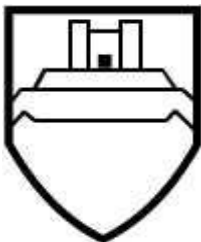


Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC Primary School Newsletter Tuesday 1st September 2026		Life in all its fullness John 10:10
	Our theme for assembly this term is Thankfulness <i>'Always be thankful.'</i> <i>1 Thessalonians 5.16</i>	
I hope you have all had a lovely summer, enjoyed the sunshine (although maybe not the heat!), have had the chance to spend time with family and make some memories! We are all looking forward to getting back to some much-needed normality and routine over the next few days and are also excited to welcome everyone back to school. I would like to say big thank you from all the staff for all the cards and gifts we received at the end of the school year. Your generosity was overwhelming. We are very lucky to work in such a wonderful school, and we appreciate all your support and kindness. I would like to welcome all the new children and their families to Team Stratford! We are looking forward to getting to know you all. We have reviewed our parental permission for walking out of school in the local area, eg to the church, on a welly walk in the village, and for use of photography and images of your children. Please complete the forms below by Friday 11th September 2026. 2026 2027 Walking out of School – Fill in form 2026 2027 Use of Photography/ Images Form – Fill in form All the staff have two busy days of Teacher Development today and tomorrow Wednesday 2nd September. We look forward to seeing all the children on Thursday 3rd September.		
<u>Start of school year 2026 2027</u> Following feedback from parents and staff, we have decided to use a staggered start for the first day of term 2026 2027. Due to the number of children arriving at the same time on the first day, it can be very busy in our small cloakrooms and overwhelming for some, especially our new children. Please see the times below for your child to arrive.		

Early Birds will run from 08:00 as usual.

08:40 – Children with surnames beginning with A – G

08:50 – Children with surnames beginning with H – P

09:00 – Children with surnames beginning with Q – Z

Parents may come onto the school site but please say goodbye and leave as soon as possible. Please do not come into the buildings. We encourage most people to drop off at the gate.

When dropping off children... Make sure you do not park on the zig-zag lines, bus stop or double yellow lines and take great care when pulling in and when you leave. Take care of ALL OUR CHILDREN!

The Reading Room carpark is available, you may park and walk from there.

From Friday 4th September, we will return to our normal morning routine. Please see below.

ARRIVAL

Parents may come onto the school site but please say goodbye and leave as soon as possible. Please do not come into the buildings. We would encourage most people to drop at the gate. **Gates open at 08:40. School starts promptly at 08:50**

ENTRY AND EXIT OF SCHOOL SITE

CLASS	GATE IN	DOOR IN	GATE OUT	DOOR OUT	ADULT WAITING AREA
Butterfly	MAIN	GLASS HOUSE DOOR	MAIN	BUTTERFLY CLASS GATE BEHIND THE HALL	BEHIND THE HALL
Hedgehog	SMALL	GATE NEAR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM	MAIN	GATE NEAR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM	OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND NEAR BIKE SHED FENCE.
Robin	MAIN	GLASS HOUSE DOOR	MAIN	GLASS HOUSE DOOR	AREA NEAR DEN
Woodpecker	MAIN	GLASS HOUSE DOOR	MAIN	GLASS HOUSE DOOR	OUTSIDE SCHOOL OR AGREED PICK UP POINT
Fox	SMALL	FOX SIDE DOOR (DOWN STEPS)	MAIN	FOX SIDE DOOR (DOWN STEPS)	OUTSIDE SCHOOL OR SMALL PLAYGROUND

Children (probably KS2) may walk to your car or to the carpark unaccompanied if you are happy for them to do so. Please complete the Walking out of School Form to let us know if you are happy for your child to do this.

[2026 2027 Walking out of School – Fill in form](#)

New Beginnings Service – Thursday 3rd September @ 09:10

Please can I remind you all of our 'New Beginnings' church service held on the first day back, at 09:10 in St Lawrence Church. We hold this service every year to mark the beginning of the new school year for all the children, but especially our new children, who will be mentioned by name. All parents and families are invited. The service is short and we enjoy tea, coffee and cakes afterwards. It is a chance to welcome our new parents and catch up with the old ones!! It would be lovely to see you.

The school office

The office door is 'open' in the mornings from 08:40 onwards. If you need to speak to Mrs Munt in person, please pop in. However, due to the lack of space in the office, whenever possible please phone or e-mail her on 01722 327227 or admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk

We take phone calls from 08:40. If your child is ill please call at any time and leave a message on the absence answer phone stating your child's name, their class and the reason for their absence. This is vital and helps us to know they are safe and haven't got lost on the way to school!

Please sign up for ParentPay if you haven't already, as it really helps to reduce administration time. Something we do not have enough of, due to financial pressures.

Parents of new children will receive information regarding how to do this next week. The office is closed from 15:30 until 08:30 the next morning. Anyone making late bookings for Early Birds is asked to contact Miss Hardiman between 15:30 and 17:00. **Please ring the Early Birds/Night Owls phone on: 07432 845958.**

Messages for teachers

If you wish to leave a quick message for a teacher please use the office e-mail admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk and Mrs Munt will ensure it gets to the right person. Please remember our door is always open but schools are busy places and sometimes it is easier to e-mail and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Early Birds and Night Owls

This is based in Robin Class (through the big gate near the outdoor classroom).

Early Birds and Night Owls is led by Miss Hardiman before and after school, supported by other teaching assistants from our school. The sessions are very popular with our pupils.

Information on how to make bookings for Early Birds and Night Owls can be found on the school web-site in the Parents tab: www.stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk

Please note:

- **Early Birds: available from 8am (Please note this is not a breakfast club and children will need to have had breakfast before arriving at school)**
- **Night Owls: available from after school until 5pm. (Please note that children staying will need a snack and drink for after school. Legally we are not able to have the children on site beyond 5pm)**

If children are picked up from a session more than five minutes late then an extra half hour may be charged. If a child is booked into a session but does not attend (e.g. due to illness) **we are unable to provide refunds as we still have to pay the staff.** Obviously, we will look at cases of long-term illness on an individual basis! Places can be cancelled up to 24 hours before.

School Meals

School meals continue to cost **£3.00**. 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 feedback on our new caterers has been very positive and the meals are delicious and are good value for money at £3.00. 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!

School Meals for Pupils in Yr 3

Pupils in Year 3 are no longer entitled to Universal Free School Meal. How it works - School Meals **must be paid in advance** on ParentPay. They cost £3 per meal. You can put a lump sum on your child's ParentPay School Meal Payment Account and as your child has a dinner the money will automatically be deducted off the lump sum.

THINGS TO REMEMBER AND BE AWARE OF...

Children need to bring:

- A waterproof coat at all times, we will go out to play in all weathers!
- Wellies or a change of shoes to go on the school field and garden area.
- A change of clothes in case they get very wet.
- A snack and drink for the day please only use a water bottle with a sports top.

Please make sure all these are clearly named!

Do not provide your child with nuts for their snack or packed lunch as we do have children with nut allergies, including peanut, pine nut and cashew nuts. (This includes foods like pesto and Nutella)

Because we have so many children, with allergies and dietary needs we are unable to allow birthday cakes or sweets to come into school.

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).
- 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...

- come into buildings without a member of staff inviting you inside
- park on the zig-zag lines, double yellow lines or in the bus-stop.

Please come and see either of us if you have concerns about anyone's behaviour adult or child!

Smiley Face Celebrations commence on Friday 4th September @ 14:40, gates open at 14:30. All welcome!

Initially our new reception children will not attend, but as soon as they are ready they will join in and I will let you know when this is!

Finally ...NAME EVERYTHING, especially plastic snack boxes, coats and any uniform that the children can take off. We will return items back to the children if they are named.

Definitely, finally... we look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 3rd September 2026!