

Stanbridge Lower School



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Wednesday 10th January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back after the festive season. The children have settled quickly into routines and are as keen as ever to learn new things. We have been talking about setting goals and reminding ourselves about the 'Stanbridge Way' and the 'Stanbridge Rules'. Children as always are an absolute delight and I am very much looking forward the term ahead. I have outlined some further updates below, but please do speak to your child's teacher or contact the school office if you have any questions.

Spring Class Letters and Topic Webs

Your child's class letter and topic web for the Spring term is available on their year group page on the website. This contains useful information about what they will be learning this half term.

Raising the Roof on Reading

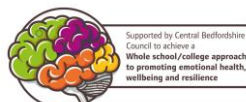
At Stanbridge, our aim is to develop confident, fluent readers who love books. We are having a big push on reading to support this, so please don't be alarmed if your child says they are having extra phonics or reading sessions. One of the best ways to get better is practice; the more we read, the better we get - we need your support with this too. Please read with your child at least three times a week; this could include them reading to you, you reading to them or reading together. If you are worried about your child's reading progress, please speak with your child's teacher.

School Uniform, PE Kit & Winter Coats

Children should be wearing full school uniform including school shoes, not trainers. This promotes pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within our school community. If for any reason, your child is not wearing school uniform, please speak to your child's teacher so we can support with this.

Children should also have PE kits in school on their PE days: black shorts or jogging bottoms, a white t-shirt and trainers. There is no longer an option to borrow kit, but if you need support with organising a PE kit, please speak with Mrs Davies.

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As the cold weather continues, please ensure you send your child with a winter coat, hat and gloves. The children will continue to go outside for break and lunch and an anorak will no longer suffice.

Homework Changes for Yr2,3,4

As explained before Christmas, we will be trialling a new homework approach for Yr2,3,4. This will be online and offer a more targeted and supportive set of tasks. A letter with your child's username, password and instructions of how to log on will be coming home tomorrow and we will begin using this platform from Friday 12th January. A big thankyou to Mrs Brewer who has led on this new initiative. We will continue to review how well this works and look forward to feedback at the next Parent Forum.

New Policies

The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies have been reviewed and are available on the school website. Creating a culture that promotes excellent behaviour is important to us and although behaviour at Stanbridge is generally good, we want to ensure that all pupils can learn in a calm, safe, and supportive environment. Our new behaviour policy outlines our expectations underpinned by our values, attitudes, and beliefs. It is an important way to communicate the school culture to pupils, staff, parents and carers. Staff have spent time exploring the policy as part of their training and children have been introduced to the new policy during assemblies. Please do take time to read them too.

Curriculum Events

We will be hosting several curriculum events this term and these are highlighted in the diary dates at the end of this letter. A new event for Stanbridge will be the introduction of the Symbols of Faith week, where each year group will learn about a different faith, representing their learning through RE, Design & Technology and writing. More details will follow shortly, as we would love to invite parents to share in this event.

Attendance & Punctuality

I continue to receive leave requests for holidays. Holidays in term time will not be agreed. It is important that your child is in school every day to support learning, as well as wellbeing. Similarly, punctuality is equally important and builds good habits for the future. I know many families juggle drop offs and pick-ups at several schools, which can be a challenge. Please speak with us if this continues to be an issue.

Forest School Update

Reception, Yr1 & Yr2 will continue to access our Forest School on a weekly basis during the Spring term, so please ensure they continue to wear or bring in the appropriate clothing and footwear. Extra layers and spare socks are a good idea at this time of year. Yr3 & 4 will access the Forest School when staffing allows and we will notify you if additional clothing is required.

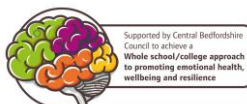
We look forward to seeing you at some of our events this term.

Kind regards,

Miss Sam Gooding
Headteacher



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Spring Dates & Events 2024

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

Key dates for summer term

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