

# Stockham Primary School

Stockham Way  
Wantage  
Oxon  
OX12 9HL

Tel: 01235 764407

E mail: [Office.2583@stockham.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Office.2583@stockham.oxon.sch.uk)



Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 24

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

WELCOME BACK! We have had an interesting start to the school year. We have had a few challenges during the first few weeks. As with any staffing changes things may take just a little longer. We will have a few 'bumps in the road' as new members of staff get to grips with Stockham. So please bear with us as we find our feet and work together to support the children with their learning.

## **The First Few Days**

It has been a great pleasure seeing the children in school for a new school year, All the children are looking smart in their new uniforms and have settled quickly back into the school routines, making new friends and building positive relationships with their new class teachers and TAs! Whilst some children may experience some anxiety in the first few days, we are very proud of how they have all begun their learning journey with their new teachers. We look forward to seeing and celebrating the achievements of all our pupils, no matter their age, across the year!

September always brings a fresh start and new beginnings for all of our school community, and this year is no different. We welcome many new families and some new staff to our school, and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all – both old and new - as we begin the new school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Werrell to our senior leadership team. Miss Werrell has successfully been appointed as the school's new Assistant Headteacher. Bringing a wealth of experience, ideas and energy! I am sure you will join me in giving them a warm welcome to our school community.

## **Reading At Home**

At Stockham, we place the greatest importance on reading as the foundation of all learning. As such, you will already be aware that all children are expected to read regularly at home – and of course our preference is that children do this every day! Thank you in advance for your support with your child's reading at home this year!

## **Emergency Contact Details- Keeping us Informed**

We recognise that over the course of a year, families can encounter lots of change! Whether it is a change of address, phone number or emergency contact, it's vital that we have the most up to date information. This will ensure that we can contact you in the event of an emergency, and keep you informed about school events via the school's text and email service.



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Please take a moment to reflect on whether there is any information you may need to update us on, so that we can always contact you when we need to. To amend any information, please contact the school office.

## Classes

We have taken the decision this year to assign class names to each class. We have chosen birds of prey to link with the Red Kite that is a part of our school logo. The children will be learning about their class bird and also completing some art work to create a class display. The idea behind this is to foster a sense of belonging as part of a team.

| Class Names   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Foundation and KS1  |   |  |
| <b>Miss Ledster</b><br><br><b>EYFS Owl Class</b>                   | <b>Miss Breakspear</b><br><br><b>Yr1 Sparrowhawk Class</b> | <b>Miss Wylde &amp; Miss Hubbard</b><br><br><b>Yr2 Merlin Class</b> |
| KS2   |   |  |
| <b>Miss Lovegrove &amp; Miss Hubbard</b><br><br><b>Yr3 Kestrel</b> | <b>Miss Werrell</b><br><br><b>Yr4 Buzzard</b>              | <b>Mrs Burson</b><br><br><b>Yr5 Falcon</b>                          |
| <b>Mrs Norris &amp; Mrs Peacock</b><br><br><b>Yr6 Eagles</b>       |   |  |



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## House System

The children absolutely loved taking part in our House System last year and we are excited to get this underway again. Like last year, we look forward to awarding pupils who earn House Points for demonstrating positive learning behaviours. As we have used birds of prey as our class names, we have chosen trees for our houses as this will support some of our learning across the curriculum. All pupils are included within a house team the children will stay in the same colour group and if you are at all unsure of your child's team (particularly if they are new to our school), please check with your child's class teacher.

| <b>Houses at Stockham</b>   |  |
|---|--|
|   |   |
| Red -Hawthorn   | Yellow -Sycamore   |
|  |  |
| Green – Beech   | Blue – Oak   |

## Attendance

Good attendance is so important in supporting all children to achieve their full potential so please try to ensure your child attend's school each day. We will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure our pupils maximise all learning opportunities available to them. In the unfortunate event that they are too unwell to attend school, please contact the school office to report this.

You can inform us by telephone on 01235 764407. Please ensure that you give a reason for your child's absence. If we do not hear from you, then we will phone all of your emergency contact numbers until we make contact. If we are not able to make contact with anyone, then



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we may need to contact other agencies to carry out a welfare check. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated – it is a vital part of our safeguarding procedures.

## **Absence Requests**

Please remember that holidays in term-time will not be authorised as regulations only allow Headteacher's to authorise absence (leave) in 'exceptional circumstances.' An 'exceptional circumstance' would have to be defined as an unavoidable cause, e.g. a one-off emergency situation which prevents the child from attending school.

Family holidays, for whatever reason, cannot be approved, even if the parent is unable to take time off work at any other time. Requests for holidays in term time will not be authorised, and holidays which are unauthorised should not be taken. If they are taken, parents are in breach of their legal duty to ensure that their child attends school full time. If the absence is not authorised and the holiday is taken anyway, the case may be referred to the Local Authority Attendance Service who may issue a Penalty Notice to each parent for each child taken out of school.

## **Parking Plea**

Thank you to the vast majority of our parent community who continue to park considerately, responsibly and safely. We believe our school is a vital and valued part of our school community and we want local residents to feel the same. Please be mindful of our neighbours when collecting and dropping off your children by car. In the interests of our children's safety, the school car park is only to be used for staff so that cars are not moving on the school grounds when the children are arriving or leaving the site.

## **Reminders**

### **Naming school uniform**

We have so many jumpers, cardigans and sweatshirts left outside after lunchtime and playtime, without names on. Please can you name (even if it is with a biro), your child's name or initials onto items that they take off regularly. We cannot return items, if we do not know whose it is.

### **Water Bottles & Coats**

Just a quick reminder that children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle into school labelled with their name. They are able to keep their water bottle in class to use to stay



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hydrated. Please also remember to provide a warm/ waterproof coat for your child. Many thanks for your continued support.

## **Year 6 Secondary School Transfer**

OCC must receive applications for secondary school places by 31 October 2024 and letters will be sent home with our Y6 pupils. Local secondary schools will hold open days and open evenings and families always find it useful to attend such events. These are often advertised on the schools' websites. If you wish to take your child on a school visit please let the school office know either in writing or by phone and please remember to book a school meal in advance should your child require one.

Please ensure that your application, whether made electronically or on paper, is made no later than the closing date of 31st October 2024. This is extremely important as any applications received after this date will not be considered until after 1st March 2025. Parents are encouraged to apply on line wherever possible as this will ensure that they are aware that their application has been received.

## **Free School Meal Eligibility**

We would strongly urge parents who believe their child may be entitled to a free school meal to apply, even if their child is currently in Reception or Key Stage 1 and already receives free school meals as part of the universal offer. Schools receive additional funding for each pupil eligible for FSM. This funding is used by the school to provide additional services to support your child.

Final message ... Finally, on behalf of the staff and I, we are excited to begin a new school year with you and your children and very much look forward to working with you to ensure that we have another successful year together at Stockham Primary School. If you have any concerns regarding the start to the year and your child settling, please see your child's class teacher or pop into the Office. We aim to have a brilliant start to a brilliant year and as always value your support in doing the best we can for our children.

Finally, a calendar of key events and term dates for the year will be issued over the next few days.

Offering my warmest wishes to you and your family.

Vikki Marsh-Ballard



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