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Thursday 19th April 2018

Dear All,

I hope you had a good Easter and are looking forward to the summer term. It was great to see so many of you at Sing Up, Smiley Face Assembly and at the Easter Service in the Church at the end of last term. What joyful occasions! The children read and sang beautifully and I was proud of all of them.

At the end of last term the governors held interviews for some teaching posts at the school. I am pleased to say that we were able to appoint two new teachers to the staff for next academic year. Firstly we welcome Mrs Hannah Cook to the staff. Next year she will be the teacher in charge of the Y4/Y5 class. Mrs Cook is currently teaching in Dubai, but previous to that she taught in a similar school to ours in Kent. She will be popping into school mid-July to introduce herself to the children.

Secondly, we appointed Miss Lizzie Curzon to the staff in order to cover a maternity leave! Miss Smith is expecting her second baby in October. Congratulations! Miss Curzon will be teaching the Y1/Y2 class from September for the whole of the academic year. Miss Smith will see out the academic year with her current Owl Class and we expect her back towards the end of 2018/2019! Miss Curzon will also be coming into school before the end of the summer term in order to acquaint herself with her new class and school.

Busy and exciting times!

This school year seems to be going very quickly, but hopefully that means we are moving towards even more sunshine! This term is six weeks long and is 'action packed' so we have lots of learning ahead of us and hopefully some fun a long way! **Some pleas and reminders to oil the wheels.....**

- If you are unable to catch your child's class teacher in the morning please do write a quick note and the office can pass this on to a class teacher, leave a message for them to ring you or messages can also be left on the red clip boards (these are situated on the table inside the door near the school office).
- Please ring the school office to let us know why your child is away on the morning of their absence (before 9a.m.). This helps us to know they are safe and didn't get 'lost' on the way to school.
- Please keep all our children safe by parking and manoeuvring safely outside the school. **DO NOT PARK ON THE ZIG-ZAG LINES.**
- Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice. The only way this scourge can be beaten is if we all work together. Treat immediately if unwanted visitors are found!

- Whilst you are very welcome to come into school in the mornings, please try to encourage your child to be as independent as possible. When we had building work a couple of years ago all the children, EYFS included, proved how independent they could be.
- Please do not allow your children to play at the end of the day. The track and field are out of bounds and the 'not so small playground' is too busy for rushing around. This rule is for safety and practicality. A few years ago we still had people here playing at 5pm and then it gets a bit too much!!

Also... please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform. NAVY IS NOT PART OF OUR UNIFORM. Trousers, skirts and shorts may be black or grey. Summer dresses should not be navy. Please ensure the correct footwear is worn. TRAINERS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE as general school shoes.

Some of your questions answered...

If you would like a question answered please let me know and I will include the answers in forthcoming newsletters.

[What is the school policy on sun safety?](#)

At Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School we like to encourage our pupils to look after their skin and to be safe in the sun. Please put sun cream on your child before coming to school in the morning and provide them with a sun hat and a bottle of water. Children may re-fill the water bottle during the day. If you wish your child to wear sunglasses they may keep them in their drawer. **If children need to re-apply sun cream then it may be sent into school in a sealed and named plastic bag. Name the tube, name the bag! THIS MUST BE HANDED TO A MEMBER OF STAFF IN EACH CLASS.** Staff will help pupils to apply this to themselves. If your child has a specific skin condition and requires help to apply cream, please talk to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and we will talk to you about our Intimate Care Policy.



[What is the school policy on uniform and specifically sandals?](#)

We rely on you, as parents, to ensure that your child wears the school uniform. Children really dislike being different and enjoy feeling part of the "Stratford Team"!

The required school uniform is as follows;

School sweatshirt

White shirt/polo shirt

Grey or black trousers or shorts / grey or black pinafore dress or skirt

Blue / white checked / striped dress or skirt (summer/ hot weather)

We encourage the wearing of grey, black or white socks, or dark tights.

Children are encouraged to wear appropriate warm clothing for outdoor PE sessions in cold weather.

Footwear and clothes must be practical and safe.

This means that sandals may be worn during warmer weather. However, they should be practical and safe to play and move around in!

[What are the assessments taking place during the summer term?](#)

Throughout their time at Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School children are assessed in various ways, not only to gauge their progress and attainment, but to help us be better teachers. We, like all

primary schools also have to take part in **statutory assessments** which involve all children in EYFS, Y1, Y2 and Y6. We try to keep these low key, especially in EYFS and KS1; making them part of what we normally do. The younger children do not sit in silence, in rows etc! Below is an explanation of all the statutory assessments which take place in the summer term. For much more detail go to: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/changes-to-ks2-sats-in-2018-what-parents-need-to-know>

Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6)

These take place in May every year. This year they take place during the week commencing Monday 14th May. Our Y6 pupils always conduct themselves extremely well and I am always very proud of their perseverance, concentration and efforts. The tests have changed over the years but they involve: English (reading, writing, grammar and spelling) and maths (mental arithmetic, reasoning and problem solving)

Children have their writing assessed by the school (this is moderated by the local authority), but all the other papers are sent away for independent marking. The results are returned to us in July. We usually send out the SATs results with Annual Reports at this time.

Test	Date
English grammar, punctuation and spelling test Paper 1: short answer questions (45 minutes) Paper 2: spelling (15 minutes)	Monday 14th May
English reading test Paper 1: Reading comprehension (60 minutes)	Tuesday 15th May
Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic (30 minutes) Paper 2: reasoning (40 minutes)	Wednesday 16th May
Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning (40 minutes)	Thursday 17th May

Please do talk to either Miss Crook or myself if you have any questions regarding these assessments.

Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2)

At Key Stage 1, teachers assess seven-year-olds in reading, writing, speaking and listening, maths and science. This is moderated by the local authority. These assessments are kept low key and your child might not even notice them happening. These assessments form part of the Annual Report to parents which we send to you in July.

Phonic Screening (Year 1)

The test is a statutory test, meaning all Year 1 pupils, in all schools, must be tested. The test involves the child sitting with a teacher (in our school it will be Mrs. Watkins) and reading 40 words, some of which are real words and some are nonsense. This is a phonics test that checks their ability to 'decode' words (break words down into the sounds that make them up and say the word). This is why there are nonsense words, so that the children have to decode the words to be able to read them and not simply recognise or remember them. Teachers have strict guidelines on how to complete the test to ensure that no undue pressure is placed on the child. These assessments form part of the Annual Report to parents which we send to you in July.

Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 children in 2018

The phonics screening check for Year 1 children will take place week commencing Monday 11th June 2018.

EYFS

At the end of the EYFS, in the summer term of the reception year in all schools, teachers complete an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by the reception teachers and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time. We will give you a report of your child's progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile in July.

Dates for your Diary

(Please remember the school calendar is on the school website.)

TERM 5...

20.04.18: First Mini-marathon training session (Y3 – Y6). Even though it is the first week back.

22.04.18 (Sunday): Miss Robinson runs the London Marathon. Go Miss Robinson!!!! **Please sponsor Miss Robinson and raise money for the refurbishment of the track.**

Miss Robinson runs the London Marathon for FOSS!

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jennyrobinson1>

23.04.18: Hooke Court residential trip (Y5 / Y6). Final payment due please.

23.04.18: All after school clubs commence.

25.04.18: ANZAC DAY (Please see below for details).

11.05.18: School Disco (Please see above for details).

13.05.18 (Sunday): Village Sponsored Walk #2 in aid of defibrillator for the village.

14.05.18: KS2 SATs week.

16.05.18: FOSS meeting at 19:00.

19.05.18 (Saturday): Mini-marathon at Laverstock for Y3 – Y6.

24.05.18 (Thursday) Smiley Face Assembly at 14:15.

24.05.18 (Thursday): Break for holiday at 15:00.

Please do join our Stratford PTA Facebook page! It's a fantastic way to support our school, in a positive and proactive way. Whether we're requesting people to make cakes, help at events or bring in goodies for the Christmas bazaar, there will always be some way you can help to support our wonderful school!

To join our Facebook page, send a friend request via Facebook to:
[Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School PTA Page](#)

ANZAC DAY: Wednesday 25th April 2018

On Wednesday 25th April some of the children (from Y5 and Y6) who would like to attend the ANZAC Day Service at St Lawrence Church will be walking down the Church with Miss Crook and myself. We have given pupils a choice as to whether they would like to attend the service or not. Please let us know if you would prefer that they did not go on that day.

For details about this service and other services and events going on at our Church please go to www.saintlawrence.org.uk/holy-days/holy-days.php

This is taken from the church website:

ANZAC DAY

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

Anzac Day is the solemn day of remembrance for those Australian and New Zealand Army Corps soldiers who have fought and died for their country. It is marked annually on 25th April, the anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915.

There will be a short service of remembrance at 11am, meeting in the church then processing, weather permitting, to the WW1 Commonwealth War Graves in the churchyard where 26 Australian soldiers, 1 Australian nurse and 5 New Zealand soldiers are buried.

During the service, children from Stratford school will lay posies on the graves of the Anzac soldiers.

Everyone is most welcome, especially those who have connections with Australia and New Zealand, past or present.

School Disco: Friday 11th May 2018

Please note this event is for children from our school only. Pre-school siblings are very welcome if parents stay as well!

Tickets go on sale at the beginning of May! Parents are very welcome to stay at the EYFS/ KS1 Disco and we always need help for the second session if you are able to stay for that! KS1 children must not stay for the KS2 disco, without the permission of myself (and only in very special circumstances).

Please buy your tickets before the event so we can plan for the event.

EYFS/ Y1 and Y2 Disco 6:00pm – 7:00pm (Enter by side door to hall from big playground and exit via the front door onto the small playground.)

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 7:00pm – 8:00pm (Enter by side door to hall from big playground and exit by the same door.)

ALL TICKETS ARE £1 and include a drink in the price. Cakes and drinks are also on sale during the evening. **ANY DONATIONS OF CAKES GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!** Prices for cakes range from 10p-20p. Glo-sticks are also available ranging from 30p to £1:00.

Looking further ahead...

JUNE FAYRE 2018

This year the June Fayre takes place on Friday 29th June 2018. For those of you who are new to the school, this is an annual event which takes place on a balmy summer's evening on the school field. We all have fun, dress up and raise some money for the school. Each class creates an art installation, we have a fancy dress parade and may even sing a song or dance if we feel so inclined!

This year the theme for the event is **'Up and Down!'** Interpret this how you like for your fancy dress. Think rockets, think birds, think aviators, think bubbles, think balloons, think clouds, think gravity, think fairies! Just some random ideas from my brain. What pops into yours? Have fun coming up with your outfit!

Looking even further ahead...

Information about the next academic year

Term 1 2018/2019	
Online application forms for admissions into EYFS September 2019/2020 available.	01.09.18 www.wiltshire.gov.uk
Teacher Development Day 1	Monday 03.09.18
Teacher Development Day 2	Tuesday 04.09.18
CHILDREN START / BACK TO SCHOOL	WEDNESDAY 05.09.18

We are always busy and rushing around as you know, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any worries or concerns.

Kindest regards
Kay Bridson

