carried out via Seesaw - where would we be without Seesaw?

We missed seeing visitors in school - our lovely volunteers who hear reading, run after school clubs, organise school fayres and fundraising events. It has felt very strange not to be able to include you all. We are hopeful that with a 'return to normal' from September that we will be able to invite volunteers and visitors into school again.

We have been lucky this summer term to enjoy our swimming pool and to open up the school to a few visitors. We also took full advantage of being able to send our children on 'experience' days in place of the residential trips we were not permitted to organise. You will have seen in the newsletters that managed to do the following:

- Year 6 messed about on the water at Grenville and paddled on the estuary with Singing Paddles.
  - Year 5 clambered through rivers and swung from trees at Heatree.
  - Year 4 had an absolute ball at Forest and Beach.
- Year 3 had a very wet day at Forest and Beach but still enjoyed a campfire breakfast and fish and chips for lunch.

This week as the term draws to a close we have been able to organise an outdoor performance of Buggy Malone and a Leavers celebration for Year 6.

I am incredibly proud of all of our Year 6 children, the maturity, positivity and humour they have all shown throughout their school careers. Their fortitude and resilience through the last eighteen months and more so these last few weeks has been an absolute joy and pleasure to witness. Everyone in our school family will certainly miss their presence in September, and I will certainly carry very fond memories of each and every one of them.

Our job here is done for our Year 6 children. I know that all of the Year 6 children are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to go forward as confident, independent, resourceful learners when they enter secondary education, and that they will continue to be "the best that they can be in pursuit of excellence" whilst remembering to be "kind, safe and responsible" as they journey through life. I am sure that you would all like to join with me to wish our Year 6 "Good Luck" as they embark on their future learning journeys and leave our school family.



A very busy year and all done during a global pandemic. Some incredibly hard work was undertaken by all to ensure the children achieve the best that they can be. It may not have been the year we had hoped for, but under the circumstances it was the best year we could possibly have hoped for. In September we begin building again and we look forward to being able to gather everyone in the school hall for a whole school assembly!

We say congratulations to Miss Saunders who will become Mrs Searle next week, when she gets married to Martyn. We all hope the day brings sunshine, laughter, champagne and wonderful memories.



Finally, as this is our last newsletter for this term we would like to wish you all a very happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

*T. Coulthard*

**Tess Coulthard**  
Executive Headteacher

### Dates for your Diary

Day & Date	Times	Year	Event
<b>Summer Holidays</b>			
<b>Tuesday 7 September</b>		<b>ALL</b>	<b>First Day of Autumn Term 2021</b>
<b>Friday 22 October</b>		<b>ALL</b>	<b>Non Pupil Day</b>
<b>Mon 25 to Fri 29 October</b>		<b>ALL</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Friday 17 December</b>		<b>ALL</b>	<b>Last Day of Autumn Term 2021</b>

