



# Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Bridson B.A (Hons) PGCE



*Life in all its fullness*

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Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear All,

Welcome back! I do hope you managed to enjoy some sunshine and recreation over the summer break.

I would like to welcome our new teachers Mrs. Hannah Cook and Miss Lizzie Curzon to the team as well as Teaching Assistants Miss Paula Barnes, Mrs Lisa Bell and Miss Jayne Ellis! I am sure you will welcome them all to our school community and get to know them over the coming months. Please see the table below to see where staff are deployed at the moment!

Class	Year Group	Teacher	Planning, Prep. & Assessment Time cover.	Teaching Assistants
<b>Butterfly</b> 28	EYFS Year 1	Mrs. Waters	Mrs Watkins (Friday)	Mrs Clee Miss Hardiman Mrs Ward Miss Wilson
<b>Owl</b> 30	Year 1 Year 2	Miss Curzon	Mrs Williams (Wednesday)	Mrs Bell Mrs Smith Mrs Webb Mrs Wells
<b>Woodpecker</b> 28	Year 2 Year 3	Miss Robinson	Mrs Bridson (Wednesday PM)	Miss Barnes Mrs Sims
<b>Fox</b> 27	Year 4 Year 5	Mrs. Cook	Mrs Bridson (Thursday PM)	Mrs De Bens Mrs Ray
<b>Robin</b> 30	Year 5 Year 6	Miss Crook	Mrs Williams (Thursday)	Mrs Diserens Miss Ellis

**School Office hours:** The school office is open for **phone calls from 08:30 – 15:30 Monday to Friday.**

The school office is open to **visits in person 08:40 – 15:30 Monday to Friday.** Anyone making emergency bookings for Early Birds the next morning is asked to contact Miss Jeanette Hardiman between 15:30 and 17:00. The phone number is: 07974 957 055

Information can be accessed on the school web-site: [www.stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk)



## Our school ethos and distinctiveness! What makes us, us?

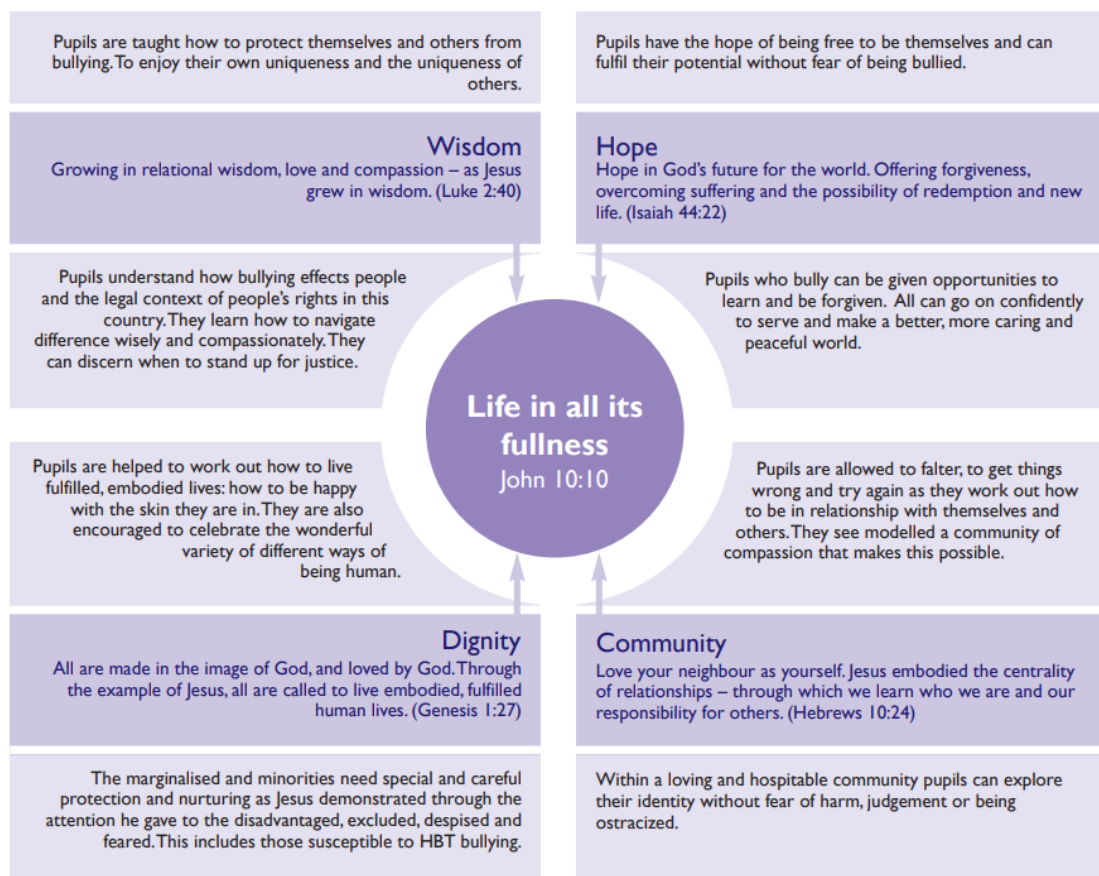
You may have noticed that the heading on this letter has changed a bit! It now says **‘Life in all its fullness’** instead of **‘Learning for Life in a Caring and Christian community’**. The change reflects our ambition to keep developing and improving the school and also to reflect our mission as a Church of England Primary School. Discussions with parents, grandparents, pupils, staff and governors also guide ‘us’ to understand the aspects of our school, which are greatly valued and need to be treasured and nurtured.

As a Church of England School we believe that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each pupil to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their personhood: physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. Our aim is that all may flourish and have an abundant life. We recognise our duty to try to remove any factor that might represent a hindrance to a child’s fulfilment. We want all pupils to willingly engage in learning in a safe and welcoming environment.

Our school fully supports the vision for education, as outlined by the Church of England in the documents *‘Church of England Vision for Education -Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good’* (autumn 2016) and *‘Valuing all God’s Children’* (Autumn 2017).

This vision offers human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, but sets them in a wider framework. There are four basic elements that run through the whole approach. Together they form an ‘ecology’ of the fullness of life, each in interplay with all the others. The four basic elements are:

- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Hope and Aspiration
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect



*Valuing All God’s Children (2017)*

**These provide a foundation for our school aims and values.**

**Our mission is to promote LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS**

**Our values are PEACE, LOVE and JOY**

**Our commitment to learning is to make it ACTIVE and RELEVANT**

**Our aims are to:**

- ensure that each child knows they are valued and supported, so that they can reach their full potential; spiritual, emotional, social, physical and intellectual, in an ethos of Christian love, peace and joy
- serve the whole community and warmly welcome children and their families whatever their faith, culture or means
- fuel and sustain every child's love of learning
- provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment so that each pupil has the opportunity to achieve and acquire skills and knowledge required for life now and in the future in a meaningful way
- create an active, positive and purposeful learning environment where effort, progress and attainment are encouraged, recognised and celebrated.

I know that it is important to many of you that your children learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. It is important to us and to you that your children develop not only as successful learners, but as a fully rounded people.

**I want to assure you that...**

**We want to motivate every pupil to be the best learner and the best person they can be! We want every pupil to engage with life in all its fullness.**

My team and I want your child to be happy and to learn. **We want all our pupils to be happy and to learn. To be happy in their learning. To be confident enough to admit when they 'don't know'! To be motivated enough to find out!** We believe:

- in providing a wide range of balanced learning opportunities for everyone
- every moment of the school day provides a chance to learn something new
- that sports, music, drama, charity events, competitions run by community organisations, trips etc all provide invaluable opportunities for each child to develop in a rounded way, enhances school life and helps to motivate a child to learn
- in actively recognising progress and attainment
- that positive behaviour as well as academic success should be recognised
- our school ethos based on Christian values provides our pupils with a strong moral, spiritual and emotional framework upon which to build their lives
- well-balanced, happy children learn better!



**I welcome any feedback/suggestions on the above.**

**What do you think?**

### Welcome & Information Evening for new parents.

#### **(THIS INCLUDES INFORMATION AND TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR READING!)**

In the interests of good communication, we are holding a **Welcome/Question and Answer Session/Reading Tips for New Parents** on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm** in the school hall. At this session we will go through routines and policies and basically answer any questions, having given everyone a chance to get into the swing of things! This session is designed to welcome EYFS parents. Please do come along if you wish to ask anything at all about how the school runs or learning etc!

**PLEASE LET MRS MUNT IN THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND EITHER VERBALLY OR BY COMPLETING THE REPLY SLIP BELOW. MANY THANKS.**

### Home Learning (Homework)

The main focus of home learning is reading, practising spellings and learning number facts.

#### **Home Learning for EYFS & KS1 2018**

**Please note we teach your children to read but it is down to you to help them PRACTICE!**

EYFS: Reading (5 times a week) and words, counting backwards and one to one correspondence, (Counting things not just saying numbers).

Year 1: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists and maths booklet.

Year 2: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists and maths booklet.

#### **Home Learning for KS2 2018**

Year 3: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists and maths booklet.

Year 4: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Termly Topic.

Year 5: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Termly Topic.

Year 6: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Termly Topic, SATs practise papers/activities rotation of comprehension, grammar, punctuation & spelling or maths. Y6 receive this sort of home learning is given out on a Friday and handed in the next Friday.

**Reading:** Reading records will be checked once a week on a Monday. Children are recognised for reading 5 times with a sticker. If children read 5 times a week for a term their efforts are recognised with a certificate.

**What does reading 5 times a week mean?** Reading could be spread over the seven days in a week, or you may read twice in one day if that is easier. Reading will vary according to the age and reading skills of each child. Reading could be sharing a book together, not necessarily the scheme book or the child reading all the words in the book. Children may choose to read an article on the Newsround website (or similar) and this will count as long as a record is made in the Reading Record book. *The Reading Journey* (Helpful hints for reading) booklet is available in the 'Parent Workshop Information' section of the school website.

**Spelling:** Children will be provided with a weekly set of spellings. This will be in their Spelling Book. Once a week the children will be assessed on these spellings. Stickers will be given for 9 or 10 correct. Stickers will also be given to recognise the children who have practised their spellings regularly and have tried very hard.

**What does learning your spelling mean?** We do not expect children to just go through the motions of learning their spellings, but to actually take responsibility for their learning and to extend their spelling skills by making an effort to learn new words. Children will be provided with ideas of how to learn spellings.

**Maths Booklets:** Each maths booklet is named after a different planet and is stuck in the back of Spelling Books. The aim of the booklets is for the children to be able to recall number, measure and geometry facts quickly and without thinking. This means being able to say multiplication tables in about 20 seconds and to recall isolated times table facts immediately.

In key Stage 2, children will be given a challenge by their teacher to know all the times tables in order, to know them mixed up and also to know division facts. Inside the booklet are the other number, measure and geometry facts your child needs to know. As parents, please tick and initial the boxes 3 times (1 tick/initial = 1 box) to verify your child is able to recall the maths facts being focussed on.



**Termly Topic:** The Termly Topic this term is to be based on the theme '**ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**'. This is to be completed in the book provided by the school and handed in on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018** to each class teacher. All children completing the task will be recognised with a certificate. (Exactly what, will be a discussion for the School's Council!)

This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups. Pupils in the younger year groups will need to ask their teacher for a book to complete the Termly Topic work in as they will not automatically be issued with one.



**Swimming commences on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.** This year swimming lessons will be for **Year 4 and Year 5**. The children will be transported from school to the Five Rivers Leisure Centre by coach on a Friday afternoon. They will return in time for the end of the school day. Due to budget constraints the lessons will again this year only run from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September until 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The voluntary contribution will be set at **£3 per session**. This does not cover the entire cost of lessons but goes some way to covering the cost of the coach hire, swimming teachers, life guards and the hire of the swimming pool. Private swimming lessons are very expensive, so I hope you agree this still represents good value for money. A separate letter will be sent out to Y4 and Y5 giving more detail about swimming. Please be aware of the coach returning to school at around 3pm!

### **PE lessons**

Please ensure your child has their PE kit **every day as things do change**. There are so many events each week which may cause us to have to change things around! Please note we will not be able to provide spare kit as in previous years.

The general plan is:

**Butterfly Class; Thursday / Friday**

**Owl Class; Monday / Friday**

**Woodpecker Class; Monday/ Wednesday**

**Fox Class; Thursday and Friday (Y4 & Y5 swimming)**

**Robin Class; Monday / Friday (Y5 swimming).**

### **Bikes and scooters**

If you collect a bike or scooter at the end of the day please wait until the rush of pedestrians has cleared the school site. Unfortunately we are unable to extend the path below my office window (due to drains), so we will have to work round it for the foreseeable future. If you wait for a few minutes, it also allows the traffic outside school to die down and be a little safer for you!

### **School Meals**

School meals are **£2.50**. This service has to be subsidised by the school budget when the uptake is low or when children do not have their Universal Free School Meal. The subsidy gets less as more children have hot meals. The meals are delicious and are really good value for money at £2.50. The governors have a duty to provide meals but they do not have to be hot. Please support our hot meal service; it will not survive if we as a school are unable to meet higher and higher subsidies. This takes money from the education budget!

### **Instrumental Lessons**

There are some sessions available with our two instrumental teachers. If your child is interested in learning the violin, guitar or ukulele please contact Mrs Munt in the school office.

## Recorder Lessons

Both Woodpecker Class and Fox Class receive recorder lessons from Mr Walker on a Friday morning.



### **PLEASE REMEMBER...**

School rules **DO** apply before and after school. Children (and adults!) must **NOT**

- climb on fences or gates (use gates)
- climb under fences (use gates)
- play on the field\*, track or in the den area (before and after school). \*The field is subject to duty staff permission on a day by day basis
- venture into the garden area
- get out play equipment (except for that provided in the morning)
- stand on picnic benches (people don't want to sit on your muddy foot prints!)
- cycle or scoot on the premises, please wheel your cycles and scooters to the gate.

Adults please do not...

- bring buggies into school (park in the hall on very wet days), we just don't have room
- use your mobile phone in school buildings (to safeguard yourself and our children)
- remain in school when the bell has rung in the mornings (we get into trouble if you do)
- come into school after the bell has rung (we get into trouble if you do)
- park on the zig-zag lines.

**Please do not get involved with 'telling off' other people's children. Please come and see myself or Mrs Watkins if you have concerns about anyone's behaviour.**



## **School Photographer- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

This time of year the individual and family portraits are done (in time for Christmas), whilst the class photos are taken in the summer. Please note, you are under no obligation to buy. All the children will have a photo taken individually (for school records) but please indicate if you wish to have a family portrait taken. Pre-school children are also invited to come along and these will be taken as near to **9am** as possible. If you wish to have a family portrait/pre-school photo taken please come along to Nest (round the back near the bike sheds) on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9am.**

**FAMILY GROUPS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN IF THE REPLY SLIP IS RETURNED TO SCHOOL. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE RETURN THE SLIP!**

PLEASE NOTE, SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (OURS!) NEED TO REGISTER AS NORMAL. A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL COLLECT THEM WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED FOR A FAMILY GROUP PHOTO!

PLEASE RETURN REPLY SLIP ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER BY FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!!!



Both Mrs Watkins and I are committed to being here for you, so please leave a message for us in the office, if you are unable to grab us, when you want us! We will get back to you. Please do not let concerns become major worries.

Kindest regards

Kay Bridson

**P.S. Please have a go at paying for swimming, uniform, trips and Early Birds and Night Owls by Parent Pay. Please let us know about your experience. Good or bad! Orders continue to be via the office in the usual way by filling in a form or talking to someone!!**

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS: INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GROUPS**

I would like my pre-school child/ren to be photographed with my child/ren attending Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School.

NAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS -----

NAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS -----

I would like my children attending Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School to be photographed together.

NAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS -----

NAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS -----

PLEASE RETURN REPLY SLIPS BY FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!!!

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**SIGN UP FOR...**

**Welcome & Information Evening for New/ Practically New or Interested Parents.**

Name of pupil(s).....

Class(es) .....

I wish to attend the session on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**

PRINT NAME (s) PLEASE:

.....

PLEASE RETURN REPLY SLIP BY WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2018