

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 15TH APRIL 2026

Summer term



With the warm weather finally upon us please can we remind all parents and carers:



Water bottles - if a child forgets their water bottle please let us know so we can ensure we give them a cup for the day.

Suncream - please ensure you apply suncream to your child before school every morning. We are unable to apply suncream on children. If there is a medical reason your child is unable to use a once-a-day suncream and they require top ups throughout the day, your child will need to apply suncream themselves.

Sunhat - there isn't much shade in our front playground or on our playing field so please ensure your child has a sunhat with them.

Sun glasses - sunglasses are only to be worn by children who have hay fever or for a medical condition. Sunglasses can be broken or lost in school.



Please ensure any item coming into school is named



Celtic Harmony – Friday 20th March 2026

Our wonderful Year 3 children went on a day trip to Celtic Harmony. This trip brings Prehistory to life through a WOW day trip led by costumed educators and experience first-hand changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age and the impact of the Roman invasion on Britain.



STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 15TH APRIL 2026

Class learning updates from our lovely teachers

Robins – Miss Bellinger



Throughout the term, we will be reading and retelling a range of traditional fairy tales such as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *The Three Little Pigs*. The children will take part in role play, storytelling, and small world activities to help bring these stories to life. We will also encourage them to create their own fairy tale characters and adventures, helping to develop their confidence, language, and creativity. In Phonics, we are working hard to consolidate all the sounds the children have learned so far. This term, we will be focusing on securing their knowledge in preparation for learning the final set of sounds before their transition into Year 1. We will continue to practise blending for reading and segmenting for writing, as well as building confidence in reading simple sentences. In Maths, our focus will be on counting confidently to 20, beyond recognising and ordering numbers and exploring 3D shapes such as cubes, spheres, cylinders, and cones. We will be using practical activities, games, and real-life examples to help the children deepen their understanding in a fun and engaging way. As we approach the end of the Reception year, we will also be supporting the children with their transition to Year 1. This includes encouraging independence, resilience, and confidence in their learning.

How You Can Help at Home - share and talk about fairy tale stories together, practise counting everyday objects (e.g. toys, snacks, steps), read regularly and revisit phonics sounds and encourage your child to talk about their day and retell stories. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to a member of the Reception team.



Puffins – Miss Ralevic

In Puffins this week, the children were very excited to receive a special delivery in English, a book called *Paddington's Post*! It arrived in an envelope complete with an address and stamp, which we explored together. We spoke about post that we have received such as birthday cards and parcels and looked at about how letters are delivered and the journey they take to reach their destination. We are looking forward to writing some of our own letters soon. In Maths, we have been learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. We explored patterns to support our understanding and have enjoyed practising through fun songs. In PSHE, we have been learning about healthy eating and the different food groups. We discussed the importance of "5 a day" and shared ideas about the fruits and vegetables we can include in our diets. The Puffins also had great fun during their tennis lesson this week, enjoying developing their skills with their tennis coach.

Kestrels – Mrs Lampshire and Mrs Lagah



Kestrels Class have had a fantastic first week back, diving straight into new learning and keeping ourselves very busy! In Maths, we started our new unit on fractions, and the children have shown a great understanding of equal and unequal parts, using practical resources to help explain their ideas. In English, we have been enjoying the story *The Lost Homework* by Richard O'Neill, following Sonny's journey and learning some new words from the Romani language, celebrating his culture. In Art, we began exploring the work of Wassily Kandinsky, discovering how he used music to inspire his paintings. The children loved creating their own colourful artwork while listening to different pieces of music. At home, please continue to enjoy reading and sharing stories with your child focusing on their understanding of the story by asking questions.



Toucans – Miss Cormack

This half term is set to be a busy and exciting one for Toucans Class! In maths, we will be learning about mass and capacity, as well as revisiting fractions and money to strengthen our understanding of key skills—regular practice at home, such as using coins, measuring ingredients, or discussing weights, will really support your child's learning. In English, we will be exploring calligrams (a type of poem where the words are arranged to form a picture that reflects the subject of the poem) and writing persuasive letters, and children will benefit from regular reading at home and opportunities to discuss what they have read. In history, we will be diving into the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt, while in science we will be learning all about plants and how they grow. Our PE lessons will focus on tennis and football, and we are very lucky to have a tennis coach joining us each Friday this half term. In PSHE, we will be focusing on "Being My Best," encouraging children to think about goals, resilience and healthy lifestyles. We are also excited to be working with a singing teacher as we begin preparing for our Something for Summer concert. As always, reading regularly at home is incredibly important and makes a big difference to your child's progress across all subjects—thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a fantastic half term ahead!

Hummingbirds – Mrs Read



Welcome back Hummingbirds! We have jumped straight in with new work and learning. In English, we begin a new unit based on a couple of books. We are looking at Malala's Magic Pencil first and this has already led to some very interesting conversations on the importance of school, how school is a right in this country and whether or not we should feel lucky to have access to free and safe education. We are building upon our persuasive writing techniques and will be writing a number of persuasive pieces. In Maths, we have just about concluded our work on Fractions. From next week we will begin to look at decimals for the first time. Hummingbirds will have encountered the concept of decimals when studying money but other than that, this is a pretty new area of learning. They will learn what decimals are and how they link to fractions also. In Science, we begin learning about sound, soundwaves, how sound travels and the things that can change sound. We look forward to some interesting investigations!

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 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 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

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 15TH APRIL 2026

Health and Safety

Please note the below to help your children safe

- If you're bringing a dog with you to collect your child please keep them on the lead even outside of our school grounds. Our gates are open and so dogs can gain access at any point.
- With the back gate now being open we have noticed more and more children using the trim trail at drop off and pick up without adult supervision. **Please do not let children use the trim trail.** The trim trail needs to be supervised by school staff only and at these times we do not have any adults outside.
- To help everyone stay safe in the front playground **please do not** let your children
 - climb along the wall railings
 - climb on the buddy bench
 - climb on the bike and scooter racks
 - hang on the pipes
 - jump up and pull/dangle off the basketball net
 - climb on or over the black hand railings outside the front door
 - use of scooters, bikes or skateboards isn't allowed.

All of these activities are causing damage in our playground and are unsafe for children to do.

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 3rd and Friday 4th September

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Friday 17 th April	Class photos
Tuesday 28 th April	Fire Brigade visit – Year 2
Tuesday 12 th May	Higgins Toy Museum – Year 1
Friday 15 th May	Bikeability - Year 4

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.

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