

# STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

# Stondon Lower School

## Red Nose Day competition



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### Class learning updates from our lovely teachers

#### Robins – Miss Bellinger



We've had another exciting and busy time in Reception, and we're delighted to share some of the wonderful learning that has been taking place. In Literacy, the children have been busy writing their own animal stories. They have been using their Phonics knowledge to sound out words and build sentences, and we are so proud of their growing confidence and creativity. It has been lovely to see their imaginations come to life on paper! During Drawing Club, we have been exploring the stories *Not Now Bernard* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children have really enjoyed discussing the characters, settings, and adventures within these stories. We have also been learning some exciting new vocabulary, including words like *bamboozle*, *astonished*, and *fearless*. We've also had a very special addition to our classroom—tadpoles! A big thank you to Mrs Bumby for bringing them in for us to observe.



#### Puffins – Miss Ralevic

In Maths, Year 1 have been learning how to measure mass using cubes and balance scales and exploring and comparing objects using the key vocabulary "heavier" and "lighter." Next week we will be looking at capacity and volume. In English, we enjoyed reading and discussing the poems *Caribbean Counting Rhyme* and *Food Train*, which inspired the children to write some fantastic poems of their own. In History, we had a very exciting (and slightly messy!) lesson learning about coprolites—fossilised dinosaur poo! We discovered that many have been found in Shillington, and the children even created their own coprolites using salt dough to bring their learning to life. As always, we are working super hard to learn even more sounds in Phonics! Please support your child by practising these at home and completing the home learning sheets on a Friday.

#### Kestrels – Mrs Lampshire and Mrs Lagah



Kestrels have been working extremely hard this week in all their lessons and in their assessments too. A big well done!

In Maths, we have been learning about Mass and Capacity. The children have been using weights and scales to find out how heavy or light an object is and have also been comparing capacity and volume. In English, the children have written their own fantastic stories based on *Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love. They spent time planning, drafting, editing and publishing their very own stories which they enjoyed sharing with their friends. During our afternoon lessons Kestrels have been busy designing their own hand puppets and have even made a start on making them. We are excited to see the final product. In Science, they have also been learning about where different materials come from. They have done some brilliant learning this week. Keep it up Kestrels.



#### Toucans – Miss Cormack

This week, Toucans Class have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum. In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of fractions, focusing on equivalent fractions and placing fractions on a number line. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to spot fractions in everyday life (such as sharing food) and practising placing simple fractions between 0 and 1. In English, we have completed our persuasive speeches—everyone showed great effort—and we will now be moving on to writing personal narratives and exploring different story shapes; you can help by encouraging your child to talk about real-life experiences and practise organising their ideas into a clear beginning, middle and end. In Geography, we have begun learning about rivers, including meanders and estuaries, and children would benefit from discussing rivers they may have seen, looking at maps, or watching short videos to reinforce this knowledge. We are very proud of how hard the children have worked during their assessments and the positive attitudes they have shown, and we are all looking forward to our trip on Friday. We also enjoyed learning about St Patrick's Day with Miss Cormack and Mrs Akenbrook—well done, Toucans Class, for another fantastic week!

#### Hummingbirds – Mrs Read



During the last two weeks, we have been working hard in Maths, learning about fantastic fractions. Sometimes it's a bit tricky, but we persevere and we are getting there. In English, we have been working on our handwriting. The whole class is trailing a handwriting pen so they know what it feels like when they receive their licence! We have also been revising our speech punctuation - we are becoming quite good at this. In Science, we have been learning about the different types of teeth and the different functions and uses they have. We were even detectives for a lesson and tried to work out what kind of animal from a picture of a skull. In History, we have been learning about the Ancient Greeks - last week, we investigated the similarities and differences between the city states of Athens and Sparta. We were split on our opinions of which city state we thought was best.

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# Safeguarding Stondon Lower School

### What Is Safeguarding?

At our setting, your child's safety and wellbeing are our highest priorities. You may hear us talk about *safeguarding* — but what does that actually mean?

**Safeguarding** is the action we take to protect children from harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and to make sure they grow up in a safe and supportive environment.

It includes:

- Protecting children from physical, emotional, and sexual harm
- Preventing neglect
- Promoting children's health, wellbeing, and development
- Making sure children feel safe, listened to, and supported

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff are trained to recognise signs that a child may need help and to respond appropriately. We follow national guidance such as **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** and work closely with local safeguarding partners when needed.

If we are ever concerned about a child's safety, we have a legal duty to take appropriate action. In most cases, we will speak with parents first. However, if we believe a child may be at immediate risk, we may need to seek advice or make a referral without prior discussion. Our priority will always be the child's safety.

If you ever have concerns about a child's safety — whether it is your own child or another child — please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). We are here to listen, support, and work together with families.

Or you can contact the Integrated Front Door (Children's Services) on 0300 300 8585. Mon – Thurs 8.45am – 5.20pm Fri 8.45am – 4.20pm

Email: [IFD@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:IFD@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) Out of hours: Social Care Emergency Duty Team 0300 300 8123

Bedfordshire Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit - 01234 846960.

NSPCC 0808 800 5000



Mrs Ciara Dumpleton

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Nicola Foxall

Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead



Mrs Hayley Lampshire

Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead

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### Vacancies across our Federation – Stondon and Shillington

#### Office Administrator at Shillington Lower School

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109480/EDV-2026-SLS-68077>

### Charity this Easter

Each year the Garden House Hospice in Letchworth run their 'Charlie Chick' campaign spreading joy with their cheerful chicks which are stuffed with Crème Eggs in order to raise funds for the hospice.

This year we have again been asked to help sell some Charlie Chicks. They are £1.50 each for chicks without a hat and £2.50 with hats. The lovely little chicks are currently living in the school office.

Each Friday afternoon after half term, some of our wonderful Year 4's will be in the front playground with the chicks if you would like to purchase one. You can play by cash, scanning a QR code or by text.



### 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

### Term Dates 2026-2027

#### Autumn Term

Wednesday 7th September – Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October 2026

Inset Days: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

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

### Diary Dates

Date	Event
Parent/teacher consultations	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Parent/teacher consultations	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day of term – Spring Term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
First day back to school – Summer term	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Year 2 Fire Brigade	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April

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.