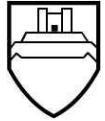




Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Justine Watkins BEd (Hons)



Life in all its fullness

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Thursday 13th July 2023

Dear All

The end of term is fast approaching, I cannot believe we only have eight whole school days left! Well done to Robin Class for an amazing show performance last night to their families. There was laughter and tears in all the right places and their teamwork and friendships shone through. I was very proud.

Thank you to all who came to the June Fayre. The event raised just over £2,600 which is an awesome effort! This money will go towards improving the track and getting some new play equipment for the children. More importantly, it was a lovely community event and it was great to see grandparents, parents and pupils, former parents and pupils, governors and staff all mixing together again.

Thank you to everyone who helped to set up the stalls, manned the stalls and tidied up at the end, without you the Fayre would not have been the successful event it was.

Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, donated prizes and ponies and bouncy castles, your support is very much appreciated.

All in all a fantastic team event!

GO..... TEAM STRATFORD!

Thank you to all who were able to make it to Sports' Day. It was so lovely to see so much family support for individual children and also the school. Many thanks also to the FOSS for providing refreshments and to all the staff who helped to make the vital preparations, especially Mrs Watson who worked very hard before and on the day! Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone who took part. A very special thank you to the Y6 pupils, who helped to set up the races. Another proud head teacher moment!!



Other end of term/year news

Annual Reports and Parents' Open Evening Monday 17th July 2023

Your child's end of year report and results (if appropriate) will be coming home tonight. If you think there are any errors, don't understand anything or we have left anything out please do speak with myself or your child's class teacher and we will rectify the situation or try and explain the report to you.

You will have chance to discuss this report with your child's class teacher on Monday 17th July. Please note the evening runs from 3:10pm – 6:00pm. Old books will be sent home on Monday and current books will be rolled over into next year (to save money).

If you wish to talk to your child's teacher or say hello to their new teacher (if they have one) then the staff will be there to see you. We work on an informal sign up idea for this evening, simply write up your name up on the white board in the classroom on that evening and 'chats' will happen on a first come, first served basis. Please do come and feel free to wander around the school and visit all the classrooms should you so wish! **Each class will have a white board where you can write up your name if you wish to speak with the class teacher.**

Please see the schools statutory test data compared with the national data (2022) from this academic year, on the school website from Monday 17th July 2023.

End of year gifts

I have recently been asked about gifts for staff/the school for the end of the school year. Firstly can I say while gifts are very much appreciated they are not expected. We do our job because we enjoy it, we love to see the progress your children make – academically, personally and socially, that is enough for us. However, I know that some people like to show their appreciation with gifts and cards. We have created an Amazon wish list with books on that we would really like for the school to enhance our library and classroom books. If you would like to gift us one of these instead of giving the staff gifts then we would be very grateful. If you would prefer to do something else then that is entirely up to you. Please find the link to our wish list below.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/33OJQIDFGWKJV?ref=wl_share

Clubs

All clubs finish this week with the exception of Multi-sports club with Miss Wozniak (last session Thursday 20th July) and Early Birds and Night Owls. Early Birds will be available on the last day of term, Tuesday 25th July but there will not be Night Owls that day.

P.E.

Next week will be our final PE sessions of the year. I would like to thank Miss Wozniak for all her hard work and enthusiasm with the children and, also, for her training of the staff so that we can also teach high quality PE sessions. Miss Wozniak will be back with us in September and PE days will be the same for everyone – Tuesday and Thursday. Children will come to school in their PE kit on those days, as despite initial bumps, the feedback from parents and staff has been very positive.

Smiley Face Celebrations – Friday 21st July 2023

The last Smiley Face Celebrations of the school year will be held at 09.10 in the school hall. We have changed the time for this week as Year 4,5 and 6 are swimming in the afternoon and it will be Year 6's last Smiley Face Celebrations!

Whole School Topic Day – Monday 24th July 2023

We are having a whole school topic day based around the theme of '*Celebrations around the World*'. Children may come into school in their PE kit on this day.

Leavers' Service – Tuesday 25th July 2023

We finish the school year on Tuesday 25th July. This is marked with our Leavers' service in the Church at 13.30. Year 5 and 6 parents are invited to join us. Children should wear their **proper uniform** so we can go to the Leavers' Service looking smart on the last day.

Finally....

Thank you to all that completed the questionnaire to help the school with its strategic plan. So many of the comments were positive which was pleasing to read. Below are answers to some of the questions raised.

How can parents help their children with home learning more?

Parents are a vital part of their children's learning and we really value your support and effort with home learning. Last year, Miss Crook and Miss Smith made a video to help parents know what to do and it is on our school website. Please take a look. <https://stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk/parent-workshops/>

We are also going to hold more parent showcase sessions next year, where you will be invited in to see how we teach a subject, for example phonics, maths or writing. Hopefully this will help you understand what your child is learning and how it is taught in school.

Can you tell us when our child will get a Smiley Face?

Smiley Face Celebrations was definitely on everyone's keep list! However there were questions regarding the time of our celebration and knowing if your children would get a Smiley Face.

We hold Smiley Face Celebrations in the afternoon so that we can maximise our learning time in the morning, when the children are fresh and ready to learn. All Reception and Year 1 children start with their phonics session at 09.00. In Term 1 Smiley Face celebrations was held at 09.00. However we quickly realised it was difficult for the children to refocus and be in the best place to learn after coming from Smiley Face Celebrations. The excitement of receiving a Smiley Face or seeing parents/grandparents or the disappointment of not, made it difficult for them to settle. I understand the time of Smiley Face Celebrations can be difficult for some working parents but we must prioritise the children's learning first.

The last Smiley Face Celebrations of the school year will be held at 09.10 in the hall so that more parents are able to join us.

Smiley Face Celebrations is a time where we all come together to celebrate **everyone's** achievements and successes. If we told parents when it was going to happen they would only come to that celebration. Also the teachers write the Smiley Faces over the week, some maybe done that day! It would be difficult to let you know. As a working parent myself, who could never get to my children's celebrations, I do understand but please be reassured that we are all here celebrating with them.

Is there a way we can talk to the class teacher about our child's progress more often?

We hold three parents evenings a year and send home an interim (mid-year) report and an annual report. We are very happy to talk to you at any time about your child's progress, if you would like to. Please talk to one of us at the school gate in the morning, to your child's class teacher at pick up time or e-mail admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk and we will get back to you and arrange a time to talk.

Can we have advanced notice of school trips to help with financial planning?

We completely agree with this. We have had some fantastic trips this term but appreciate they were all very close together and this can prove costly for families with more than one child in school. We are in the process of planning out our trips in to fit in with our curriculum map and then this will be sent to parents and put on the school website. Hopefully this will help with future planning.

I hope this helps answer some of your questions. If you feel I haven't responded to something you would like to ask please speak to me on the gate or e-mail me on jwatkins@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk.

Dates for next academic year

<u>Teacher Training Days</u> <u>2023/2024</u>	<u>Date</u>
Teacher Development Day 1	Friday 01.09.23
Teacher Development Day 2	Monday 04.09.23
Teacher Development Day 3	Monday 30.10.23
Teacher Development Day 4	Thursday 04.01.24
Teacher Development Day 5	Friday 05.01.24

<u>Church Services</u> <u>2023/2024</u>	<u>Date</u>
New Beginnings	Tuesday 05.09.23 @ 09:15
Harvest Festival	Wednesday 27.09.23 @ 14:00
Christmas Carol Service	Tuesday 19.12.23 @ 14.00
Easter Service	Wednesday 27.03.24 @ 14:00
Leavers' Service	Wednesday 24.07.24 @13:30

Best wishes

Justine Watkins