

# STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025

### Widdershins performance 2025



### Stondon Christmas lunch





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### Stondon Lower Class News

#### Robins



What a first couple of weeks back! In **Literacy**, the children have been developing their writing skills by talking and writing about things they like. They are becoming more confident using their **Phonics** to create words and have been practising hearing sounds in words and writing them independently. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence as writers. In **Maths**, we have been focusing on the **composition of numbers 1, 2 and 3**. The children have been exploring what these numbers look like in different ways, using practical resources, pictures and discussion to help them understand how numbers are made up. Our topic this term is **Arctic Adventures**. So far, we have been learning about **winter around us** and comparing it to **Arctic regions**. The children have enjoyed discovering animals that live in the Arctic, including **polar bears and caribou**, and learning about how they stay warm in such cold environments. As we continue this topic, we will be extending our learning to look at the **Antarctic, polar explorers**, and begin to explore ideas around **global warming** and how it affects our world, in an age-appropriate way.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Please feel free to talk to your child about what they are learning – they love sharing their knowledge!



#### Puffins

This week in English, the children have written their own stories inspired by the book *Stanley's Stick*. As well as focusing on capital letters, full stops and finger spaces, they have been working hard to use the word 'and' to join their ideas and extend their sentences.

In Maths, we have been exploring place value up to 20, recognising how many tens and ones a number has. We have then used our place value knowledge to help us to find 1 more and 1 less than a number.

In Science, the children have been learning about the five animal groups: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. They have been identifying key features of each group, sorting animals and discussing similarities and differences.

#### Kestrels



This week has been full of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, we started our new unit on fairy tales, exploring different versions of Rapunzel. The children particularly enjoyed Bethan Woollvin's retelling and comparing how it differs from more traditional stories. In Maths, we began learning all about money, recognising coins and notes and practising how to compare different amounts. In our afternoon lessons, we started our new Geography topic by learning about the United Kingdom and the countries it includes. In Art, we explored the work of Pablo Picasso and had great fun creating our own strange and wonderful portraits inspired by his abstract style. At home, parents can help by reading fairy tales together and talking about similarities and differences, or by practising using coins during play shopping or real-life situations.



#### Toucans

Toucans class have settled back in extremely well after returning from the Christmas holidays, and it has been lovely to see such a positive and focused start to the term. We have spent time resetting expectations and talking in depth about expected behaviour, helping the children to remember how to make good choices and support a calm and respectful learning environment.

In English, we are exploring important jobs that you've probably never heard of and will be writing a non-chronological report based on our chosen role. In Maths, we are continuing to develop our multiplication and division skills, and we strongly encourage children to regularly use TTRS to build confidence and fluency. In History, we are delving deeper into the Stone Age, while in RE we will be learning about the views of Muslims. On Wednesdays, the children will enjoy PE with Mr Hughes, while focusing on yoga on our other PE days.

We would also like to remind parents to continue reading regularly with their child and to read and sign diaries weekly, as this really helps to support learning both at school and at home.

#### Hummingbirds



In English we have been exploring non-fiction explanation texts. We have designed our own flying machines and are now working very hard to write some facts and information about them. In Maths, we are still exploring multiplication and have just begun to look at formal written methods. It is always tricky when new learning is introduced but we are determined to do our best! In art, we are exploring light and shade and how we can use white pencils to shade the light on coloured paper, rather than just leaving spaces blank on white paper. In Science, we have begun to learn about different types of animals and their habitats and we will be looking at ways to classify them in the near future!

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### Vacancies across our Federation – Stondon and Shillington

#### Cleaner Supervisor at Stondon Lower School

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109469/EDV-2025-SLS-55087>

#### Winter Clothing

Please make sure your child has with them a coat in school every day. Hats and gloves are also good for break and lunchtime (please label them!). Your child is welcome to wear base layers under their uniform if they are feeling chilly! Please may we also ask that sunglasses are NOT bought into school unless your child has a medical need for them.



#### Term Dates 2025-2026

##### **Spring Term**

Tuesday 6th January- Friday 27th March 2026

*Half term: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February*

Inset Days: Monday 5th January

##### **Summer Term**

Tuesday 14th April- Friday 17th July 2026

*Half Term: Monday 26th May - Friday 29th May 2026*

**Requests for term time absence will not be approved unless due to exceptional circumstances.**

#### Diary Dates

Date	Event
Year 4 swimming	Every Thursday this half term
Wear Bright, shine bright	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Young Voices -Year 4	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
Number day	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
World book day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Celtic Harmony	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March

More information for our events and trips will be sent via Parentmail. However, if you have any questions please contact Mrs Addy in the office.