



Life in all its fullness

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Friday 1st September 2023

Dear All

I hope you have all had a lovely summer, despite the typical British weather! I am looking forward to getting back to some much needed normality and routine over the next few days and am also excited to welcome everyone back to school.

I would like to welcome all the new children and their families to our Stratford family!

I would also like to welcome Mrs Andrea Pittaway, our new teacher, who will be sharing Woodpecker Class with Mrs Rudman, and Mrs Tara Nicholson, who will be working with Miss Smith in Owl Class as a teaching assistant.

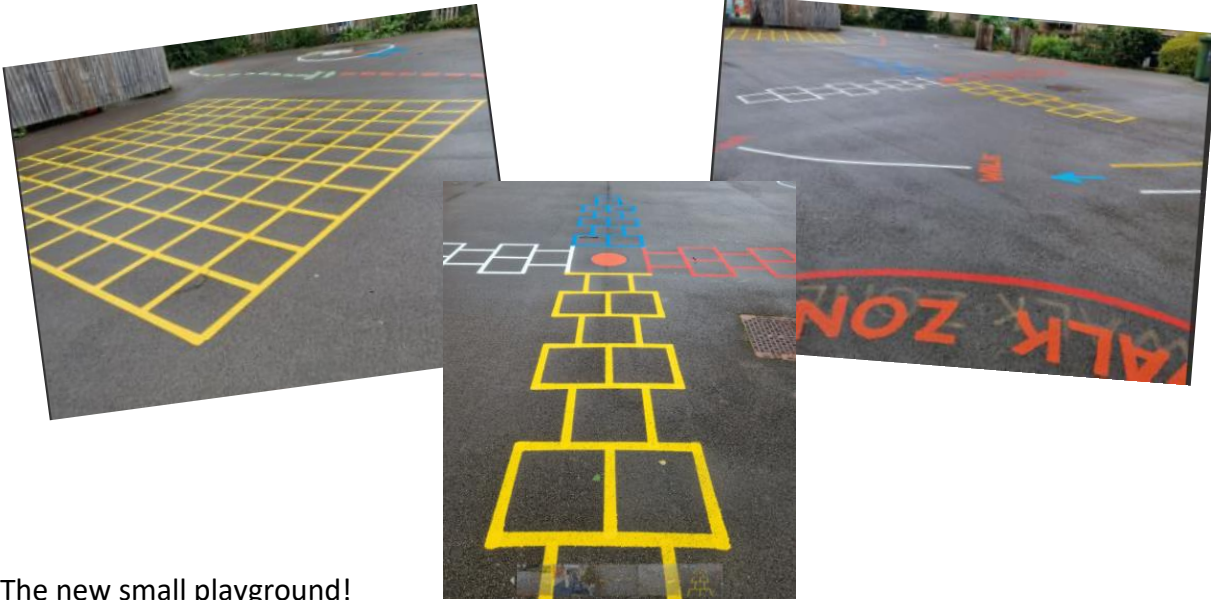
We have had a busy day today and we have another training day on Monday. The teachers have created new class pages on our website so please have a look. They are in the learning tab under class pages. We will continue to add to these as the year progresses.

We look forward to seeing all the children on Tuesday 5th September, gates open at 08.40 and the day will start at 09.00. Children in Year 1-6 will have PE on the first day back, as it is a Tuesday, so please remember to come in PE kit. Our new reception children can come to school in their new school uniform.

Please can I remind you all of our 'New Beginnings' church service held on the first day back, Tuesday 5th September, at 09.20 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. 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.

I would like to say big thank you from all the staff for all the books 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. I have left the books on display in the corridor for the children to see and we will put them in the library for them to read soon.

There have been some changes to the school over the holidays, with a lot of painting! The main corridor has changed colour and we have some fantastic markings on the small playground, chosen by our Schools Council.



The new small playground!



The new main corridor!

Office news

The office door is 'open' in the mornings from 08:40 onwards. If you need to speak to Mrs Munt in person, she will come outside to meet you. However, whenever possible please phone or e-mail her.

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

We take phone calls from 08:40. When our phone lines return we have a new message service for absences so you can leave a message if your child is ill. Please call in if your child is sick, 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 reception children will receive information regarding how to do this next week.

The office is closed from 15:00 until 08:30 the next morning. Anyone making late bookings for Early Birds is asked to contact Miss Hardiman or Mrs Webb between 15:30 and 17:00. **Please ring: 07432 845958.**

Messages for teachers

If you wish to leave a quick message for a teacher either, use the office e-mail or write on the class clipboard, which is located in a box by the gate at the beginning and end of the day. Please note the class e-mails do not exist anymore.

Early Birds and Night Owls

This is now based in the Nest (near the outdoor classroom). Early Birds is staffed by Miss Hardiman and Mrs Ray. Night Owls is staffed by Miss Hardiman and Mrs Webb.

Early Birds and Night Owls is a reading and homework support service run by Miss Hardiman before and after 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 website 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)**

Charges:

- **The Early Birds sessions cost £3.**
- **The Night Owls sessions cost £5 hourly.**

Children who are attending the existing free school clubs will be able to attend from 4pm-5pm and £5 will be charged for this arrangement. All sessions must be paid for in advance and at the time of booking.

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!

PE lessons

As I said in the last newsletter, all PE lessons will be on a Tuesday and Thursday. Children come to school in their PE kits.

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 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!

Recorder Lessons

Woodpecker Class and Robin Class receive recorder lessons from Miss Askew on a Thursday.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

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!



2023/2024 Routines...

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 09:00

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.

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
Owl	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 e-mail the office if you wish them to walk out of school unaccompanied!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We are planning to start after school clubs week commencing 11/09/23. I am attaching the clubs letter and form for term 1 and 2. I will also send this out on paper with all the children on Tuesday. Please return via the drop box by Thursday 7th September at 09.00

THINGS TO REMEMBER AND BE AWARE OF...

Children need to bring:

- Snack and drinks for the day including a water bottle with a sports top. (named please- also note the water fountains are closed)
- Book bag for reading book (school will provide a clear plastic zipper if required).

Please do not provide your child with nuts for their snack or packed lunch as we do have children with nut allergies.

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

Finally ...NAME EVERYTHING, especially plastic snack boxes, coats and sweatshirts.

Definitely, finally... we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th September 2023!

Kind regards

Justine Watkins

P.S.

Smiley Face Celebrations commence on Friday 8th September @14.20, hall doors open at 14.10. All welcome!

Initially the YR children will not attend, but as soon as they are ready they will join in!