



## Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School

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Have a lovely half term break.

### What's happening in school after the holidays?

- The children will be learning all about heroes after the half term holiday.
- We are conducting our parents' evening conversations via phone call this term. This is on the advice of Public Health and in line with what lots of schools are doing. We are hopeful we can offer a choice in the spring term of virtual, in person or phone call. You can book your Parents' Evening phone call via eschools. The system will 'open' at 7.00 on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- Mrs. Taylor is teaching Class 8 on Tuesday.
- On Tuesday we will be celebrating 100% attendance for the first half term in an online assembly.
- Mrs. Townsend is available to show parents around of children who may be starting Nursery or Reception in 2022. Please note our Nursery is now full for January 2022.
- Mrs. Taylor is teaching Nursery on Wednesday.
- Class 2 have Forest School on Friday.
- Miss Tonks is teaching Class 5 on Friday

### Attendance

Class 1: 96%

Class 2: 96%

Class 3: 94%

Class 5: 91%

Class 6: 98%

Class 7: 87%

Class 8: 88%

**Our target  
attendance  
is 96%**

**This  
week's  
attendance  
is  
92.9%**

**Well done  
Class 6**

### Looking ahead to the w.b. 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Our assembly theme will be Remembrance.
- Parents' Evening phone calls will take place over the course of this week and next.
- Mrs Taylor is teaching Class 7 on Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup> November)
- On Thursday we will hold age appropriate Remembrance Assemblies and observe a 1 minutes silence at 11.00am.
- Mrs Taylor is teaching Class 8 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November.
- Miss Tonks is teaching Class 5 on Friday.
- Class 2 have Forest School on Friday.

**Assembly Theme: Bonfire Night**

## Mrs Townsend's Pupil of the Week

**Laila Palmer** who just sang her little heart out this week in hymn singing. She gave it her all, voice and moves and it was a joy to see.

### Nursery News

Well done to all our Golden Stars who we are very proud of. We would also like to say 'well done' to all our children on a very successful first half term in Nursery. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching them settle in with smiles and ever growing confidence. We hope you have a great week together and the children manage to shake off the coughs and colds that are lingering. See you in November!

### Star of the Week

**Scarlett Milnes** is such a mature young lady who is a great role model to others. She just quietly solves little problems and helps her friends when she sees them struggling. Scarlett listens carefully and when she sets her mind on a job, she has tremendous focus and concentration.

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the day 1	Vegetarian sausage and mash	Beef meatballs and tomato sauce with pasta	Roast chicken with stuffing, roast potatoes and gravy	Beef lasagna with homemade garlic bread	Homemade cheese pizza with chips and tomato sauce
Dish of the day 2	Cheese flan with jacket wedges and tomato sauce	Beandillas with savoury rice	Quorn roast with stuffing, roast potatoes and gravy	Roasted vegetable lasagna with homemade garlic bread	Bean bake with chips and tomato sauce
Oven baked jacket potato	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese, baked beans or tuna mayo
Sandwich option	Egg	Ham	Ham	Ham, tuna mayo, cheese sandwiches	Ham, tuna mayo, cheese sandwiches
	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo	Tuna mayo
	cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese
Vegetables	Carrots & sweetcorn	Green beans & cauliflower	Peas & carrots	Green beans & sweetcorn	Peas & baked beans
Desserts	Jam sponge and custard	Iced carrot cake with orange wedge	Flapjack finger with custard	Jelly with peaches	Chocolate fudge cake

### Active Travel

Many thanks to everyone who has taken part in the 10 Day (9 in our case) Active Travel. It's been so nice to do something 'different' but 'normal' in school. We used to take doing these things for granted; we don't anymore. We've walked, scooted, ridden and pushed wheeled things to encourage the children to come to school in an active way. Thank you for running behind those scooters and bikes. Thank you for wheeling things home again almost bent double to reach the handles. It's all very much appreciated. Thank you to Mr. Barker and Miss Rogers who lead the school on this work. They too have done a great job.

**Tweak of the Week:** Remember your manners, say please and thank you!

The children's out of school achievements this week. The children love sharing these in assembly so please keep sending them in. They say they feel proud in front of their friends.



This lovely little girl was very proud when she earned her 5 metre certificate and badge.



What a lovely thing to do at the weekend. That's a lot of pumpkins to eat, decorate or sit on....whatever takes your fancy!

## Behaviour in School

Earlier this week I gathered our Year One and Two children together to talk about behaviour, about respecting adults and looking after property. I do this very rarely. The children may have mentioned it at home.

Before the summer we spent £6000 buying new equipment for the small yard to improve provision out there. Our Year One and Two children have been using the space at lunchtimes sometimes as we still operate in our larger bubbles. We put out some new 'pretend' bricks one evening only for many of them to be snapped in half. The set of bricks cost us £84 to be broken almost instantly. We know it wasn't our Reception children because of timing and supervision.

We also talked about who we should respect in school. We talked about whether some adults were more important than others. Initially some of the children's responses were interesting as they explained why certain people were more important than others. But, luckily by the end of our talk they realized that we are all as important as each other and that the children's behaviour should be the same for all grown-ups in school and whether they are inside or outside, whether it's worktime or playtime.

I don't have to have 'serious' talks with the children very often. I very, very rarely raise my voice. When I do, it has impact. The children's behaviour since has been better but it is something we will pick up again after the holidays.

I write to tell you so you know what we are working on, what our expectations are and in case any of the children have talked about it at home.

On a positive note, hymn singing today was wonderful. We sang, danced and had fun.



## This week's praise board



Bella Harkness, India Hall-Mattis, Alivia Hinchcliffe for dazzling the grown-ups with their fabulous phonics. They have made super progress!

Kelvin Whiskey-Kiffin for being so sensible and brave when he was hurt at playtime. What a very mature young man he is.

Alfie Bishop - for 'knocking our socks off' with his writing. He used some brilliant story language. Watch out David Walliams!

All of Class 5 for looking after each other and helping each other with their learning.

Thank you to Corey Brookes for making some lovely Halloween buns and sharing them with the grown-ups. He also asks the most thoughtful questions. After assembly he asked what Jesus mum was called. 'Mary,' Mrs. T replied. 'And his dad?' 'He was called Joseph.' Mrs. Townsend answered. 'What were his grandma and grandad called, and his uncle and did he have any children?' Corey had certainly been listening and thinking in assembly!

Maxwell Smith for trying so hard with his letter formation. We are very proud of him. Keep it up Maxwell!

Ella Payne for keeping our classroom organised and tidy.

Alfie Alliban for doing a fabulous drawing of a leaf he had found

Jack Clayton allowed his friend to have a go on his scooter at playtime when his friend was upset because he hadn't brought his in. That's very kind Jack. Thank you!

William Machin - for being a helpful Kagan partner.

Katie Bailey for trying hard in all her learning this week.

Hollie Turner is always ready for learning! No fuss, no bother.

Joshua Willets for 'wowing' Miss Palmer and Miss Cryer with his number work this week.

Evie Shepherd for doing fantastic with her reading and keywords.

Joe Steele Petts for doing fantastic with his keywords.

Max Briggs for always following the golden rules and getting on with tasks quietly.



**Tweak of the Week:** Remember your manners, say please and thank you!



# What Parents and Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL BOTS

## WHAT ARE SOCIAL BOTS?

Bots are computer-generated accounts which sit on social media, masquerading as humans. While many are harmless or even have good intentions, others are designed to extort, sell products, spread propaganda or bully human users. Bots – short for ‘robots’, of course – are often confused with state-funded troll accounts; the two can be difficult to tell apart. However, if the results are the same, then both should be treated similarly.

## KNOWING THE RISKS

### ASTROTURFING

Propaganda and conspiracy theories are usually niche interests on social media. But with an army of thousands of bots amplifying posts through retweets and shares, people can make their messages travel further and appear to reflect mainstream opinion. Known as ‘astroturfing’, this can make children more susceptible to questionable beliefs.

### CYBERBULLYING

Bots can be set to hunt for certain search terms or opinions and then automatically reply aggressively to anybody who uses them in a message. This means that if your child posts something that whoever programmed the bot doesn’t like, they may be deluged with angry messages from fake accounts – which can be overwhelming and comparable to cyberbullying.

### EXTORTION

Criminals use bots to trap users into sextortion or online blackmail scams. The bot cultivates a flirtatious online relationship with the victim, then persuades them into a video chat during which they are tricked into posing inappropriately or carrying out a sexual act. This footage is recorded, and threats are then made to release it to the victim’s friends and family unless money is paid.

### SHADY SELLING

Bots are often used for illicit advertising – that is, they spam social media platforms with links to commercial websites. Additionally, some unscrupulous influencers have been found to use bots to artificially inflate their number of followers and the engagement with their account – making them seem more popular and therefore able to charge companies more to work with them.

## SPOTTING THE SIGNS ...

### BEWARE PROLIFIC POSTING

Bots post a superhuman amount of content. A visit to their profile usually proves they’re responding to people far faster than a human could. Check their join date and number of followers. If the account has been around for ages and still doesn’t have any friends, it probably isn’t a real person. A brand-new page is also a red flag.

### NOTICE Odd USERNAMES

Finding a social media username that isn’t taken can be difficult. People often end up with their name and some numbers – but not the way bots do it. A username like johnsmith5273 is either a sign of a random number generator or a site offering an unwieldy alternative because the preferred name is taken, which isn’t something most humans would accept.

### VERIFY PROFILE PICS

Check a user’s authenticity by investigating their profile pictures: bots obviously don’t have faces, so they tend to skim publicly available photos to try to fool people. Put suspicious pics through a reverse-image search like TinEye – you might find they actually belong to someone else or are stock images.

### CHECK THE CONTENT

Bots can’t think for themselves and usually just exist to amplify somebody else’s message. Try copying and pasting the text into the search function on Twitter, for example, and see if it’s being said anywhere else. If a lot of similar-looking accounts are saying the same thing, you’re probably looking at a bot army.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SPOT THE BOTS

Forewarned is forearmed, so if your children aren’t that familiar with the world of bots yet, explain what to look for using the tips in this guide. At the moment, most bots still aren’t that sophisticated – so finding accounts which are designed purely to troll people or spread misinformation isn’t hugely difficult, even for an untrained eye.

### BLOCK AND MOVE ON

Your child isn’t obliged to be friends with anyone online, bot or not. Pretty much every social media app has a block button, and you should encourage your child to use it whenever something or someone is making their digital lives less than pleasant. If everyone blocked malicious bots rather than engaging them, they wouldn’t pose a problem.

### BE SUSPICIOUS

While many people have made lifelong friends over the internet, it’s important not to be too trusting. Random strangers adding you on Facebook could well be bots, so do some background checks: do they have any mutual friends? Is it a new account? Even if everything seems fine, encourage your child to be cautious: warn them of potential risks.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website *Alpha*. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the *New Statesman*, *CNET*, the *Evening Standard*, *Wired*, *Rock Paper Shotgun*, *Rockstar Gamer*, *Stuff*, *T3*, *PC Pro*, *Macworld*, *Technet* and *Trustpilot*.



SOURCES: <https://www.computing.co.uk/feature/3085226/the-positive-case-for-twitter-bots> | <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/18/world/europe/uk-troll-factory.html> | <https://tristepublics.org.uk/united-kingdom/propaganda-automated-bots-defending-the-government/> | <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/presenters/amas-obrien/what-are-the-twitter-users-with-eight-numbers/>



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