



# Welcome to the Summer term



## Arts Day 2025

To celebrate world art day (15th April) Stondon held their very own arts' day. Over the course of the day all children participated in exploring different areas of the arts. We started our day by having an assembly in which we learned all about the Royal Opera House and what the arts really means. We discovered that the arts is much more than just drawing and painting. We were given our jobs for the day. We then spent the day moving around the school in our teams to explore the arts.



These were the different activities:

**Create**-Children were given creative freedom to design and make their own interpretation of the Mad Hatters hat. After being shown different examples of the Mad Hatter's hat in different medias, children were given some time to think about their designs, before setting off creating their hats. *Skills*- Cutting, sticking, collaging, selecting patterns and materials to bring their creative visions to life.

**Design**-Children became costume designers for Alice's adventures in Wonderland. They started by having a look and a discussion about different examples of the Mad Hatter's costume in different media. They then spoke about the shapes, colours and patterns used. *Skills*- imagination, colour knowledge, knowledge of the character, pattern knowledge.



**Dance**-Children were shown a clip of the Mad Hatter's tea party from the Royal Opera House Ballet production of Alice's adventures in Wonderland. They were then taught a step by step sequence of a dance of the same theme. *Skills*- Body percussion, Rhythmic knowledge, exploring different parts of the body to use, balancing, reaching, kicking, sliding, bouncing.

**Sing**-Children made sure to warm up their bodies and voices by doing lip rolls, shoulder shrugs, singing scales and improving mobility in their mouths. They then listened to the song 'The Mad Hatter's tea party'. After a discussion about how the lyrics relate to the song, children learned the lyrics line by line and even put

some actions with it! *Skills*-Breath control, diction, musicality, vocal technique, pitch, tone and confidence.

The children had a fantastic day. They enjoyed showing off their hard work in a celebration assembly at the end of the day, where they all wore their hats, showed their costume designs and a few of them performed their dance. They ended the day by singing their song!





**Robins class news**



We have started our new topic- Pirates! The children have enjoyed creating their own pirate maps using coffee to stain paper and beads to create their own islands. They have used their new knowledge of maps to include key features such as an X to mark the spot.

In Maths we are continuing looking at numbers 13-20 and have been using practical resources like numicon and cubes to help us get a better understanding of the composition of these numbers.

In Phonics we are looking at words with –ed (t) added (dropped, ripped, bumped) and applying this in our writing.

We enjoyed our arts day and now have a better understanding of ‘the arts’ and the different jobs we could do with these new skills.

Our dance lessons have begun on a Tuesday afternoon, and the Robins are very excited to continue developing these skills every week. This will replace our Wednesday PE lesson.

**Puffins class news**

This week in Puffins we have been reading a new book in English, ‘Lost and Found’. So far in the story, there was a lost penguin who was returned home, but seemed sad when he got there. We realised that the penguin wasn’t lost, he was lonely! We then wrote our own postcards from the penguin to the boy, using adjectives to describe how the penguin was feeling. We also used questions in our writing to ask the boy if he would return.

In Maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have been looking at patterns in the number sequences and talking about what we notice. Spotting these patterns has helped us to make sure our counting is correct. We’ve also really enjoyed singing lots of songs to help us with this!

In Geography, we have learnt to name and locate the 4 countries of the UK. Once again, a catchy song has helped us to remember these! We’ve also been working hard to try to remember each of the capital cities too.



**Kestrels class news**



Kestrels have had a lovely week enjoying the sunshine! In Maths, we have continued our learning on fractions. The children have learnt to recognise and find three quarters of numbers and shapes. This was a little bit tricky but with perseverance the children succeeded! Great determination and progress Kestrels!

In English, we have been reading the book ‘The Dragon Machine’. We have had so much fun writing descriptions about our dragons. The children used some brilliant adjectives and sentences to describe their dragon and have made their own class encyclopaedia all about Dragons.

In Science, we are learning about plants this term and have planted our very own beans. We are excited to see them grow over the next few weeks.

We are extremely happy to have finally finished our hand puppets! They look amazing and the children are very proud of them!

Keep up the good work Kestrels!

**Toucans class news**



Happy Summer!

The past 2 weeks in Toucans we have jumped back into the past and started our exploration of Ancient Egypt. So far, we have explored the Valley of the Kings, Howard Carter's amazing discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and writing in hieroglyphics.

In Science, we will be exploring plants and conducting an experiment on their best growing conditions.

In Maths we have been investigating money including adding and subtracting to help us find the right amount of change when buying a product. Next week we will be moving onto time which will be a challenge we are ready for.

The children are very lucky this term to have Miss Cormack to teach them how to play a new instrument called the Pbuzz as an introduction to playing brass instruments. In addition, this term we have a fabulous dance teacher on a Tuesday, we will be learning an Egyptian inspired dance.

**Hummingbirds class news**



After a lovely holiday, we have jumped straight into a pool of learning.

In Maths we continue our studies on decimals - we are becoming rather good at using them, partitioning them, adding them... we are really proud of ourselves.

In English, we have started work on studying story plots and have begun to look at the ups and downs that different stories can take ready to inspire us for writing our own.

On Fridays, we are beginning DT and let's just say there will be a Greek theme to tie in with our history studies.

Talking of Greek, our end of year production has just been revealed! This year it will be all about the Greek myth of the Minotaur! We have had a read through, expressed our interests and the children are now awaiting on casting to be completed, so watch this space!

Finally, we had a lovely day on our Monday Art’s day. We loved all the activities and particularly enjoyed spending the day in our teams rather than our classes. It was nice to learn with the younger children.

Join the Stondon Lower School PTA!

Stondon Lower School PTA is dedicated to enhancing our school community by fostering collaboration between parents, teachers, and the school administration. Our PTA organises events, fundraisers, and activities that benefit our students and create a sense of belonging.

Why Join?

- **Voice Your Ideas:** Contribute to school programs and events
- **Support and Advocate:** Help address student needs and improve resources.
- **Build Community:** Connect with other parents and educators.
- **Make an Impact:** Fundraise to support and enrich your child’s education.
- **Set an Example:** Show the importance of community involvement to your children.

**Get Involved!** Contact us at stondonlowerpta@gmail.com or attend our next meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Every contribution counts!

Term Dates 2024-2025

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

Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April- Friday 18th July 2025  
Half Term: Monday 27th- Friday 30th May 2025  
Inset Days: Monday 7th April & Monday 21st July 2025

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term

Wednesday 3rd September- Friday 19th December 2025  
Half Term: Monday 27th October- Friday 31st November 2025  
Inset Days: Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Spring Term

Tuesday 6th January- Friday 27th March 2026  
Half term: Monday 16th- Friday 20th February 2026  
Inset Days: Monday 5th January 2026

Summer Term

Tuesday 14th April- Friday 17th July 2026  
Half Term: Monday 26th- Friday 29th May 2026  
Inset Days: Monday 13th April 2026



Date	Event
14th May	Bikeability—Yr 4
22nd May	Higgins Toy Museum—Yr 1
12th June	Mead Open Farm - Reception
16th June	Sports Day
25th-27th June	Grafham Water—Yr 4
2nd July—TBC	British Schools Museum—Y2
9th July	Year 4 leavers ceremony
11th July	End of year reports—all years
15th July	Celebrations evening

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

Today we bid farewell to Mrs Vye who is a Teaching Assistant in Year 2. We want to thank Mrs Vye for her many years of dedicated support to the children of Stondon Lower School.

Good luck Mrs Vye! We’re going to miss you.



# 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 trial.** 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.

- To help everyone stay safe please do not allow your children to practice gymnastics on the front playground.
- Please could we ask that our playground is kept litter free .

## Are your children eligible for benefits-based free school meals?

great  
prospects


All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are entitled to free school meals referred to as 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' (UIFSM).

But any child in Reception through to Year 11 that meets the Government criteria listed below is entitled to benefits based free school meals. By claiming this, there are also other benefits available to the child and family such as access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme, providing free activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays.

Do you receive one of the following benefits?

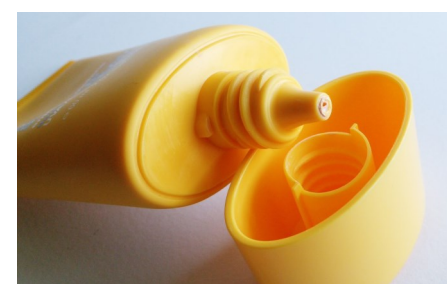
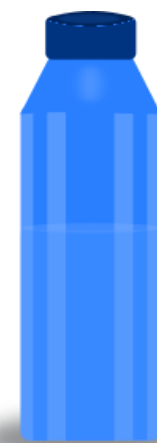
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If so, your children may be entitled to benefits based free school meals. Turn over to find out how to apply.

Find us online  [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals)

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

- Please remember **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're cannot 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.
- **Sunhats**—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.**