

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

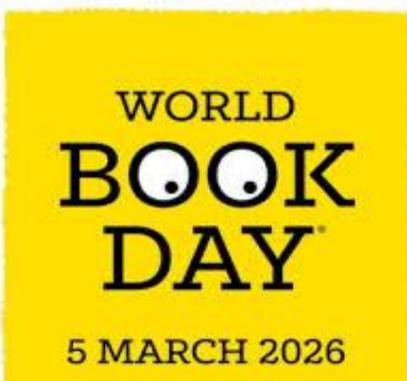
FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 2026

Young Voices 2026

On Wednesday 25th February, Year 4 performed alongside 8000 other school children to parents and carers at the O2 Arena in London. Mrs Read and all at Stondon Lower are so proud of them. Each child was super well behaved, sang and danced their socks off!



Thank you to our wonderful PTA who purchased red beanie hats for the children. This year, the weather was so beautiful we didn't need them for warmth but they're great for helping to make our children stand out from the rest.



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Class learning updates from our lovely teachers

Robins – Miss Bellinaer



We have had a fantastic start to our new topic all about **Space!** 🚀 ✨ The children have been full of curiosity and excitement as we explore the wonders beyond our planet. So far, we have been learning about what space is and discussing what we might find there. We have also been learning about **the Moon** 🌙 and exploring its different phases. The children especially enjoyed discovering why the Moon appears to change shape over time! In **Phonics**, we are revisiting and reviewing the sounds we have learned in Autumn 1, Autumn 2, and Spring 1. Our focus has been on blending sounds together to read words more fluently and building words using the sounds we know. The children are working hard to apply their phonics knowledge with increasing confidence—well done! In **Literacy**, we are beginning to write our own stories. The children are choosing their favourite animal and creating an exciting adventure for them to go on. We have been talking about story structure, describing characters, and thinking of imaginative settings. We are so impressed with their creativity so far! In **Maths**, we have been exploring the numbers **6, 7, and 8**. We have been counting, representing these numbers in different ways, and thinking carefully about odd and even numbers. The children have enjoyed spotting patterns and using practical resources to help deepen their understanding. We are also very excited to be working with **Jenny, our dance teacher!** 🕺 🎶 The children have been thoroughly enjoying their dance sessions, where they have been moving creatively and expressing themselves through music and movement. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they learn new routines and practise working together as a team. Thank you, as always, for your continued support at home. We love sharing our learning journey with you and look forward to another exciting week ahead!



Puffins – Miss Ralevic

Another busy week for the Puffins! In Maths, the children have been working hard on their place value up to 50. They have been using number lines, finding one more and one less, and learning how to partition numbers into tens and ones.

In English, we have been planning our own stories inspired by *Martha's Map*, focusing on our journeys to school. The children used story maps to help organise their ideas and created their own characters to include in their stories.

In History, we enjoyed learning about the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning and discovering why her work was so important to our understanding of fossils and prehistoric life.

Kestrels – Mrs Lampshire and Mrs Lagah



Kestrels Class have had a fantastic week of learning! In Maths, we started our new topic on length and height, measuring in metres and centimetres using metre sticks and rulers. We even went outside to measure different objects around the school grounds. In English, we began exploring *Julian Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love. The children have loved discussing how the illustrations help to tell the story and have been working hard to include rich descriptions in their own sentences. In our afternoon lessons, during Computing, we started learning about photographs and the different devices we can use to take them. In PE, we've enjoyed learning animal-inspired dance moves with Jenny our wonderful dance teacher. To support your child's learning at home this week, you could practise measuring different objects and encourage your child to describe objects they see using adjectives, e.g. "the beautiful, pink flowers".



Toucans – Miss Cormack

Toucan Class have been working incredibly hard across all areas of their learning. In Maths, we have been finishing our topic on perimeter and measurement, adding heights and lengths accurately before moving on to our new learning on fractions. In English, we have been developing our persuasive writing skills by thinking carefully about our audience and the issues we feel strongly about, including having more bins in the playground, encouraging everyone to turn off lights when they leave a room, and making sure people recycle. In Geography, we have been learning about rivers and can now confidently label and explain the source, mouth, drainage basin and tributaries. We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day and sharing our love of reading. Please continue to support your child at home by reading regularly together and practising the weekly spellings that are posted on Seesaw — it really does make a big difference to their confidence and progress.

Hummingbirds – Mrs Read



We have been busy getting to know fractions. We have begun to learn about improper fractions and how they can be changed into mixed numbers. We have revised which bit is the numerator (the top number) and which bit is the denominator (the bottom number). Soon, we will be learning how to add and subtract fractions from each other.

In English, we have been revising how to use fronted adverbials. Ask your Hummingbird if they remember what a fronted adverbial is and how many different types there are. In Science, we have been learning all about the digestive system and our teeth. We know the different names for different types of teeth and what their purposes are. We can also explain how our food travels from our mouths to ... the other end! In Art, we have been experimenting with lino and preparing for some printing work.

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 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 Dumbleton
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Nicola Foxall
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead

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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>

For any parent of Stondon who is successful in this role, you would be entitled to free after school club for your child/ren.

Teaching Assistant <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109469/EDV-2025-SLS-88371>

A massive **thank you** to everyone for our recent fundraising efforts for Number Day and Wear Bright, Shine Bright



We raised a **£34.30**



We raised a huge **£97.50**

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 3rd and Friday 4th September 2026

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

Diary Dates

Date	Event
	Celtic Harmony
	Friday 20 th March
	Parent/teacher consultations
	Tuesday 24 th March
	Parent/teacher consultations
	Thursday 26 th March
	Last day of term – Spring Term
	Friday 27 th March
	First day back to school – Summer term
	Tuesday 14 th April
	Year 2 Fire Brigade
	Wednesday 15 th 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.