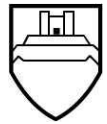




Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Justine Watkins BEd (Hons)



Life in all its fullness

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Tuesday 20th June 2023

Dear All

Term 6 is always a time of change. Our Year 6 are preparing for their end of year show and attending transition days at their new schools where they will start in September. We are welcoming our new Caterpillars over the next 3 weeks, who will transform into some of our Butterfly Class in September. Year 5 are visiting secondary schools for taster days so decisions can be made by October 2023. We are very close to finalising the new classes for next year and will inform the children and parents in the next couple of weeks. This can also be a very unsettling time. Please find some advice to help you children through this time at the bottom of this letter.

Staffing news...

I am sorry to say that Mrs Sims will be leaving us at the end of June. Mrs Sims started working here in September 2013. She put her 'heart and soul' into her role as Teaching Assistant and has supported many children in her role as ELSA. She has been a brilliant colleague (always seeing the best in everyone and offering a listening ear) and all the adults here at Stratford-sub-Castle Primary will really miss her, as I know will all of the children.

A Message from Mrs Sims

As some of you may have noticed I've not been in school for the last few weeks, I've been supporting my son to sit his GCSE exams, after many months of being unwell. During that time it's become clearer to see quite how much support my own children need and it is with the heaviest heart I have made the decision I need to leave my job at Stratford, in order to be at home and support my children through their next steps, which currently look very unpredictable.

As most of you know Stratford has been a whole lot more than a job to me and creating 'The Hive' and all it stands for has been a personal accolade to both myself and the children within the school -past and present. I've been very fortunate, within my ELSA role, to have worked one to one with many children and families and loved every minute of it and I'm very sad to be leaving that behind and will miss each and every part of it - from gate duty to hand gelling. However, a big part of what I've always tried to instil in the 'Bees' of The Hive is the importance of recognising and doing what's right for you, no matter how hard that might be and how much courage it may take.

With exams finished I've returned this week to spend some time with everyone and say some proper farewells before my last days next week. I'm not good at goodbyes but I know how important they are for all. Once a part of Stratford always a part of Stratford and I'll be sure to keep in touch and help out where I can.

We have a vacancy for a teaching assistant for September 2023. If you are interested or know anyone who is please contact Mrs Tiley in the school office finance@stratford-sub-castle@wilts.sch.uk or look on <https://jobs.wiltshire.gov.uk/results/#!/search/511910010212411/departments/schoolsnonteaching>

I am also sorry to say that Reverend Sarah Wood-Roe will be leaving us at the end of the school year. Sarah has been the vicar at St Lawrence for just over 5 years and in this time she has been a big part of Stratford School: taken assemblies and created online versions during Covid; led services – Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Leavers’ Services including some outdoor ones and individual class assemblies. Sarah has been a great support to all through some difficult times and has been an excellent governor. We wish her well on what follows next for her, she will be greatly missed.

Announcement from Revd Sarah Wood-Roe

It is being announced that the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Stephen Lake, has invited me to be Chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury.

This is a really exciting next chapter in my ministry and I am really looking forward to serving in this role. However, we will be very sorry to leave so many dear friends at St Lawrence and in the benefice as a whole. The last five and a half years as your Associate Priest has been a time of huge blessing in my life, and the lives of Nick, Henry and Mary - we are going to miss you all very much.

My last service at St Lawrence will be on Sunday 6th August – our Patronal Festival. I will start as Chaplain in early September. Please do hold me, Nick, Henry and Mary in your prayers as we prepare for this new ministry, as well as Jean and the whole benefice.

Other news

SING-UP ASSEMBLY 2023: WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE @ 09.15 (in the school hall)



As you probably know, we like a good sing at Stratford-sub-castle Primary School! Sing –Up Assembly provides families with the chance to come and join in! Mrs Aylett will conduct us in an hour of music and song! Please let Mrs Munt in the school office know if you wish to attend.

admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk

JUNE SUMMER FAYRE (FRIDAY 30TH JUNE @ 6PM)

Thank you for all your donations for the June Summer Fayre. The bottle battle was very close with Owl Class crowned the winners. They have decided they would like an extra playtime so this will happen soon.

Donations – we are still accepting donations for the Adult, Children, Teddy and Bottle tombola up until the day of the fayre. Any donations of non-perishable items for the Home- Produce stall can also be donated anytime. Cakes and Perishable items to be brought into school on the 30th June, when we will have a non-school uniform day.

Volunteers - We are still short on volunteers. Some stalls are currently unmanned for part of fayre or only have one helper, which will mean queues and waiting around. If you can give up just 30 minutes of your time between 6-8pm to help out, this will minimise queues, allow everyone a chance to enjoy the fayre and avoid some frazzled people. Please drop an email to friendsofstratfordschool@gmail.com, respond to

one of the Whats App or Facebook posts, log your commitment on [volunteersignup.org/QX9TJ]volunteersignup.org/QX9TJ or catch Sharlene Lucas in playground before or after school on a Wednesday or Friday. **Without enough volunteers, we may have to scale back the evening!**

Raffle tickets – Please make sure your stubs and unsold raffle tickets are returned. For those requiring more, please drop and email with your name, child's class and number of tickets required to friendsofstratfordschool@gmail.com or drop a message via the facebook group. If we get enough volunteers, raffle tickets will be on sale at the Fayre too.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all and your families next Friday. Gates open at 6pm.

SPORTS DAY: THURSDAY 6TH JULY 2023

(Parents, grandparents and families all very welcome)

This is always one of the year's high-lights. I do hope you will be able to join us and cheer all the competitors on. We will be starting as near to 9.30am as possible and finish at about 11.45am.

Please bring a deck chair if you have one, we have run out of chairs in the past.

Refreshments provided by 'THE FOSS' will be available during the morning.

SAFETY RULES FOR SPORTS DAY


- **Sit or stand on the side designated for parents- do not approach pupils on their side**
- **Carry refreshments with care, please do not purchase cakes and drinks for school pupils**
- **Stay away from the finishing line / zone**
- **Please do not allow younger siblings to play on the track or equipment**
- **During the water race please stand as close to the running track as possible**

Parent Coffee Morning – Thursday 11th July 2023

Parenting is a hard job and if we had all the answers, we would be a very rich people! I get asked many of the same questions and I know that we have many parents at Stratford who have knowledge and understanding of these same things. Therefore, we have started to hold Parent coffee mornings this year. This is a safe space where we can be honest and ask for help from others in the same position. A place where we can share tips and strategies, support and empower each other. This will be the last coffee morning of the year. We are planning to hold them every first Wednesday of the month from September.


We have information regarding Childrens Chance, a charity that gives grants to families for children to be able to attend extra-curricular activities and FUEL CAMPS for the summer holidays. If you are interested in either of these pop along and find out more.

PARENT COFFEE MORNING




LET'S FACE IT... PARENTING IS HARD AT TIMES

MUMS AND DADS OF STRATFORD, WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS



TOPICS THAT WE AIM TO COVER ARE: 5 TO THRIVE, TRIPLE P, SEN, YOU AND ME, MUM AND MORE



TUESDAY JULY 11TH 2023

HELD AT THE TOMKINS ROOM (BEHIND THE READING ROOMS HALL)

START TIME 9.10AM	TEAM STRATFORD	EVERYONE WELCOME!
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How to support your child with change.

Change is part of life and can be good but can also cause some anxieties for children, and adults too. It is important we support our children so that they can build resilience and learn strategies to be able to cope with change in the future.

Big life changes are inevitable, but that doesn't make them any easier for children (or adults) to manage. Structure and stability feel safe for children, so new experiences like changing class, moving school, divorce or welcoming a baby sibling can be scary.

As we face changes, we develop the skills of resilience. By navigating and growing from these experiences, we strengthen and train our "resilience muscle." Children who are new to major life changes need extra support in addressing their feelings, understanding and adjusting to change, and learning new strategies and skills along the way.

Remember that children feel our emotions, so start by acknowledging and regulating your *own* feelings about the big change.

1. GIVE THEM TIME TO PREPARE

When preparation is an option, give your child plenty of advance warning that a major change is coming. This allows them **time to process** and begin to accept the change.



2. LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS

Take time to address your child's questions and concerns. Help them **work through the emotions** that they're feeling.



If your child struggles to name what they are feeling, help them label the emotion (e.g., anxious, sad, nervous, worried, or scared).

3. READ BOOKS ABOUT BIG LIFE CHANGES

There are plenty of children's books written to **help kids cope** with major life changes.

Check out the Top 85 Growth Mindset Books for Children and Adults in our Growth Mindset Printables Kit on biglifejournal.com



4. KEEP ROUTINES THE SAME

Give your child as much consistency and stability as possible. Bedtimes and mealtimes in particular should remain consistent. Structure feels safe for children so provide as much of it as possible to restore a sense of safety.



5. PROVIDE CONNECTION AND PLAY

Remain consistent is your child's **connection with you**. Make sure your child knows that no matter what else changes, you aren't going anywhere, and neither is the bond you have with your child.



6. GIVE THEM CHOICES AND ASK FOR HELP

During a big life change, children feel that they have no control over their lives. Give some sense of agency by allowing your child to make small choices:



- What color do they want to paint their bedroom at the other parent's home?
- What should you cook for the first meal in the new house?
- What outfit do they want to wear for their first day at a new school?

7. TALK ABOUT OTHER CHANGES

Talk about things they **successfully coped with** in the past. They might include:

- Starting school
- Getting a new pet
- Joining the soccer team
- Going to first grade

