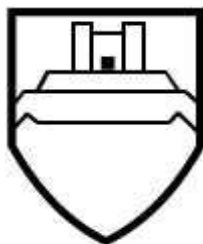


Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC  
Primary School  
Newsletter

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
2026



Life in all its fullness  
John 10:10



Our theme for assembly this term is

**Thankfulness**

*'Always be thankful.'*  
*1 Thessalonians 5.16*



It was lovely to have the children back today, a school isn't a school without children! To see them looking smart in their new uniforms, enjoying their learning and catching up with their friends along with making new ones was wonderful to see. The school has been very settled with a buzz of excitement.

**Staff update**

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Rudman is expecting a baby in February/March. This is wonderful news for her and her family. Mrs Rudman will continue to teach Woodpecker class until she goes on maternity and we will be recruiting a teacher to cover her during this time. Congratulations Mr and Mrs Rudman and Daisy!

I also would like to announce that Miss Hannah Crook has been appointed as Deputy Head

I would like to welcome Mrs Angie Smith to Team Stratford, Mrs Smith (not to be confused with Mrs Ali Smith, our existing TA and Thrive practitioner!) is working in Butterfly Class with Mrs Waters and her team.

**PE lessons**

Some of you may be aware that the government is stopping the PE and Sports Premium Grant that has been given to school since 2012, following the London Olympics. This grant was used to provide high-quality PE lessons and CPD for our teachers as well as ensuring we have enough sports equipment. It was also used to provide the after-school clubs, for free, run by Astrella (Connor).

Due to this impact on our school budget, we have had to make some changes. Each child will receive 2 PE lessons a week, one delivered by Connor and 1 delivered by their class teacher.

PE lessons this year will be:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Butterfly Class | Tuesday and Thursday |
| Hedgehog Class  | Tuesday and Thursday |

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Robin Class      | Wednesday and Friday |
| Woodpecker Class | Thursday and Friday  |
| Fox Class        | Monday and Thursday  |

Children **must** come to school in their PE kits/active uniform on the days they have PE.

We are unable to continue to fund the after-school clubs this year, but Astrella will run a club that can be paid for by parents. Please see after-school clubs' information, which will be sent out tomorrow.

Introduction to our new families from Connor

*Hello Stratford-sub-Castle School and Community,*



*I am thrilled to continue to be part of Team Stratford delivering PE lessons this year! My name is Connor, and I've been teaching PE through Astrella for the past four years, always striving to deliver the highest quality of physical education.*

*A bit about me: though I'm smaller in stature due to not having knees, I am incredibly proud of my achievements and excited to bring my passion and dedication to your school. Outside of work I play various sports, the main one being wheelchair rugby which is a big passion of mine. I look forward to another fantastic year of physical activity and growth with all of you!*

### **Bus**

Many of you know that there is a bus that comes to school from Stratford Road in the morning and picks up after school to go back along Stratford Road. I have been made aware that some parents believe this is a school bus. It is not. However, the council arrange for the bus to be put on to help parents with the journey to and from school. There is not an adult on this bus in the morning or afternoon. However, the children are collected from the bus by a member of staff and put on the bus in the afternoon. If your child is going on the bus, please make sure you are at the bus stop in plenty of time to collect them.

### **Mobile phones and Smart Technology**

New guidance from the DFE has been released, this summer, regarding mobiles phones and smart technology in school. We are currently devising our own policy on this. Please may I remind you that, as much as possible, we are a phone free school.

Older children may bring a mobile phone into school if they are walking to and from school on their own. This must be handed to their class teacher when they arrive and is kept, locked away until they go home.

Please can I ask that parents/carers do not use their mobiles phones while on school site. If you attend Smiley Face Celebrations, please do not have your phone out and ensure it is on silent. This is to safeguard you and as well as the children.

When parents attend school events, eg. Nativity, Sports Day and Year 6 show, please ensure that you follow the rules given at these events. You may use your phone to take photos of your child and must ensure that it is not put on social media.

### **Pupil Premium Grant**

**IN ADDITION, a Pupil Premium Grant will be given to the school for children whose parents are in receipt of the following 'support' payments:**

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - providing you are NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit and your family's annual income (as assessed by HMRC) is not more than £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

If you are receiving qualifying benefits (listed above), the government will give our school a Pupil Premium of **£1,515** for primary-aged pupils (2025-2026).

For the school and your child to benefit from this money you need to apply online.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Please remember to complete the forms below. These are for all children, not just our new ones.

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

[2026 2027 Use of Photography/ Images Form – Fill in form](#)