



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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Thursday 25th April 2019

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.

Over the Easter break the gas pipe was successfully re-routed. SGN did a fabulous job and worked hard to get the work finished before we returned so a big thank you to them!

This school year seems to be going very quickly, but hopefully that means we are moving towards even more sunshine! This term is five 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.

Fund raising event...

May I remind you that Jed Doe, parent of a pupil in Butterfly Class, is walking the entire Hadrian's Wall, 84 miles over 4 days in May this year! He is raising money for our outside classroom space which we aim to use for:

- Outdoor learning to support their wildlife area
- Before and after school clubs (Early Birds and Night Owls)
- For the children to use in break times and lunchtimes
- For parents to shelter in on pick- ups!

If you would like to donate to this cause the link is <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jeddoe>



Some of your questions answered...

[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.

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?](#)

There is so much media hype about the testing and assessing of children. We keep the process of assessing children as child friendly as we can. As in all things, we encourage all the children to do their best and be at peace with themselves!

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/what-are-sats>

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.

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

KEY STAGE 2 SATS TIMETABLE:

Date	Activity
Monday 13 May 2019	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 14 May 2019	English reading
Wednesday 15 May 2019	Mathematics papers 1 and 2
Thursday 16 May 2019	Mathematics paper 3

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.

KEY STAGE 1: DATES

Date	Activity
May 2019	Key stage 1 test period
Week commencing Monday 10 June 2019	Phonics screening check week

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.

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 working with 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.

You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's Annual Report on Friday 19th July 2019. Reports are sent to you before this date (in July)!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

TERM 5...

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

29.04.19: All after school clubs commence.

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

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

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

VIP Allocated Sessions:

Butterfly and Owl Classes

Thursday 9th May 2019 (13:30 – 14:45) or Friday 21st June 2019 (13:30 – 14:45)

Woodpecker, Fox and Robin Classes

Wednesday 8th May 2019 (09:00 – 10:15) or Wednesday 19th June 2019 (09:00 – 10:15)

TERMLY TOPIC HOME LEARNING: April / May 2019

The Termly Topic for this term is a challenge...

Find someone to interview. (Preferably the oldest person you can find!) Talk to them about their childhood by asking them some really good questions (plan these in advance). Find out the differences and the similarities between their childhood and the way you are living in 2019!



Be as creative as you like in the way you record your findings.

You **MUST** make sure that something is in your book as a record of your topic. This could include photos or you could write the questions and answers in an interesting way!

The deadline for handing in topics is **THURSDAY 23RD MAY 2019**. This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups. Have fun!

Looking further ahead...

JUNE FAYRE 2019

This year the June Fayre takes place on Friday 28th June 2019. 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 '**Horrible Histories: A Journey through Time!**' Interpret this how you like for your fancy dress. Think people, objects or places from history! Have fun coming up with your outfit!

Looking even further ahead...

Information about the next academic year

Term 1 2019/2020	
Online application forms for admissions into EYFS September 2020/2021 available.	01.09.19 www.wiltshire.gov.uk
Teacher Development Day 1	Monday 02.09.19
Teacher Development Day 2	Tuesday 03.09.19
CHILDREN START / BACK TO SCHOOL	WEDNESDAY 04.09.19

Please find the Wiltshire term dates for 2019/2020 attached to this letter along with a copy of our School Calendar.

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

Kindest regards

Kay Bridson