

Grafham Water 2026

Well done to our Year 4 class who, just before half term, attended their first residential trip to Grafham Water.

This trip pushes all children out of their comfort zones and our staff were very impressed with their determination throughout their stay. Well Done Year 4!



STONDON LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2026

Year 4 Bikeability – Friday 15th May 2026

Before half term our Hummingbirds class took part in Level 1 Bikeability. During the session the children learnt about maintaining their bikes and how to make simple repairs, controlling their bike when setting off and riding and being aware of their surroundings by looking around and turning around obstacles. They did a great job and had a fab time as you can see from the pictures below!



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Class learning updates from our lovely teachers

Robins – Miss Bellinger



We have had a wonderful start to the last half term exploring our topic "Sowing a Seed", where the children are learning to answer the question: *How can we care for nature?* We will be planting seeds, talking about how plants grow, and discussing how we can look after the environment. This links perfectly to our exciting farm trip next week, where the children will see animals and crops up close and bring their learning to life. In Phonics, we are beginning to introduce Year 1 sounds to support a smooth transition, while continuing to build confidence in reading and recognising harder to read and spell words. In Maths, we are focusing on counting to 20 and developing early skills in sharing and grouping, helping children understand how numbers can be split and used in real-life situations. Thank you for your continued support at home, especially with regular reading practice. We are so proud of the children's progress and are looking forward to another exciting few weeks of learning together.



Puffins – Miss Ralevic

In English this week, Year 1 have started exploring a non-fiction book called *The Big Book of Bugs*. We have been identifying the key features of non-fiction texts, including headings, photographs, questions and information. This will help us as we begin planning and writing our own information books about bugs. In Maths, we have started working with numbers to 100! The children have been partitioning numbers into tens and ones and using number lines to support their understanding of place value.

In Science, we have begun learning about plants. We learnt the difference between wild plants and garden plants and discussed where we might find each type. Next week, we will be investigating what plants need in order to grow and stay healthy.

Kestrels – Mrs Lampshire and Mrs Lagah



Kestrels have had a brilliant start to our final term of Year 2!

In English this week, we have started looking at a story called *Here I am* by Patti Kim. It is a wordless book and the children have really enjoyed looking at the pictures and trying to work out how the character is feeling and what they may have been thinking. In Maths, we have started a new topic on statistics, and the children have been learning about tally charts. They even created their own tally charts showing Kestrels' favourite fruits! If you have time, perhaps your child could make a tally chart showing the number of cars that drive past your house in 10 minutes! Our afternoon lessons have been full of fun! In History the children have been learning about medieval banquets and thoroughly enjoyed designing their own menus. In PE, the children have been learning to play cricket with the Premier Sports team. Next week, the children will be planting their own beans as part of our Plants topic in Science. We look forward to updating you and letting you know how well they are growing. Finally, in D&T, the children will be making their own vehicles using wheels and axles!



Toucans – Miss Cormack

We have had a fantastic start to the half term and have lots of exciting learning taking place in Toucans Class. In English, we have begun reading our new class book, *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. The children are already enjoying this exciting story and will be using it to inspire their reading, writing, and discussion work over the coming weeks. In Art, we have been creating beautiful rainforest pictures using watercolours. The children have been exploring different painting techniques and using their knowledge of rainforest environments to produce some wonderful artwork. In Maths, we are learning all about time. We have been practising the days of the week, months of the year, hours in a day, and developing our understanding of reading and telling the time. In Computing, we are learning about networks and how computers connect and communicate with one another. The children have been exploring different types of networks and beginning to understand how information travels between devices. As we move into a very busy half term, we are also spending time revisiting our classroom expectations and ensuring that we continue to demonstrate excellent learning behaviours, kindness, and responsibility. Our singing lessons will continue until 9th July as we prepare for our upcoming concert. All children have been given a copy of the song lyrics and we would appreciate any support at home in helping them learn the words. At home, please continue to encourage regular reading and the completion of reading diaries. It would also be beneficial for children to practise spelling the days of the week and to continue developing their listening skills by following instructions carefully and attentively. Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another busy and successful half term in Toucans Class!

Hummingbirds – Mrs Read



What an amazing time at Grafham Water we had! Making our beds was the first challenge and I think we all found putting duvets in their covers without them getting all twisted particularly tricky. There was some good teamwork going on though, especially with helping to put bedsheets on top bunk mattresses! There was no rest for the wicked and activities began straight away. The high ropes tested our fears, bullseyes were scored in archery, locations found in orienteering... we learnt so many new skills! We all loved the water activities, but the one thing we did not enjoy about doing them was having to get on a wetsuit. They were very difficult to get on and teamwork was once more employed to get legs past heels and sleeves past fingers. Once they were on though and we got used to the tightness, we had such a good time on giant stand up paddle boards, kayaks and sailing boats. Some of us even got to sail all the way across the lake. We all know Hummingbirds can sometimes be fussy eaters, but the food we had at Grafham was second to none. There was an option for every taste and we all filled our bellies every day.

This half term, we have begun Maths with money and in English we are beginning to look at non-chronological reports - we will be writing one about 'play' and the many benefits of it.

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.
- 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 .



This week we've had some respite from the very warm temperatures we saw last half term however we know how unpredictable the British weather can be. Please ensure

- Your child has a water bottle with them everyday
- You're applying suncream before they arrive at school – we're unable to apply suncream for children
- Please send in your child with a sun hat for break, lunch and outside learning
- If your child is a hayfever sufferer, please ensure you're administering antihistamines before they arrive at school
- If your child suffers from hayfever or has a **medical condition**, sunglasses can be worn upon agreement with the school.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Friday 12 th June	Mead Open Farm – Reception trip
Monday 22 nd June	Yr 4 attending Robert Bloomfield Production
Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day
Friday 3 rd July	Transition day
Wednesday 8 th July	British Schools Museum – Year 2
Thursday 9 th July	Something for Summer – Year 3
Thursday 9 th July	Leavers assembly – Year 4
Thursday 16 th July	Summer Fair

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.

Term Dates 2025-2026

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

Spring Term

Tuesday 5th January - Thursday 25th March 2027

Half Term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027

Inset Days: 4th January 2027