

Stanbridge Lower School



A FEW REMINDERS!



Next Parent Forum
Thu 7th March

Spring Parent Consultation Reception – Yr4

Weds 13th March 3.45-6.00

Term dates for 2024-25

These are available at the end of this newsletter and on the school website. Please do not book any holidays during school times, as they will not be authorised.



WANTED

Old wellies that you no longer need or want for our forest school please.

School Photo Commission

Thankyou to all those parents who purchased school photos this half term. The school received £198.00 in commission, which we will be putting towards our library.



STAFFING UPDATE

Many of you will know that one of our LSAs, the lovely Mrs Benesch, is having a baby. She will be starting her maternity leave mid February, so we would like to welcome Mrs Murray to the Stanbridge learning support team from January 2024.

Newsletter 4: Fri 15th December 2023

A note from the Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers,



Firstly, thankyou to all those families who supported our Christmas performances last week. The children loved performing for you all and I think you'll agreed that they demonstrated enthusiasm and courage in abundance. I have included some photos later in the newsletter.

In-between rehearsals, children have just about managed to keep up with the rest of the curriculum and I would like to celebrate the hard work of the teachers and LSAs, who use every opportunity to support learning. Myself and Mrs Brewer have visited Maths lessons this half term and we were impressed with children's learning behaviours and improving number fluency. Pupil progress meetings last week indicated that children have made good progress from the start of term in Maths, Reading and Writing. Well done to everyone.

Sadly at the end of term, we are saying goodbye to our Vice Chair of Governors, Veronica Clarke. Veronica has been a governor at Stanbridge for 25 years and in the short time I have known her, I can see what an asset she is to the school. We will miss her knowledge experience, commitment and thoughtfulness and would like to say a heartfelt thankyou for her substantial service.

Finally, a thankyou to all the children, staff and families for making my first term an absolute joy. During my interview, I was asked what my first 100 days at Stanbridge would look like and I can't quite believe that those 100 days have now passed. For me this term has been about building relationships, leading by example, evaluating what works well and identifying what could be even better. Myself and the rest of the staff are determined and committed to ensuring Stanbridge is the best it can be, because that's what our children deserve.

Have a lovely Christmas break and treasure these times with your families. Please remember that we have a training day on Wednesday 3rd January; **children return on Thu 4th January.** Kind regards,
Miss Gooding (Headteacher)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTFA



Firstly we would like to thank all the parents and carers for supporting our events this term.

We hope the children have enjoyed themselves as much as we have organising them.

The ice pop sales, Bag2School clothing collection and Halloween disco raised £400 combined, which was a fantastic start to our fundraising. This money, together with some money rolled over from last year has already been spent. A large contribution was put towards new Home

Reading Books for the school and £200 has been given to the Forest School department.

The Christmas raffle raised a further £389.00 and we hope the Carols & Cake sale will be just as successful. We look forward to organising more exciting fundraisers for the spring term.

If anyone would be interested in helping the PTFA occasionally then please contact us on ptfa@stanbridge.beds.sch.uk We are a small team and limited to what activities we can offer without the support of extra people, so if you think you may have some time to spare (does that even exist?!) then it would be great to add you to our list of helpers! All the money raised goes straight back to the children and school and everyone's generosity is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks and a Very, Merry Christmas to you all x

Parking Reminders

You will have received a text with a link to a letter from Central Beds reminding all parents about safe and sensible parking. This has been supported recently by a visit from the parking wardens.

Although parking has improved, I ask that you continue to be respectful to our neighbours: in particular avoid blocking driveways and ensuring engines are turned off when waiting. The parking bay is for buses or disabled badge holders only and you can not park on the zig zag lines. When cars park in these areas, it significantly reduces visibility for crossing and causes congestion on the road. This puts our children and families at risk.

PLEASE PARK SENSIBLY AND SAFELY



Coming Soon - New Homework Trial for Yr2,3,4

We have been reviewing homework, as feedback from parents, staff and pupils indicates that we haven't quite got it right yet. In January, we will be trialling a new website for Yr2,3,4 called Doodle. Children's log in details and more information about how to use the website will come home in January, but if you are interested in finding out more before then, please go to: <https://doodlelearning.com>



End of Term Celebrations

Stanbridge Star Winners this half term

These children have been nominated and selected weekly across the half term for a variety of reasons. We celebrate their achievements in our weekly Celebration Assembly. Congratulations to you all.



Ellie (Y2)	Lillie (Y2)	Terry (YR)
Marta (Y3)	Billy (Y3)	Tilda(Y4)



Classpoint Celebrations this half term

Children work together as a class to collect points. Totals are shared in our Celebration Assembly and the winning class get to keep our school mascot Stan for the week. He is very cuddly and a little bit mischievous. Classpoints are tallied at the end of each half term. Well done to all of our classes and special congratulations to our half term winners in Yr3.



YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
463	627	679	694	391

A postcard from the Headteacher

At the end of each half term, selected children will receive a postcard from the headteacher in the post; this will be for upholding the Stanbridge Values; Be Kind, Work Hard, Believe in Yourself.

These children will be invited for a special treat in the Headteacher's office.

Well done to last half term's winners: **Amelie (YR), Millie (Y1), Ava (Y2), Lacy (Y3), Olivia (Y4).**

I wonder who will be a lucky postcard winner this half term?



Just a flavour of our Twinkly Nativity.....for more photos, please visit our website.



A few from our Christmas Celebration by Y2,3,4 – visit our website to see more.



LAST FEW AUTUMN DATES & EVENTS 2023

Mon 18th Dec	Carols & Cakes: 3.00pm – 4.00pm – parents and carers invited
Tue 19th Dec	Christmas Parties in school
Wed 20th Dec	Last day of term
Sun 24th Dec	Community Event: Christingle Service at St Johns Stanbridge 4pm

SPRING DATES & EVENTS 2024

Wed 3rd January	Training day for staff only
Thu 4th January	Back to school for all children
Wed 10th January	Yr3 & 4 start swimming – continue every Wednesday in Spring term
Thu 1st February	Yr4 Bikeability – more information to follow
Fri 2nd February	NSPCC Number Day
Tue 6th February	Online Safety Day /Yr 3 Disney Day
Thu 8th February	Leighton Buzzard Fire Service visiting Y2
Mon 12th – Fri 16th Feb	Symbols of Faith Project Week – more information to follow
Fri 16th February	Last day of half term
Mon 26th February	Back to school for staff and children
Thu 7th March	World Book Day
	Parent Forum Meeting 2.30pm: Agenda - Homework & Communication
Wed 13th March	Parent Consultation Appointments 3.45-6.00pm
Mon 25th March	Great Stanbridge Bake Off
Wed 27th March	Last swimming day for Y3 & 4 also- Cluster Festival yr 3 and 4
Thu 28th March	Last day of Spring term
Mon 15th April	Training day – staff only
Tue 16th April	Back to school for children – Summer term

Key dates for summer term

Wed 22nd- Fri 24th May	Grafham Residential Field Trip – Year 3 and 4 only
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Attendance & Punctuality Reminder

Current: 93.46%

Target: 97%

There has been an increase in lateness and unauthorised leave. Leave can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. **The school doors open at 8.45 and close promptly at 9.00am.**

Please continue to ensure your child is in school and on time every day. If your child is unwell, use the NHS checklist at the end of this letter to see whether they should stay at home or not. **Your child's attendance should be 97% or above.**



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox

at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

48 hours after their last episode

Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)

they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.

Impetigo

their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics

Measles

4 days after the rash first appeared

Mumps

5 days after the swelling started

Scabies

they've had their first treatment

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after they started taking antibiotics

Whooping Cough

48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth

Glandular fever

Head lice

Tonsillitis

Threadworms

Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.



JoAnn Latus SCHOOL of DANCE



WANT TO DANCE?

As a parent, deciding which extracurricular activities to invest time and money in can be daunting. Why should you choose dance? Dance has long been recognised as a benefit, not just to health and fitness but also, emotional development, socialization, creativity and cognitive development.

Physical health - Dancing is a great form of exercise, and a love of dance from an early age can help motivate kids to stay active as they grow into adults. Dance classes can increase your child's flexibility, range of motion, physical strength and stamina, as well as promoting overall health.

Emotional Development - When your child experiences the joy of dancing, they learn about expressing themselves in a way that's beneficial to their physical and mental health. This provides a structured outlet for a healthy physical and emotional release that helps develop emotional maturity and increases their self-esteem and confidence significantly.

Socialisation - Dance is a highly social activity, children learn how to work as part of a team, develop a greater sense of trust and cooperation, and make new friends, often developing lifelong friendships. Dance friends are forever friends!

Encourages Creativity - No matter the style, dance encourages children to be more creative and to express themselves in many ways. By encouraging creativity and imagination, children learn to build trust, effective relationships, and how to think critically. Early childhood is the best period for the development of creativity, and creative problem solving will serve your child for life.

Enhances Cognitive Development - Attending dance classes allows children to learn self-discipline and time management; how to balance school, dance, extracurricular activities, and their social life. The dedication, discipline and focus children learn and practice in dance classes are important life skills that will transfer over to school, work and other aspects of their lives.

For more information and how to sign up to a free trial please contact Jo Latus on 07800 518654 or email info@jolatusdance.co.uk - www.jolatusdance.co.uk

A-Z of Mental Health Resources for Parents and Caregivers

Central Bedfordshire Mental
Health Support Teams Free Padlet



East London
NHS Foundation Trust



Scan me!!

[Click here for a link to the
Resources](#)



Signposting to local
and national
services, apps,
podcasts, books,
LGBTQ+, sleep,
EHCPs, tool-kits
and much more!



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

bedsfire.gov.uk
Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
bedsfirealert.co.uk
@bedsfire

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

St@yWise



Publish date: 06/02/19

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



Universal, suitable for all ages



Parental Guidance required



Suitable for people aged 12 and over



Suitable for people aged 12 and over, accompanied by an adult



Suitable for people aged 15 and over



Suitable for people aged 18 and over



Adult content only available in specially licensed cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info



Stanbridge Academic Calendar - 2024 /2025

School Holiday



Bank Holiday



Pupil Day



Training Day



	September 2024						October 2024						November 2024						December 2024								
Mon	2	9	16	23	30		Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tue	3	10	17	24			Tue	1	8	15	22	29		Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25			Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26			Thu	3	10	17	24	31		Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27			Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28			Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	8	15	22	29			Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24			Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

	January 2025						February 2025						March 2025						April 2025								
Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24		Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue		1	8	15	22	29
Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		2	9	16	23	30
Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu		3	10	17	24	
Fri		3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri		4	11	18	25	
Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	1	8	15	22			Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	26	23			Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		

	May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
		5	12	19	26				2	9	16	23	30			7	14	21	28				4	11	18	25		
Mon							Mon								Mon						Mon							
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue		3	10	17	24			Tue	1	8	15	22	29		Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25			Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu		5	12	19	26			Thu	3	10	17	24	31		Thu		7	14	21	28	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri		6	13	20	27			Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29		
Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat		7	14	21	28			Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30		
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	1	8	15	22	29			Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	31		

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 195 days. These five days will enable teacher training to take place in accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service.

Autumn Term - 75 days

Spring Term - 60 days

Summer Term 60 days = 195 days

The law requires that a parent ensures that their child receives a full and efficient education. If you enrol your child at a school, then you must ensure that they attend regularly. Regular school attendance is defined as being 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school' and means that if the school is open for 190 days, then this is what your child is expected to attend.