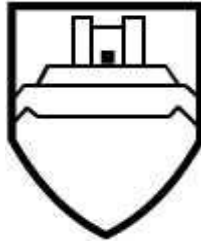


**Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC
Primary School
Newsletter**

Thursday 18th July 2024



**Life in all its
fullness
John 10:10**

Thank you to all who came to our open evening yesterday. It was lovely to see so many of you and the pride with which the children showed everyone around their school. The end of the academic year 2023/2024 is nearly here! We finish school on Wednesday 24th July at 3.00pm. Please remember there is no Night Owls on this day.

I'd like to welcome Mrs Zoe Barlow to Team Stratford. Mrs Barlow will be working with us as a teaching assistant in Owl Class next year with Miss Smith and Mrs Nicholson. She has lots of experience and will be an asset to our team.

The Department for Education has brought in new guidelines for attendance which comes into force on 19th August 2024. Please read the attached letter from Wiltshire Council explaining the changes. As a Wiltshire maintained school, we have to follow these guidelines.

Academy update

A working party of governors, including myself and Miss Crook, have met with some different Multi Academy Trusts and have identified ones that we feel would be good partners for us to work with. The journey now continues with the full governing body meeting these MATs to find out more about them.

Please can I reassure you all that myself and the governors want our school to remain to wonderful, inclusive and unique place it is and will only make a decision to join a MAT if it is right for us.

Music next year

Mrs Aylett has made the decision to step down from teaching music next year. I know this has been a very difficult decision for her, as she loves teaching the children and inspiring them to love music as much as she does. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and all the hours she has given voluntarily to do this. I strongly believe that music is an important part of a child's education and a big part of what we do here at Stratford. The teachers have learnt a lot from Mrs Aylett and will strive to teach music as well as she has.

Mrs Aylett will continue to come in and lead choir and has also agreed to be my music enrichment coordinator!



Last Smiley Face Celebrations – Friday 19th July 2024

The last Smiley Face Celebrations of the school year will be held at 14.20 in the school hall. Gate opens at 14.10. Everyone welcome.



School Disco – Friday 19th July 2024

The Foss will be holding the last school disco of the year on tomorrow. Tickets are on sale before school and can be bought at the door on the night.

Please note this event is for children from our school only. Pre-school siblings are very welcome at the early disco if parents stay as well and look after them!

Reception, Y1 and Y2 Disco 6:00pm – 7:00pm (Enter by side door to hall from big playground and exit via the front door onto the small playground.)

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Disco 7:00pm – 8:00pm (Enter by side door to hall from big playground and exit by the same door.)

Whole School Topic Day – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

We are having a whole school topic day based around the theme of 'Keeping fit and looking after our body and mind'. Children may come into school in their PE kit on this day.

Leavers' Service – Wednesday 24th July 2024

We finish the school year on Wednesday 24th July. This is marked with our Leavers' service in the Church at 13:15. Year 5 and 6 parents are invited to join us. Children from Robin and Woodpecker Class will also attend the service. All children should wear their proper uniform so we can go to the Leavers' Service looking smart on the last day.

End of year gifts

I have 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. Last year we 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

Next academic year 2024 2025

The new school year begins on Wednesday 4th September 2024. A 'New beginnings' service will be held at the Church at 9.15am to mark the beginning of the school year. We will also welcome all our new children, and their families, by name in this service. All parents and families are invited to join us for this service and there will be tea, coffee and cake after and a chance to talk to each other. Thank you to the St Lawrence bell ringers for ringing the church bells to welcome us all back to school.

PE days for next academic year have now been confirmed as Tuesday and Thursday, as they have been this year, children may wear their PE kit on these days.

P.E. Uniform

Plain white t. shirt or school logo white t. shirt

Plain dark shorts

Dark, plain track suit trousers/ leggings

School P.E. hoodie or school jumper (in cold spells)

Plimsolls / trainers

Please remember we do try and get outside as much as we can for PE, especially with the older children. Having a coat in school every day is essential with our British weather!

School Meals

School meals will 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!

School Meals for Pupils in Yr 3

Pupils in Year 3 are no longer entitled to Universal Free School Meal.

How it works - School Meals **must be paid in advance** on ParentPay. They cost £3 per meal. You can put a lump sum on your child's ParentPay School Meal Payment Account and as your child has a dinner the money will automatically be deducted off the lump sum.

Recorder Lessons

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

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)

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.

Also..

School rules **DO** apply before and after school. Children (and adults!) must **NOT**

- play on the grass verge by the fence outside the school (before and after school)
- swing on the weeping willow tree outside school
- 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!

Best wishes

Justine Watkins