

Stanbridge Lower School



Head Teacher: Miss Sam Gooding

Tilsworth Road
Stanbridge
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 9HY

NEWSLETTER NO 1

Friday 8th September 2023

Telephone: 01525 210328
Email: info@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk
Website: www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk

Dear Parent & Carers,

We have had the best start back to school this week and I have been so impressed with how quickly the children have got back into school routines. I would like to give a great big '*Stanbridge Welcome*' to all of our new children and families; it was lovely to meet some of you on the playground this week. I have been visiting classrooms and I can assure you that children are settling in well and very excited to share their experiences.

I'd like you to know that I am passionate about improving educational outcomes and experiences for our young children here at Stanbridge; my ethos is very much underpinned by three simple values, which I have shared with staff and children this week:

- Be Kind
- Work Hard
- Believe in Yourself

Stanbridge is a unique school offering a nurturing, warm and creative environment; I can see already that children flourish here and I look forward to working with you and being part of their journey.

Below, I have included some general information followed by key diary dates; these will also be added to the school calendar on the website. Please contact the office by email or phone if you have any further questions.

Half Termly Class Letters and Topic Sheets

Each half term the teachers will put a class newsletter onto their class page with all the information you need for the half term for your class including PE days. There will also be a plan showing what your child is learning about for the half term. This information is a really good way of supporting your child's knowledge and skills. These will be available on the website from Monday 11th September.

Attendance & Punctuality

It is important that your child is in school every day unless they are unwell, in which case you should notify the office on your child's first day of absence. If we do not hear from you, Mrs Davies will try to contact you as part of the school safeguarding procedures.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that ***no holidays will be authorised in term time***. If there are circumstances where you need to take your children out of school for exceptional reasons, you will need to complete a leave request and the Headteacher will decide whether the request is authorised or not. The form is available to download on the school website and must be submitted to the Head Teacher for approval.

Attendance is extremely important; children miss out on vital learning and social opportunities when they are not in school. I would like to see our lovely children in school every day. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with our Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Davies.

Thankyou to all of our families for being punctual this week; the school gates/doors will open at 8.45am and close at 9.00am. If your child arrives after this time, they will need to report to the office and will be marked late. Please be on time, so that your child starts the day smoothly.

Parent Information Sessions

We will be delivering four parent information sessions this half term focusing on phonics for YR and Yr1, reading and times tables for Yr2,3,4. These are an opportunity for you to find out how to best support your child at home. Please see dates and times as part of the diary dates.

Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

All Reception children will take part in this assessment across September. More information about the RBA will be available on your class page at www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk.

Harvest Festival – 4th October

You are invited to our Harvest Festival on Wednesday 4th October. Children are asked to donate one item of food (tins, cans and packets) which we will then donate to the Leighton Buzzard Helpers Food Bank. Times are as follows:

- PS, Rec and Year 1: 9.30 – 10.00
- Year 2,3,4: 10.30 – 11.00

We look forward to seeing you all, but there will be limited space in the hall, so we ask that parents with younger children to leave prams/buggies in the front porch.

Harvest Pumpkin Patch: 2nd - 6th October

I have been told that the Stanbridge Pumpkin Patch has become very popular over the years and I am looking forward to judging the designs. We would like to invite all children to decorate a pumpkin for Harvest at home; cutting, decorating, drawing or marking their pumpkin are some of the ways they might be creative.

Pumpkins should be brought into school on Monday 2nd October, so they can be displayed on the front patch of grass, between the two trees at the front of school for everyone to see; a sign will indicate where your child's pumpkin should be left. The children don't have to use a real pumpkin if they would prefer to make a pumpkin. Please make sure you can identify your pumpkin, as judging will take place on Tuesday 3rd October. We look forward to seeing all your creative entries. **Pumpkins that are not collected by the end of the day on Friday 6th October will be disposed of.**

School Uniform and Personal Items – Reminder

Please ensure your child is wearing full school uniform and that all clothes and personal items are named; further information about this is available on the website.

As a school, we discourage children from bringing big backpacks and encourage the use of a book bag with drawstring bag for PE. However, I know that many of the older children have purchased these already, in which case, I am happy to allow them for this year and review for next September.

We also ask that children leave personal stationery at home and use for homework; we will provide them with any resources they need in school; this avoids losing items that are special to the children.

Communication at Stanbridge and Text Messaging for Parents

Text messaging will be used to send out urgent or important information to parents.

You will be notified when the current newsletter, letters about trips etc are ready to be viewed and downloaded from our website. The newsletter is an important source of information with all key dates and times on it, so please take time to read it and add dates to your diary. We will only send reminders via text under special circumstances. Please send in the form below if any of your phone numbers have changed.

We are currently updating the website with key information, so please bear with us. The types of things you will find on there are:

- School blog and announcements
- Newsletters, visits and trips
- School calendar: containing all key dates etc.
- Homework links
- Exciting websites for children to use
- School information: policies, use of pupil and sports premium, whole school curriculum overview etc
- Class Curriculum Information: Find out what your child is learning about in school.

We have a facebook page; this is mainly used to showcase the school and share quick updates with parents. We do not use Facebook for personal communication and would ask that you use the school email or contact number if you have a personal query.

Teacher/Parent Communication

In the morning any messages for teachers can be passed to Mrs Davies or Mrs Loi who are based on the front playground. All teachers dismiss at the end of the day, so if you have a quick query, please liaise with the teacher at this time; if you have a more complex query, contact the office to arrange a telephone consultation or a meeting in school at a mutually agreeable time. If you need to speak with the headteacher, contact the office so that they can check my availability.

Parking Outside of School

We continue in our endeavour to encourage all parents to park courteously and safely outside the school. We particularly ask that you avoid parking across driveways, on the corner of Orchard Way or on the zig-zag lines. Please report all persistent offenders to the School Office as we pass on details of this to the Community Police Officer. Thank you to those parents who do park considerately.

Important Diary Dates

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Inset Days 23/24: | 1st/4th September, 30th October, 3rd January, 15th April |
| Autumn term: | 5 th September – 20 th December |
| Half Term: | 23 rd – 27 th October |
| Spring Term: | 3 rd January – 28 th March |
| Half Term: | 19 th – 23 rd February |
| Summer Term: | 16 th April – 19 th July |
| Half Term: | 27 th May – 31 st May |

| Autumn Dates & Events 2023 | |
|---|---|
| Tue 19 th Sept 2.30-3.15pm | Phonic Information Session for Reception parents/carers |
| Wed 20 th Sept 2.30-3.15pm | Phonic Information Session for Yr1 parents/carers including information about the phonic screening in June |
| Thu 21 st Sept 2.45-3.15pm | Yr2,3,4 Parent & Carer Information Session: How to support your child with reading at home |
| Weds 27 th Sept 2.45-3.15pm | Yr2,3,4 Parent & Carer Information Session: How to support your child with times tables |
| October tbc | Pegasus Award – Induction Training for children |
| Mon 2 nd – Fri 6 th Oct | Harvest Pumpkin Patch; design or decorate your own pumpkin for the Stanbridge Pumpkin Patch – prizes for the best and most original pumpkins! |
| Weds 4 th Oct | Harvest Festival: PS, R, Yr1: 9.30 – 10.00 Yr 2,3,4: 10.30 – 11.00 |
| Thu 5 th Oct 2pm | Yr1,2,3,4 Run for Fun Event; information to follow |
| Weds 11 th Oct 3.45-6.00 | Parent Consultations; face to face meetings in school |
| Tues 31 st Oct 2pm | Yr3 & Yr4 Cluster Festival; information to follow |

| | |
|--|--|
| Thu 16 th Nov | School Photographer for individual photographs and group photos of siblings in school |
| Mon 6 th - Thu 9 th November | We Will Remember Project Week: Art & Writing Focus |
| Fri 10 th November | Whole School: We Will Remember Exhibition – parents & carers invited – Yr groups will be allocated time slots throughout the morning |
| Thu 16 th Nov | Yr3 &4 Sportshall Athletics; information to follow |
| 17 th November | Children in Need; |
| 13 th December | Christmas Production: PS, R, Yr 1: 9.45am Yr 2,3,4: 1.45am |
| To be confirmed | Christmas Dinner at School |
| Mon 18 th December | Carols & Cakes: Carols on the Playground followed by a Christmas Bake Sale: 3.30pm – 4.30pm – parents and carers invited |
| Tue 19 th December | Christmas Parties in school |
| Other key dates for Spring already agreed: | |
| Thu 7 th March | World Book Day – more details to follow |
| Wed 13 th March | Parent Consultations: choice given of face to face or telephone consultations |
| Wed 22 nd - Wed 24 th May | Grafham Residential Field Trip – Year 3 and 4 – more details to follow |

I look forward to seeing you at some of the Stanbridge events this term. Please do come and talk to me if you have any queries or alternatively make an appointment with the office.

Kind regards,

Miss Gooding
Headteacher

.....
Please return the following slip if you need to update your contact details:

Teachers 2 Parents – Text Messaging Service

Name of Child:

My mobile/home telephone/emergency telephone number has changed to

.....

.....