

STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2025

Punctuality

It has been noted that a few children are persistently late to school. Sometimes being late is unavoidable and we completely understand this but when children are persistently late it not only affects the child who is late it also disrupts the class. If you know that you are going to be late the please contact the school office, this helps us to plan the **lunch orders** (lunch is ordered by 9:05 every day) and **inform the class teacher** that your child is on their way.

Arriving on time for school is important. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and can be embarrassing for the child who is late.

- ◆ **8.45am**- Doors open
- ◆ **9.00am**- Registration and the school day begins
- ◆ **Arriving between 9.00am- 9.30am** is recorded as 'L' code (late)
- ◆ **Arriving after 9.30am** is recorded as a 'U' code (registers closed.)

U code reduces attendance percentage for the entire school.

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- ◆ Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- ◆ Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind – especially Phonics for Robins and Year 1. This lesson is essential with helping them read and write. And with our older years they focus on other activities to reinforce their learning – Times Table Rockstar and Math fluency skills
- ◆ Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- ◆ Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

Minutes late per day	Learning time lost in a year
5 minutes	3.5 days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10.5 days
20 minutes	14 days
30 minutes	21 days

Colder weather

As the days are now getting colder can you please ensure that your child has a warm coat with them every day. We would also recommend children have with them hats a gloves- please ensure everything is named!



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Stondon Lower Class News

Robins



What a wonderful week we've had in Reception. The children have been working incredibly hard in Phonics, showing fantastic progress in recognising and blending digraphs and trigraphs. It's been lovely to see their confidence growing as they apply these sounds in their reading and early writing. Our handwriting sessions have also been full of effort and enthusiasm. The children are taking such pride in forming their letters carefully, and we're seeing great improvements in control and presentation. Their growing independence is shining through in all areas of learning, from organising their own resources to having a go at challenges with increasing self-belief. There is lots of excitement in the air as we begin our preparations for the Christmas play. The children are already buzzing with songs, actions, and festive cheer, and we can't wait to share their hard work with you soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're so proud of everything the children are achieving!



Puffins

This week in Puffins we have been reading a new traditional tale, 'The Princess and the Pea'. We have used puppets again to help us to retell the story and have started to use adjectives to describe some of the characters.

In Maths we are learning how to subtract. We have been using counters and crossing out pictures to show that we are 'taking away'. Next week we are going to learn how to subtract using a number line. In DT we have been learning how to prepare food and present in it interesting ways by making our own plate of vegetable crudites. We made sure we washed our hands before we started and then got to work chopping the different vegetables and presenting them in a way that matched our designs from last week.

Kestrels



Kestrels Class have had a wonderful week full of exciting learning.

In Maths, we explored 2D and 3D shapes, naming their properties and learning all about sides and vertices. The children impressed us with their knowledge of shapes and how quickly they could identify them. In English, we began our new unit on letter writing, looking at the features of letters and postcards before writing our very own postcards. In History, we travelled back to London in 1666, discovering what life was like at the time and how different the city was compared to today. We've also been working incredibly hard on our Christmas Show. The children are singing and performing beautifully, and we can't wait for you to see it! At home, please keep up regular reading and see if you can spot and name any 2D or 3D shapes around your own home.



Toucans

This week in Toucans Class has been full of fun and great learning.

In English, we've been working on becoming amazing storytellers by using the "show, not tell" technique. Instead of simply telling the reader how a character feels, the children have been practising describing actions, senses and dialogue to paint a clearer picture. We've also been using lots of subordinating conjunctions—like, because, although, when and if—to help make our sentences more interesting. In Maths, we've been focusing on the 3 times table and practising multiplying and dividing by 3, with plenty of quick challenges to build confidence. We've also been working hard on our spellings every day and using different strategies to help tricky words stick. In our topic work, we've continued learning about early humans and the Ice Age, thinking about how people survived in such cold conditions and what life might have been like back then. In RE, we've been finding out how Jewish families celebrate Shabbat and why it's such an important weekly tradition. It's been a busy week, and we're very proud of how hard the children have been working!

Hummingbirds



This week in Hummingbirds we have been very busy. First, we have been working hard to learn our times tables. We still find some of them a little tricky to remember. However, we know that the more we practice, the better we will become. Some Hummingbirds have even been using TTRS at home. This is amazing and very useful. Keep it up Hummingbirds – I look forward to seeing your progress on my computer.

In English, we have been looking at poetry. We have studied a poem called 'The Small Dragon' by Brian Patten. We are using his poem to inspire our own – we can't wait to share them with you! In Science Hummingbirds continue to learn all about electricity. We have learnt, for example that electricity can flow through wires because wires are conductors. Materials that prevent electricity from flowing are called insulators. We can't wait to learn some more.

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**BBC
CHILDREN
IN NEED**

THANK YOU

Stondon Lower School

for raising a fantastic

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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>

Class Teacher- Maternity Cover at Shillington Lower School

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109480/EDV-2025-SLS-29348>

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term

Wednesday 3rd September- Friday 19th
December 2025

*Half Term: Monday 27th October- Friday 31st
October*

Inset Days: Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd
September

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*

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

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Sunday 29 th November	Wreath making - PTA
Friday 5 th December	Barn Nativity – Year 3
Tuesday 9 th December	Reception and Year 1 Christmas Performance – 2:30pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Year 2 and 3 Christmas Performance – 5:30pm
Thursday 11 th December	Year 2 and 3 Christmas Performance – 9:30am
Friday 12 th December	Reception and Year 1 Christmas Performance – 9:15am
Saturday 13 th December	PTA Christmas Disco and Santa's Grotto
Tuesday 16 th December	Widdershins Theatre
Tuesday 16 th December	Year 4 Church performance 4pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas lunch and jumper day

**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.**