

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2025

Safeguarding updates for Parents and Carers

At Stondon Lower School, we are committed to safeguarding all children. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is **Mrs Ciara Dumbleton**. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Miss Sarah Woodham**. Our Governor with responsibility for safeguarding is **Mrs Katie Brettell**.

Key aspects of our role are to make sure all staff are aware of how to raise concerns; ensure all staff understand the signs of child abuse; refer any concerns to children's services, maintain accurate and secure records.

We follow the guidance in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#). If any parent or carer has any concerns about a child, then please contact the DSL via the school office. We also have our own safeguarding policy which is available on our website or in school.

The school DSL is also the single point of contact for PREVENT. Prevent is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy and aims to stop children and young people being drawn into terrorism. On our website there is a link to a parents' guide to [Prevent](#)

Useful numbers and links

Children Services - The local Children's Services number is 0300 300 8585 (office hours) or 0300 300 8123 (out of hours). They will give advice or may investigate the circumstances. All child protection calls are treated in confidence and you don't have to give your details. For a link to the CBC safeguarding page please click [here](#)



NSPCC – for a link to the website please click [here](#)

You can contact the NSPCC helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 (11am – 5pm Monday to Friday) or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk



Operation Encompass - Operation Encompass aims to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in a domestic abuse incident. As an Operation Encompass school, we will be notified of any incident reported to the Police, the following day. More information can be found [here](#)



BDAP - We are a Support Hub for Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP). We can offer a safe space for someone who needs to access support, contact a support service to help them. Miss Sarah Woodham is a Domestic Abuse responder. More information is available on our [website](#).

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2025

Stondon Lower School - Class news

Robins - Reception



This month in Robin's class, we've been exploring the wonderful world of seasons and weather. The children have loved observing the changes outdoors and using new vocabulary like *sunny*, *rainy*, and *windy* to describe what they see. We've talked about how each season brings something special and how we can dress for different kinds of weather.

In Maths, the children have been subitising to 5—quickly recognising small groups of objects without counting—and comparing groups to see which has more than or fewer than. They've really enjoyed using games and practical activities to deepen their understanding. In phonics, we're proud to share that the class has now learned their first 17 sounds, and they're beginning to blend and hear these sounds in simple words. It's been a joy watching their confidence grow each day. Don't forget to ask your child what kind of weather they think tomorrow will bring!



Puffins - Year 1

This week in English, the children enjoyed creating story maps based on *Puffin Peter*, helping them to sequence events and understand the structure of the story. This will help them to write their own alternative endings next week!

In Maths, we explored part-whole models and used them to build and understand addition sentences. We have been using counters to show how numbers can be broken apart and put back together in different ways.

In Geography, we've been learning about the four compass points, North, East, South, and West, and used them to follow directions and hunt for treasure on a map.

Kestrels - Year 2



It's been another fantastic couple of weeks in Kestrels. In Maths, we've been practising adding and subtracting ones from two-digit numbers, spotting patterns and building confidence with mental maths. In English, the children wrote clear and thoughtful instructions on "*How to Be a Good Friend*," using command sentences and numbered steps. Our Art lessons have focused on creating texture and shading with pencils, and the children have produced some beautiful, detailed drawings. In Music, we performed our song "*Hands, Feet, Heart*". The children have really enjoyed learning this song and performed with great enthusiasm.

To continue the children's learning at home, you could practise quick number facts, particularly recall of number bonds to ten or enjoy sketching together using light and shade for effect.



Toucans - Year 3

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks in Toucans Class.

In English, we have been continuing to explore poems and poetic devices, as well as creating expanded noun phrases using our word banks and our growing knowledge of adjectives. The children have enjoyed experimenting with descriptive language to make their writing more vivid and imaginative. In Maths, we've been working on addition and subtraction across 1s, 10s and 100s, building our confidence with different methods to solve problems accurately. Last week, we were thrilled to celebrate National Poetry Day with a very special poetry reading from Valerie Bloom. She shared some of her wonderful poems with us and even taught us a few words in Jamaican so that we could join in — it was a fantastic and inspiring experience! In Geography, we have continued to learn about the different types of land use and how these support farming across the UK. The children have been fascinated to discover how land is used in different ways depending on the needs of the environment and community. To support your child at home, you could read a variety of poems together and talk about the descriptive words and imagery used. Practising quick addition and subtraction facts will also help strengthen their confidence in Maths. When out and about, you might discuss how the land around you is being used — whether for housing, farming, or nature — and how this helps people and wildlife.

Hummingbirds - Year 4



This week, we have concluded our work on place value. This should hold us in good stead as we now move into addition and subtraction of 4 digit numbers. We are sure our learning from year 3 will help us with this topic.

In English, we are hard at work on changing our stories into short graphic novels. We can't wait to share them with you.

In Art, we have begun to research an artist called Albrecht Durer. We will be looking at some of his work soon and using them to inspire our own art.

In Geography, we are becoming skilled at using an atlas - especially using the index to find page numbers and grid references! This has been tricky but we are getting better!

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2025



Harvest and The Need Project

Thank you so much for all of your harvest donations over the last few weeks. Ruth Gray, the Minister at All Saints Church in Stondon came to collect our donations on Friday and she was blown away by your generosity. All of the donations were taken to church and were part of Ruth's Harvest service where she built a tin can tower, it was all then delivered to The Need Project on Monday morning.



Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term

Wednesday 3rd September– Friday 19th December 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th October– Friday 31st October

Inset Days: Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September

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

Date	Event
Monday 20 th October	Individual and sibling photos
Monday 20 th and Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents evening
30 October	PTA Halloween disco
5 th December	Barn Nativity – Year 3 trip

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.