Dear Parents,

Some of you may have seen The Telegraph newspaper last Saturday. Our school was featured in the paper through a wonderful interview with Mrs Mann, who is our Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Mann works tirelessly to help keep all of us safe and supports everyone at the school with up to date training, information giving along with support and advice. Please do read the article below. It is a fantastic report all about the great that we do for the children and families of Stopsley.

A parent spoke to me this week about a visit they had been on to look at a local High School for their child. The teachers there were so impressed with some of the things that we do for the children at Stopsley, mentioning both Accelerated Reader and TT Rock Stars. Please do keep encouraging your child to read at home and to practise their times tables.

It was a pleasure to spend time watching the learning in years 2, 3 and 6 this week, as well as looking at children’s Learning Books across the school. I am really impressed to see so much independence and we are proud of the high levels that the children are reaching. Please do ask your child what they have learnt when they come home each day. We now have our Year 6 Prefects in place and they will also spend time in other classes every week, helping the younger children feel happy and giving them an older ‘buddy’ who they can talk to and know.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Mr Fordham,
Headteacher

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**SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN**

How we can help children journey to a better place

Dianne Mann, safeguarding officer at a community primary school in Luton, tells Paddy Magrane about the challenges she faces and how the NSPCC supports her and the children in her care.

In many ways, Dianne Mann brings the perfect skills and experience to her job as a safeguarding officer at Stopsley Community Primary School in Luton. She began her career in the police force, in which she served for many years. Having recently volunteered with the NSPCC, a speak out, stay safe workshop facilitator, she went on to her current professional role, in which she works to ensure that children are safe from abuse and harm online, at home or at school. She finds her job enormously rewarding.

“There are constant moments that make my week really worthwhile,” says Mrs Mann. “It may be when I have been able to intervene in time to prevent a child being abused, or it could be when I’m supporting a child after they have experienced abuse—helping them to cope with each day as it comes while they journey towards a better place. It can be the consistent adult in their life for however long it takes.”

Unsurprisingly, the job is not without its challenges. Setting aside the often difficult nature of the work, Mrs Mann says one of the toughest aspects is reaching families who perhaps do not understand the importance of safeguarding, or, for complicated reasons, do understand but are reluctant to engage. She understands how busy family life can be but believes nothing replaces a good old fashioned conversation with your child. Today, she thinks parents should be asking about their children’s online lives just as they would ask about their day at school. “Often children just don’t know how to start a difficult conversation, sometimes especially with their loved ones because they don’t want to worry or upset them,” she says.

Worried parents tell Mrs Mann they don’t know enough about their child’s online life. She addresses this when she comes to speak to children about how they act online. “I ask them to compare their decisions in the real world and online. They have an uncomfortable and worrying encounter in real life—will they feel scared and want to retreat. So I ask them to mirror that behaviour online, including talking to a trusted adult.”

Mrs Mann relies on the Net Aware website to provide essential information to children, parents and fellow professionals. It brings together the NSPCC’s expertise in protecting children and O2’s technological know-how to deliver the latest insights into apps, games, websites and social media that children and young people may be using.

“The charity provides a wealth of regularly updated and reliable information. It’s communicated in easy-to-understand formats, and is always sensitive but impartial.”

For her, it is part of the charity’s unswerving determination to improve children’s lives. “The NSPCC researches, campaigns, publishes and gives advice to children and families and is not afraid to take on the giants of technology,” she says. “It is a force for good.”

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**LEAVE A LEGACY**

From giving children the knowledge to understand what abuse is, and how to speak out, to the Childline service, which gives young people a voice, the NSPCC is there every day to protect children. An independent charity, it receives just 90 per cent of its funding from the public and £2 in every £5 comes from gifts in wills. By leaving a legacy, you could play a vital part in helping every child. See the free legacy information pack at nspcc.org.uk
What you need to know:

**Entry Point:** All parents/carers are to enter the school via the main front entrance (via Gate 1; Pedestrian).

**Car Parking:** Unfortunately there is no parking available for parents/carers on the school site. Please use the Co-Op carpark or appropriate local street parking.

**Appointment Location:** Appointments for Reception, Years 1 and 2 will take place in the KS1 Hall. Appointments for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take place in the KS2 Hall.

**Children's Books:** Children's books will be arranged inside their classrooms for parents/carers to view. Please go to your child's classroom first to view these before your appointment with their class teacher.

Mr Fordham will be on site during both Parent Evenings. If you would like to speak to Mr Fordham please catch him on the day or alternatively book an appointment at the school office.

Miss Konstantinidou/Mrs Honey will also be available to talk regarding special educational needs, if you would like to speak to her regarding this please drop in.

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**Autumn Parents' Evening:**

**Tuesday 8th October 2019: 3.50pm - 5.30pm & Wednesday 9th October 2019: 3.50pm - 7.45pm**

Our Autumn Parents' Evening is still live for booking on ParentMail.

Have you booked your appointment(s) yet? Tomorrow is your last chance to book online!

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**What is involved?**

Every Friday morning parents/carers are invited into school for:

- an opportunity to spend time in class
- the opportunity to read with your child and others
- the opportunity to listen to how the teachers read and interact with books - you may even be able to pick up tips for those bedtime stories at home!

**What you need to know...**

Reading Mornings take place every Friday morning between 8.45am-9.00am in classrooms.

If you wish to join in on these mornings we ask that you sign in and enter via your child's classroom door (not at the main school office).

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**Community Spirit**

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all those who took time out of their busy weekends to join Ms Williams last Saturday to paint the large wall in the school playground.

As a school we are so grateful to be in the heart of such a great Stopsley community.

Your help was much appreciated in this project to improve and enhance the school environment.

Ms Williams is continuing to finish painting the wall and we will continue to update you on this ongoing project as it progresses.

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Thank you to all those who have participated in our Friday Morning Reading initiative which has continued this academic school year

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