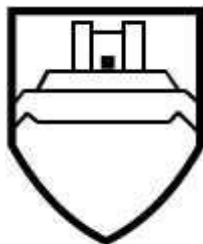


Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC  
Primary School  
Newsletter

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024



Life in all its  
fullness  
John 10:10

I hope you are back in the swing of things! Although I enjoy the holidays, I always feel better when I am in a routine!

A huge welcome to all our new families and I hope everyone is beginning to get used to our routines etc. It does take a whole year, as there are so many one-off events, so please do not hesitate to come and ask if you are not sure about anything. If you have a question then someone else will too! Just ask!

The children have all settled well and have coped remarkably well in the autumnal weather. New friendships are being made, old ones rekindled and there has been lots of fantastic learning going on. Each class has a page on the school website which give information about all the learning that is happening this term. Please take a look at the Learning tab where you'll find each class.

<https://stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk/>

#### Clubs

Club	Day	Year groups	Where will the club take place?	Where should parents collect the children from?	Responsible Adult/s
The Big Talk	Monday	Year 4, 5 & 6	Owl Class	Small Playground	Mrs Richards
Drawing Club	Tuesday	Year 1 & 2	Owl Class	Small Playground	Miss Smith
KS2 Multi Sports Club	Tuesday	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6	Field, playground or hall	Hall side door on the big playground	Connor Sanderson from Astrella
Choir	Wednesday	Year 3, 4 5 & 6	Hall	Hall side door on the big playground	Mrs Aylett
Environment Club	Wednesday	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6	Robin Class	Small Playground	Mrs Diserens
KS1 Multi Sports Club	Thursday	Year 1 & 2	Playground or hall	Hall side door on the big playground	Connor Sanderson from Astrella
Tag Rugby Club	Thursday	Year 4, 5 & 6	Field	Playground by Glasshouse	Charlie Thomlinson JK Rugby Coaching

**All clubs start this week. They will finish at 4:00pm.**

## PE

I would like to welcome Connor, our new PE coach, from Astrella to the Stratford Team.



*Hello Stratford-sub-Castle School and Community,*

*I am thrilled to join you as your new PE teacher this year! My name is Connor, and I've been teaching PE through Astrella for the past three years, always striving to deliver the highest quality of physical education.*

*A bit about me: though I'm smaller in stature due to not having knees, I am incredibly proud of my achievements and excited to bring my passion and dedication to your school. Outside of work I play various sports, the main one being wheelchair rugby which is a big passion of mine. I look forward to a fantastic year of physical activity and growth with all of you!*

*Connor*

PE for all classes will be every Tuesday and Thursday. Children may come into school in their PE kit on these days. PLEASE make sure all PE kit is named, especially hoodies as we cannot return them if they are not.

### P.E. Uniform

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

Plain dark shorts

Dark track suit trousers/ leggings

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

Plimsolls / trainers

### **Also....**

**Hair:** Long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons. This is essential during PE lessons but is encouraged in all activities.

**Jewellery:** Pupils may wear watches and one small pair of studs for pierced ears (in ear lobes only). No other jewellery is allowed. In order to comply with L.A. Health and Safety guidelines, pupils are required to remove watches and earrings for PE activities. If children cannot remove them, they are asked to cover them with tape.

**Make-up:** The Governors believe that any form of make-up or hair colouring is inappropriate for this age group. Nail varnish may not be worn.

## Attendance

I am very proud of the children's attendance at Stratford school. Last year, 2023-2024 we had an average attendance of just above 96%, which again was above the national average.

At the end of last academic year, I informed you of changes that were coming into place from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 regarding attendance. These changes have come from the Department of Education and as a Local Authority school we are advised to follow them. Below is the guidance we have been sent from the Educational Welfare Service at Wiltshire County Council.

### **CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND PENALTY NOTICES FROM 19 AUGUST 2024**

The Department for Education (DfE) has introduced some new guidance for schools and local councils for managing school attendance. They have also introduced a new national framework for penalty notices (fines) and amended the law. These changes come into effect from the 19 August 2024 and all schools and councils across the country will be expected to follow the new statutory guidance.

#### **WHEN CAN A PENALTY NOTICE BE USED?**

A school should consider next steps once 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence happens in a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

Unauthorised absence means any absence from school which has not been agreed by the school or when parents have not provided any explanation.

A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session and can be across school terms or academic years. This can be any form of unauthorised absence including arriving late after closure of the register and days of unauthorised absence which add up to 10 half days or 5 full days within a 10-week period.

Once the threshold has been met the school will consider whether support may be appropriate to help your child to attend school. We would like to encourage all parents to continue to work with schools if attendance is becoming a concern. However, when schools and councils believe that they have exhausted all offers of support, and a parent/carer is not engaging with the attempt to improve their child's attendance at school a penalty notice may be issued.

#### **CAN I HAVE A HOLIDAY IN TERM TIME?**

Pupils should not be taken out of school during term time unless it is unavoidable. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance. The guidance is clear that headteachers should not be considering a holiday as an exceptional circumstance.

If a request for leave for the purposes of a holiday is declined and the pupil is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to notify Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will issue a penalty notice with no requirement for any support to be offered as specified in the statutory guidance. In every case, the notification for the penalty notice comes in from the school to Wiltshire Council for the process to be completed.

Penalty notices can also be issued where a pupil is absent for repeated incidents of unauthorised leave(holiday) in term time that fall below the 5-day threshold.

## WHO CAN RECEIVE A PENALTY NOTICE?

Penalty notices are issued to parents/carers of statutory school age children only. They can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school. This may include parents who do not live with the child. Please note that in education law this responsibility can extend to step-parents or other adults who live in the same place as the child. Penalty notices will be issued to **each** parent for **each** child of statutory school age. So, for example two parents of two children will receive four penalty notices.

## IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PENALTY NOTICES I MIGHT GET?

In all circumstances, the maximum number of penalty notices that can be issued will be **two** penalty notices **per parent per child in a rolling three-year period**.

The new regulations come into force on 19 August 2024 and will apply to unauthorised absence from the beginning of the autumn term 2024.

Any penalty notices that might be issued in the future which relate to unauthorised absence taken during the academic year 2023/2024 will **not** be counted as part of the two penalty notices within three years regulation.

### FIRST OFFENCE PENALTY NOTICE

**£160 per parent per child**

**Reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days**

### SECOND OFFENCE PENALTY NOTICE (within 3 years)

**£160 per parent per child paid within 28 days**

### THIRD OFFENCE AND FURTHER OFFENCES (within 3 years)

**The third or subsequent time an offence is committed for unauthorised absence Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.**

For more information, please go to the gov.uk web page below:

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)

## Children being picked up by other adults

To allow your child to be picked up by an adult other than one with parental responsibility, (including when they might be having a playdate) please send an email to the school Office address with 'Going Home' in the subject box.

## Walking home independently

If you give permission for your child to walk from school on their own, either to the car, the Reading Rooms or home, please send an email to the school Office address (admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk) with the title "Walking Home Permission" along with your child's name and Class in the subject line.

Within the email please state:

- that you give your permission for your child to Walk or Cycle home at the end of the day
- which days you give your permission for your child to Walk or Cycle home at the end of the day;

**Please note this is an annual update, so for Year 6 children even if you gave permission last year you will need to do so again for the new school year.**

### **Mobile phones**

Those children that do walk home independently are allowed to bring a mobile phone into school which they can use on their journey to and from school. Children hand their phones into their Class Teacher. These are then locked away until the end of the day.

There are no circumstances where it is acceptable for a child to have their mobile phone with them during the school day. The children must switch their phones off on arrival at the school gate and they can be switched back on again once they have left the school premises at the end of the day.

### **Packed Lunches**

Can I remind you all that we are a nut-free school and this also including products that contain nuts. Please check the labelling of foods carefully as we do have several children who have a nut allergy.

### **And finally...**

Please see the calendar for dates below, apologies as I got the last day of the summer day wrong in the previous version! We finish on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July not Friday! An extra day holiday!

Best wishes

*Justine Watkins*

## 2024 -2025

### TERM 1

EVENT	DATE
Online application forms for admissions into EYFS September 2025/2026 available.	01.09.24 www.wiltshire.gov.uk
Teacher Development Day 1	Monday 02.09.24
Teacher Development Day 2	Tuesday 03.09.24
CHILDREN START/BACK TO SCHOOL	Wednesday 04.09.24
New Beginnings Service in St Lawrence Church followed by First Day café. All welcome.	Wednesday 04.09.24 @ 09.15 (Rev Joe)
No before/after school clubs <u>except</u> Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 02.09.24
After school clubs commence	w/b Monday 09.09.24
Photographs – Individual portraits	Wednesday 18.09.24
Harvest Festival in Church for KS2	Wednesday 02.10.24 @14.00
Parents Meeting for EYFS	Wednesday 25.09.24 @ 18.00
ALL BREAK for HOLIDAY	Tuesday 22.10.24
Teacher Development Day 3	Wednesday 23.10.24

### TERM 2

ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Monday 04.11.24
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 04.11.24
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 11.11.24
Parents' Evenings (In person)	Wednesday 13.11.24 Thursday 14.11.24
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 09.12.24
Dress rehearsal to school: Infant Nativity in School Hall	Tuesday 10.12.24
Infant Nativity in School Hall to families (Butterfly Class)	Wednesday 11. 12.24 @ 09.30
Infant Nativity in School Hall to families (Owl Class)	Thursday 12.12.24 @ 09.30
Christmas Bazaar (FOSS)	Friday 13.12.24
School Carol Service in St. Lawrence Church Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.	Wednesday 18.12.24 @14.00

No Night Owls on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

<b>TERM 3</b>	
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Teacher Development Day 4</b>	<b>Monday 06.01.25</b>
No before/after school clubs <u>except</u> Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Tuesday 07.01.25
After school clubs commence	w/b Monday 13.01.25
Primary School Deadline for EYFS September 2025/ 2026 ( <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk">www.wiltshire.gov.uk</a> )	Wednesday 15.01.25
Y6 Parent Workshop – Year 6 SATS TEAMS meeting.	
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 10.02.25
<b>ALL BREAK for HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Friday 14.02.25</b>
<b>TERM 4</b>	
<b>ALL BACK TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Monday 24.02.25</b>
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 24.02.25
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 03.03.25
National Offer Day: SECONDARY	Monday 03.03.25
Open Door afternoon. Come and look round the school and see displays, books and classrooms!	Tuesday 25.02.25 Thursday 27.02.25
Parents' Evenings (Online)	Wednesday 05.03.25 Thursday 06.03.25
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 31.03.25
School Easter Service in St. Lawrence Church: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.	Friday 04.04.25 @14.00
No Night Owls on Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	
<b>TERM 5</b>	
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
National Offer Day : PRIMARY	Wednesday 16.04.25
<b>ALL BACK TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Tuesday 22.04.25</b>
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls.	w/b Tuesday 22.04.25
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 28.04.25
Key Stage 2 SATs Week/Assessment Week.	w/b Monday 12.05.25
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls.	w/b 19.05.25
Class Photographs	Wednesday 21.05.25
<b>ALL BREAK for HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Friday 23.05.25</b>

<b>TERM 6</b>	
<b>Teacher Development Day 5</b>	<b>Monday 02.06.25</b>
<b>ALL BACK TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Tuesday 03.06.25</b>
<b>No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls</b>	<b>w/b Tuesday 03.06.25</b>
<b>Clubs commence</b>	<b>w/b Monday 09.06.25</b>
<b>Meeting for Parents of new intake September 2025</b>	<b>Wednesday 18.06.25</b>
<b>Induction Session 1: Year R September 2025</b>	<b>Wednesday 25.06.25</b>
<b>June Fayre</b>	<b>Friday 27.06.25</b>
<b>Induction Session 2: Year R September 2025</b>	<b>Wednesday 02.07.25</b>
<b>Induction Session 3: Year R September 2025</b>	<b>Wednesday 09.07.25</b>
<b>Sports day</b>	<b>Thursday 03.07.25</b>
<b>Reserve Sports Day</b>	<b>Thursday 10.07.25</b>
<b>No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls</b>	<b>w/b Monday 14/07/25</b>
<b>Family Open Evening – all welcome</b>	<b>Thursday 17.07.25</b>
<b>Leavers' Service in St Lawrence Church</b>	<b>Thursday 24.07.25</b> <b>@ 13.30</b>
<b>No Night Owls on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>	

**Academic year 2025 2026**

**Year 6** Braeside residential Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

More details to follow after Christmas.