



Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Justine Watkins BEd (Hons)



Life in all its fullness

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Thursday 27th April 2023

Dear Parents

Thank you all for your congratulations regarding my appointment as Headteacher – I am thrilled!

I take my job very seriously and am pleased to be leading our wonderful school. I look forward to seeing all our children flourish and develop and to working with you to ensure they all achieve their best. I will continue as SENDCO alongside my role as Headteacher for the foreseeable future. I will also continue to teach Butterfly Class on Fridays, however sometimes I have Headteacher meetings on a Friday. On these days Mrs Waters or Mrs Diserens will teach Butterfly Class. Miss Crook continues to support me as Acting Deputy Headteacher along with our fantastic staff team.

Anzac Day – 25th April 2023

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand. During the First World War (and for a short time afterwards) soldiers from the Commonwealth were stationed in the camps around Salisbury Plain. Meningitis and influenza were common and spread amongst the soldiers. Many were transferred to Salisbury Isolation Hospital and some who died there were buried in the churchyard at St Lawrence.

After the war it became a tradition for the children of Stratford School to lay posies on the graves of the Anzac soldiers. On Tuesday, Year 5 and 6 attended the Anzac Remembrance Service held at St Lawrence Church and laid posies in remembrance of the soldiers. We were very fortunate to have been joined by a representative of the Australian Army and some other Australian soldiers who are currently working with Ukrainian soldiers on Salisbury Plain. This made the service very poignant. The Australian soldiers spoke to the children afterwards and told them how moved they were to see them laying the posies with such respect.



The school was presented with three flags – the Union flag, the Australian flag and the Aboriginal flag. These have been sent to us by Joe Flick who visited the school in November 2022. Joe Flick is a Kamilaroi man whose Aboriginal grandfather served in the First World War. Joe now helps other Indigenous families, who have loved ones buried in Europe, by visiting their grave sites, taking photos, and performing a ceremony. Joe first came to St Lawrence in 2015 accompanying the descendent of Joseph Knight, the only aborigine buried in our war graves, for a special service

commemorating the centenary of his death. He has visited us a couple of times since then and formed a close relationship with the school and community.



Coronation Topic Day

On Friday 5th May we will hold a Coronation topic day in school. The children will take part in different activities throughout the day to learn about and celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. If they would like to, the children may come dressed in red white and blue for the day. Some of the activities will involve moving around so they will need to wear trainers.

We would like to invite families to join us at 13.30 to celebrate together. Tea, coffee and ice lollies will be sold by FOSS. If you have a reusable cup to have your tea or coffee in then please bring it along. Our new king is an advocate for environment issues and sustainability so this is our way of supporting it too! (It also helps on a health and safety basis!)

Please bring a picnic blanket so we can gather together on the field. The children will perform for you and after we will have music and time to celebrate together. You are also very welcome to dress up in red, white and blue too.

Mrs Gillingham, our school cook, has kindly arrange a raffle for the day. We will be selling raffle tickets before school and at break times, Tuesday – Friday next week, for 10p each. All monies raised will go to charity.



1st prize – teddy bear

2nd prize – pencil case and stationery

3rd prize – water bottle and face paints

Other prizes – crowns fit for a king!

I hope this will be a lovely afternoon where we can all come together and celebrate this historical event.

Finally a quick reminder....

Please do not let your children play outside school in the morning, while you are for the gates to open. The road is busy and we have lots of flowers that grow under the tree and on the verge.

Best wishes

Justine Watkins