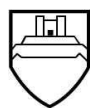
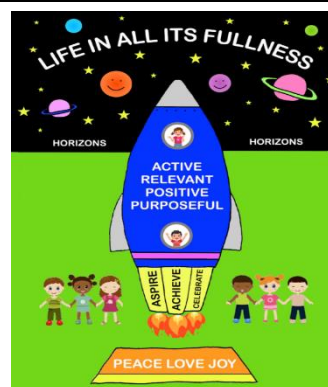


**Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC Primary School
Newsletter**



Wednesday 10th September 2025

Life in all its fullness John 10:10



Our theme for assembly this term is

Generosity

*'God loves a cheerful giver'
2 Corinthians 9.7*



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/>

These will be up and running for this year by the end of this week.

Individual and school sibling photographs.

This time of year, the individual and family portraits are done (in time for Christmas), whilst the class photos are taken in the summer. Please note, you are under no obligation to buy. All the children will have a photo taken individually (for school records).

In previous years we have photographed all in school siblings together, however I have been informed that some parents do not want this. So, if you have siblings in school, please can you complete the form by following the link below to let us know if you would like their photograph taken together or not. Please complete this by Monday 15th September. If you do not complete the form then we will assume you do not want a photograph taken. Unfortunately we cannot take photographs with pre-school siblings.

<https://forms.office.com/e/YuYpXLfdAO>

Please make sure your child comes to school in their school uniform for the photographs.

SENDCO

Mrs Jodie Waters, Butterfly Class teacher and EYFS lead, is now taking on the role of SENDCO. She has dedicated SEND time Tuesday afternoons so will respond to any concerns at this time. She has a new email address SENDCO@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk

If you would like to find out more about our SEND provision at Stratford please take a look at the school's SEND website page.

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

Pupil Premium Grant

All infant school children, those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been entitled to free school meals since September 2014. They are also provided with a daily healthy snack.

IN ADDITION, a Pupil Premium Grant will be given to the school for children whose parents are in receipt of the following 'support' payments:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - providing you are NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit and your family's annual income (as assessed by HMRC) is not more than £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

If you are receiving qualifying benefits (listed above), the government will give our school a Pupil Premium of **£1,515** for primary-aged pupils (2025-2026).

For the school and your child to benefit from this money you need to apply online.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

PE

I would like to welcome Amy, our new PE coach from Astrella, to the Stratford Team. She will join Connor and teach Fox and Robin Classes on a Friday. Connor will teach the rest of the PE sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please see a little message from Connor below



Hello Stratford-sub-Castle School and Community,

I am thrilled to be part of Team Stratford and continue to be your 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 another fantastic year of physical activity and growth with all of you!

Connor

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, 2024-2025 we had an average attendance of just above 96%, which again was above the national average of 94.8%

In August 2024 the Department of Education brought in new statutory for attendance in schools and as a Local Authority school we are advised to follow them.

The major change was regarding term time holidays. The guidelines state that:

*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.***

Our local authority's Education Welfare Department has summarised the guidance and explained the changes in the attachment to this letter. Please read carefully and if you have any questions please ask.

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.

If your child does not walk home then there is no reason for them to have a mobile phone in school.

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, who have Epi-pens and having nuts in school could cause a life threatening event.

And finally...

All clubs start this week. They will finish at 4:00pm, except for choir, on Thursday, which Mrs Aylett would like to run until 4.15pm. If this is a problem for you, please don't worry you can collect your child at 4.00pm.

Best wishes

Justine Watkins

2025 -2026

TERM 1

EVENT	DATE
Online application forms for admissions into EYFS September 2026/2027 available.	01.09.25 www.wiltshire.gov.uk
Teacher Development Day 1	Monday 01.09.25
Teacher Development Day 2	Tuesday 02.09.25
No before/after school clubs <u>except</u> Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 01.09.25
CHILDREN START/BACK TO SCHOOL	Wednesday 03.09.25
New Beginnings Service in St Lawrence Church followed by First Day café. All welcome.	Wednesday 03.09.25 @ 09:00
After school clubs commence	w/b Monday 08.09.25
Photographs – Individual portraits	Wednesday 17.09.25
Parents Meeting for EYFS	Wednesday 24.09.25 @ 18.00
Harvest Festival in Church for KS2	Wednesday 15.10.25 @14.15
ALL BREAK for HOLIDAY	Tuesday 21.10.25
Teacher Development Day 3	Wednesday 22.10.25

TERM 2

ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Monday 03.11.25
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 03.11.25
Parents' Evenings (In person)	Wednesday 05.11.25 Thursday 06.11.25
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 10.11.25
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	From w/b Monday 08.12.25
Dress rehearsal to school: Infant Nativity in School Hall	Tuesday 09.12.25
Infant Nativity in School Hall to families (Butterfly Class)	Wednesday 10.12.25 @ 09.15
Infant Nativity in School Hall to families (Owl Class)	Thursday 11.12.25 @ 09.15
Christmas Bazaar (FOSS)	Friday 12.12.25
School Carol Service in St. Lawrence Church Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.	Wednesday 17.12.25 @14.15

No Night Owls on Friday 19th December 2025 School finishes at 13:15

2025 -2026

TERM 3

EVENT	DATE
Teacher Development Day 4	Monday 05.01.26
No before/after school clubs <u>except</u> Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 05.01.26
ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Tuesday 06.01.26
After school clubs commence	w/b Monday 12.01.26
Primary School Deadline for EYFS September 2026/2027 (www.wiltshire.gov.uk)	Thursday 15.01.26

Y6 Parent Workshop – Year 6 SATS TEAMS meeting	Thursday 22.01.26
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 09.02.26
Open Door afternoon. Come and look round the school and see displays, books and classrooms!	Tuesday 10.02.26 Thursday 12.02.26
ALL BREAK for HOLIDAY	Friday 13.02.26
TERM 4	
ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Monday 23.02.26
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 23.02.26
Parents' Evenings (Online)	Wednesday 25.02.26 Thursday 26.02.26
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 02.03.26
National Offer Day: SECONDARY	Monday 02.03.26
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Monday 23.03.26
School Easter Service in St. Lawrence Church: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.	Thursday 26.03.26 @14.15
No Night Owls on Friday 27 th March 2026	

2026 -2026	
TERM 5	
EVENT	DATE
ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Monday 13.04.26
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls.	w/b Monday 13.04.26
National Offer Day : PRIMARY	Thursday 16.04.26
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 20.04.26
Key Stage 2 SATs Week/Assessment Week.	w/b Monday 11.05.26
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls.	w/b 18.05.26
Class Photographs	Wednesday 20.05.26
ALL BREAK for HOLIDAY	Friday 22.05.26
TERM 6	
Teacher Development Day 5	Monday 01.06.26
ALL BACK TO SCHOOL	Tuesday 02.06.26
No clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	w/b Tuesday 02.06.26
Clubs commence	w/b Monday 08.06.26
Meeting for Parents of new intake September 2026	Wednesday 17.06.26
Induction Session 1: Year R September 2026	Tuesday 23.06.26
June Fayre	Friday 26.06.26
Induction Session 2: Year R September 2026	Tuesday 30.06.26
Sports day	Thursday 02.07.26
Induction Session 3: Year R September 2026	Tuesday 07.07.26

Reserve Sports Day	Thursday 09.07.26
No Clubs except Early Birds and Night Owls	From w/b Monday 13.07.26
Family Open Evening – all welcome	Thursday 16.07.26
Leavers’ Service in St Lawrence Church	Wednesday 22.07.26 @ 09:00
No Night Owls on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 School finishes at 13:15	