

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 1ST MAY 2026



Year 2 Fire Brigade visit

On Tuesday, Kestrels Class had a fantastic visit from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The firefighters spoke to the children about fire safety at home, including the importance of smoke alarms, what to do if there is a fire and how to stop, drop and roll. The children were also fascinated to see a firefighter in full protective clothing!

Outside, we had a tour of the fire engine and learnt about the different equipment, including hoses, ladders and cutting tools. Of course, the highlight for the children was having a turn spraying a real fire hose! This visit was the perfect opportunity for children to learn about being responsible, respectful citizens who know how to look after themselves and others. We were so proud of how enthusiastic, well-behaved and respectful Kestrels class were during the visit.

A huge thank you to the Fire Service for giving us their valuable time!



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Class learning updates from our lovely teachers

Robins – Miss Bellinger



In **Literacy and Phonics**, we have been building on our ability to write CVCC words, with the children becoming more confident in applying their phonics knowledge independently. We have also been learning about adding *-ed* to words and exploring the different sounds it can make. The children have enjoyed spotting these in words and using them in their own writing.

In **Maths**, we have been practising counting up to 20, developing accuracy and confidence. We have also been working on adding numbers within 10, using practical resources and games to support our understanding.

Our topic work has been centred around **fairy tales**, and this week we have been exploring the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*. The children have loved retelling the story, discussing the characters and thinking about different versions and ideas.



Puffins – Miss Ralevic

We have had another busy week in Puffins! In English, we have been learning how to write letters. We have been learning how to include key features of a letter such as the address, a greeting using "Dear...", and asking questions. We even wrote and sent our own letters to the Year 2 class, asking them about what they enjoy in Year 2. We have posted them in the school post box and are awaiting a reply!

In Maths, we have started learning about fractions and can now recognise and find one half of a shape or object. Next week we are going to learn how to recognise a quarter.

In Geography, we have been learning to name and locate the countries of the UK and their capital cities. We have also been super busy getting as much Phonics practice in as we can, ready for our Phonics screening next half term. Please continue to read with your child as much as possible to help support this!

Kestrels – Mrs Lampshire and Mrs Lagah



Kestrels Class have had another busy and exciting week of learning.

In Maths, we have been learning about unit and non-unit fractions, and we are so impressed with how quickly the children have grasped these new ideas. They have been working incredibly hard. In English, the children have been writing their own stories about lost things, remembering to use the past tense, add adjectives and include detailed descriptions. Their writing has been fantastic! During Art this week, we began creating our own special pieces inspired by Wassily Kandinsky, exploring colour and shape. We also had a very exciting visit from the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The children listened beautifully and loved having a turn with the fire hose!

At home, you could practise fractions in real-life situations and encourage your child to write short imaginative stories.



Toucans – Miss Cormack

In Maths, Toucans are coming to the end of our unit on capacity and volume. We will soon be moving on to our second fractions unit, so it would be very helpful if you could give your child some reminders and extra practice with fractions at home. In English, we are focusing on writing persuasive letters. The children are learning about the key features of persuasive writing and how to use these effectively in their own work.

In History, we are continuing our learning about the Egyptians. After exploring the importance of the Nile in detail, we have now moved on to developing our skills in asking historical questions and finding evidence to answer them. We have also had our first singing lesson, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They are already looking forward to performing in our summer concert. Additionally, we have been continuing to practise handwriting, with a focus on neat presentation and joining letters correctly. Over the coming weeks, I will begin to challenge the children further on Times Tables Rock Stars and will also be recognising those who go above and beyond with their reading.

Hummingbirds – Mrs Read



In English, over the past few weeks, we have been looking at persuasive speeches and letters. We have enjoyed listening to Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai who are both very persuasive people and we have taken inspiration to help us plan our own speeches.

In maths, we have continued to look at decimals and are becoming experts, having learnt to divide a number by 10 and 100.

We have been enjoying learning to touch type in computing and are working hard on our correct finger placement. In science we have been learning about sound and this week we used a data log to record the sound level in the classroom in decibels.

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
Tuesday 12 th May	Higgins Toy Museum – Year 1
Friday 15 th May	Bikeability - Year 4
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd May	Grafham Water – Year 4 trip
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term
Monday 1st June	Back to school

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.