

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026

Higgins Toy Museum – Year 1 School Trip

Tuesday 12th May 2026

Our Year 1 Puffins Class went on their school trip to Higgins Toy Museum.

At the museum the children learnt about toys through the ages. After half term they will be learning about toys from the past in more depth.



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Class learning updates from our lovely teachers

Robins – Miss Bellinger



We have had another busy and exciting couple of weeks in class and the children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of learning. In Phonics, we have been revisiting and reviewing our current GPCs (grapheme–phoneme correspondences) to help strengthen the children’s confidence and fluency when reading and writing. The children have been practising their blending skills to read words more smoothly and accurately, and we have also been focusing on recognising and spelling some of our “harder to read and spell” words. It has been wonderful to see the children becoming more independent and enthusiastic readers each day. In Drawing Club, we have been exploring a range of traditional fairy tales and the children have thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in these familiar stories. We began with *The Gingerbread Man*, followed by *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and we are finishing with *Hansel and Gretel*. The children have loved discussing the characters, settings and story events, as well as using their imagination to draw, describe and create their own ideas linked to the stories. Their creativity and storytelling skills have really shone through. In Maths, we have been learning about shape and space through rotating and manipulating shapes in different ways. The children have enjoyed exploring how shapes can turn, flip and move, while developing their mathematical vocabulary. Alongside this, we have continued securing our counting skills to 20, focusing on accurate counting, number recognition and building confidence when working with numbers independently.



Puffins – Miss Ralevic

This week in Year 1, we have been enjoying reading *Little Red* and *The Very Hungry Lion* in English. We noticed that the author used exclamation marks to show when the characters are surprised or shouting, so we have been practising using them in our own sentences too!

In Maths, we have continued learning about fractions and have been exploring quarters. We found quarters of shapes, objects and quantities, using our knowledge of equal groups to help us. Next week we are starting our new unit, position and direction.

On Tuesday, we had a fantastic time visiting the The Higgins Museum in Bedford, where we looked at toys from the past and explored artefacts in the museum. We now have a good understanding of the types of toys children played with 100 years ago and are excited to learn even more in History after half term.

Kestrels – Mrs Lampshire and Mrs Lagah



Kestrels Class have had another busy and exciting week of learning. In Maths, we began our new unit on telling the time. The children have worked hard learning o’clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to, as well as telling time past the hour. This can be a tricky topic, so any extra practice at home would really help to build confidence. In English, we enjoyed reading *How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth* by Michelle Robinson before writing our own entertaining instructions about washing unusual animals! In History, we have been learning about the life of Richard III. I wonder if your Kestrel can remember any interesting facts about his short reign as King?

At home, please practise telling the time using an analogue clock and, as always, encourage lots of reading together.



Toucans – Miss Cormack

This week, Toucans Class have been very busy with their learning. In Maths, we have finished our fractions unit and have now progressed onto money. You can support this learning at home by allowing your children to pay in shops and practise working out and giving change. In English, we are finishing up our persuasive letters and the children have worked incredibly hard on drafting and improving their writing. In Science, we investigated how roots work in flowers by carrying out an experiment using flowers and food colouring. We have also continued our singing lessons in preparation for the *Something for Summer* concert and the children are sounding fantastic. In History, we learnt all about Howard Carter and his amazing discovery in Egypt — why not ask your children to tell you what they have learnt about him?

Hummingbirds – Mrs Read



This week in Maths, we are finishing up our topic on decimals. We are now able to round decimals to the nearest integer (we also know what integer means!) as well as adding and subtracting them. Soon, we will move onto the subject of money - an essential topic as I'm sure you will agree. It can be tricky for modern children to grasp the concept of coins and notes as so much of our world now demands electronic payments without ever physically seeing the money we spend. Any opportunities for you to help your Hummingbird interact with physical money would be most beneficial. In English, we have been writing persuasive formal letters (another dying concept!) and how to persuade whilst remaining polite and respectful. We have been especially good at using the persuasive technique of exaggeration! In Science, we have continued our topic of Sound and most recently, learnt how volume decreases with distance. In Music, we are very much enjoying our P-bone lessons (plastic trombone). I'm sure you can imagine just how delightful our playing sounds! Finally in History, we have been enjoying discovering all about the Roman invasion of Britain. We have discovered many facts about people such as Boudicca, Julius Caesar and Emperor Claudius so far.

We are looking forward to our trip to Grafham Water next week!

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

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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 improving weather, we are noticing children are 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
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd May	Grafham Water – Year 4 trip
Friday 22nd May	Last day of term
Monday 1st June	Back to school
Friday 12 th June	Mead Open Farm – Reception trip
Monday 22 nd June	Robert Bloomfield Production – Year 4
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day
Friday 3 rd July	Transition day
Wednesday 8 th July	British Schools Museum – Year 2 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.

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