Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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

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 welcomed our new Caterpillars this week, 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 2025. 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 be a very unsettling time for some of us. Please find some advice to help you children through this time at the bottom of this letter.

## Year 6 Leavers Service at Salisbury Cathedral

Mrs Wilson, Mrs Ray and Katie joined our year 6 leavers to attend a Leavers service at Salisbury Cathedral held by Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education, last week. Mrs Wilson said "It was a lovely service and I was very proud of all our year 6 leavers. Well done to Daniel and Herta who carried our school banner with pride and led Year 6 out of the cathedral.





## THERE WILL BE NO SMILEY FACE CELEBRATION ON THIS FRIDAY DUE TO SETTING UP FOR THE JUNE FAYRE.

## JUNE SUMMER FAYRE (FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Thank you for all your donations for the June Summer Fayre.

## Cakes; Plants & Perishable Items

Cakes, Plants & perishable items can be donated tomorrow, we will collect on the gate.

## SPORTS DAY – Thursday 3rd July @ 09.15

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 9.15am as possible and finish at about 11.30am. Refreshments provided by the FOSS will be available during the morning.

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

#### 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

#### School Disco – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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!

**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.)

## New Caterers – Educatering

Our current caterers, HC3S, have given us notice as they will no longer be operating as a school catering business in Wiltshire from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. The governors and I have met with several other school caterers and made the decision to go with Educatering.

Educatering is a complete school food and catering solution, focused on high quality, nutritious, locally sourced, fresh foods, being fed to pupils through delicious, child-led menus and meals.

I am in the process of meeting with them and our school cook, Mrs Browning, to finalise our new menus and will provide more information regarding these in the coming weeks. Ordering and payments of meals in September will be the same as it is now.

Educatering are coming into school on our open evening for a taster evening so that all parents can experience their food and what the children will receive from September. They have already done this for our Schools Council and the children said the food was amazing, especially the sausages!

# Please come to the hall on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July between 3:20 and 6:00 to try some of our new food!

## Annual Reports and Parents' Open Evening Thursday 17th July

Your child's end of year report and results (if appropriate) will be coming home week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> July. 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 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Please note the evening runs from 3:20pm – 6:00pm.

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.** 

Old books will be sent home before the parents' open evening and current books will be rolled over into next year.

Please see the schools statutory test data compared with the national data (2024) from this academic year, on the school website from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

### Leavers' Service – Thursday 24th July 2025

We finish the school year on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

#### Last Smiley Face Celebrations – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

The last Smiley Face Celebrations of the school year will be held at 14.40 in the school hall. Gate opens at 14.30.

#### Free Guitar and Ukulele Lessons!

Our visiting guitar and ukulele teacher Simon Sheffield has a few spots available for lessons from September. And if your child will be in years 3 to 6 and would like to give guitar or ukulele a try, Simon is offering some free trial lessons between now and the summer. Let the office know if you're interested. Simon will provide instruments.

## 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 childrer 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



Best wishes

Justine Watkins

<b>2024 -2025</b> TERM 6	
ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Tuesday 03.06.25
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Tuesday 03.06.25
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 09.06.25
Meeting for Parents of new intake September 2025	Wednesday 18.06.25
Induction Session 1: Year R September 2025	Wednesday 25.06.25
June Fayre	Friday 27.06.25
Induction Session 2: Year R September 2025	Wednesday 02.07.25
Induction Session 3: Year R September 2025	Wednesday 09.07.25
Sports Day	Thursday 03.07.25
Reserve Sports Day	Thursday 10.07.25
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 14/07/25
Family Open Evening – all welcome	Thursday 17.07.25
Leavers' Service in St Lawrence Church	Thursday 24.07.25
	@ 13.30
No Night Owls on Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	