



The Stondon Lower Newsletter

We are two weeks into the start of a new school year and the children have adapted remarkably well to the new normal of staying within their class sized social bubbles.

Each bubble has a minimum of two consistent members of staff. We have some capacity within the school for Mrs Sharp and Mrs Parsons to provide cover in case of staff absence but the school is still vulnerable to partial closures of bubbles in the event of numerous absences. Whilst government guidance says that schools can use supply teachers, we believe that this only increases the risk of infection to our school community as their role could expose them to many other schools. We always try to provide cover for absences from within school by a member of staff who the children are familiar with.

We finally have a virtual learning platform set up which you will all get access to. This work took a lot longer than we had anticipated, as employees of the set up company were furloughed! We had been pushing to get this in place in June and July. This will mean that we will be able to get our online remote learning offer set up now and will mean that for any families self-isolating with children at home, they can keep up with the learning in the classroom and be part of the same lessons potentially. The teachers have training next week. Following that, we will be in touch with how to access it.

Thank you again for your continued support
Mrs Dumbleton.

Reporting absence



If your child is unwell and will not be attending school please call the office and leave a voicemail to let us know. Please be clear with the reason why your child is not attending. Parents often leave a message to say their child is 'unwell' this does not supply us with enough information and may mean that Mrs Greenman will need to call you back for further details.

Reading books

School diaries have now been sent home (Robins class will receive theirs next week) along with a school reading book. Please be aware that sending home a new school reading book may take a bit longer than before as books when returned to school are isolated for 72 hours before being put back into circulation.

Teachers are sharing weekly spellings via See-saw so please do activate your account using the QR codes which have been sent home.



PE Kits

Thank you to everyone for remembering to send their child in to school in PE kit on their set days, this seems to be working well and we will continue to ask you to do this for the foreseeable future.

Can we please ask though that children come in to school in school appropriate PE kit. Ideally a Stondon logoed PE top or a plain red or white T-Shirt. Please no strappy tops.

If you have sent your school PE top in as the spare kit to stay in school then please ask your child to bring it home so it can be swapped over.

PE lessons are being taken outside at the moment so please remember black joggers/ leggings and a sweat-shirt for when the weather is cooler.



Robin Class News

I am pleased to announce that finally all the Robins got together this week. We now have 28 Robins in our class. Everyone has settled in really well, is making new friends and exploring both inside and outside provisions since we started last week. This week's most popular activity was Mrs Davies's play dough. The children loved making cupcakes and decorating them with coloured glass beads. Some children enjoyed digging on the top of the 'hill' and pouring water in the hole then making clay (how clever!). Some loved 'water painting' on hot days. In the end this became a bike wash activity! Everyone was busy cleaning the bikes and scooters. These are only a few examples of our many exciting activities. I hope we will have even more fun next week as more new activities are lined up such as decorating gingerbread people and a 'balloon magic' science experiment. From next week we are also going to gradually introduce some structured lessons such as Phonics, Literacy and Maths. However, there will still be plenty of 'free choosing' activity time throughout the day. The children will stay in for lunch and finish at 2pm next week. The parents and carers will collect their children from the main entrance. Thank you.

Puffin Class News

What a start to the new academic year this has been! Our new Puffins have demonstrated absolute determination, courage, positive attitude to learning and have been so great at adapting. They have settled in very quickly and I am learning about them every day. Over these past two weeks, we have learnt how to count one more and count one less within 10. In English we have been studying a wonderful book called Tuesday. Children have found the book and the illustrations delightful and very funny. Today we have even started writing a post card in the eyes of a frog. The children's imagination was 'ribbiting'. This week we have also discovered the five main groups of animals and most children were very surprised that humans were mammals. Science is so interesting! Next week we are going to compare numbers and objects.

Kestrel Class News

In Kestrels this week we have continued our English work based on the book 'Tuesday.' The children have written postcards from the perspective of the frogs in the book, and have decorated these with exciting pictures so these can go on display! In Maths we have continued to work on our place value using beads, base ten and place value charts to help us.

In Geography this week we have been learning about Kenya, including the food, climate and animals. The children have begun to make comparisons between life in Kenya and their lives in the UK. What a great start to the year Kestrels!

Toucan Class News

We have had a super start to the year in Toucan Class with everyone working hard to get used to the new routines in school. In Maths, we have been learning about the place value of 3-digit numbers, representing them in different ways and estimating numbers on a number line to 1000. In English, we have been looking at adjectives and nouns and how to use these in an expanded noun phrase as well as exploring the book 'Tuesday' by David Wiesner, which the children have really enjoyed. We have also begun learning about light in science and will be carrying out an experiment using mirrors next week. In Geography, we have been recapping the 4 countries in the UK and the surrounding oceans and seas as well as looking at the 7 continents. We have also begun learning about Hinduism in RE and will be finding out about many of the Hindu deities next week.

Hummingbird Class News

It is so lovely to be back at school and welcome our new Hummingbirds to year 4. We have had a fantastic start to the school year, lots of happy smiling faces, eager to learn and proud to now be the eldest in the school! We have been reading a whole school book over the last two weeks called 'Tuesday', where we have been writing a crime report as a detective, along with writing a non-chronological report all about that unusual species called 'Humans!' We have also been recapping lots of SPAG such as conjunctions, inverted commas and homophones. In maths we have been embedding our knowledge of place value, which has included counting in 1,000's, using number lines up to 1,000 and representing 4-digits in different ways. In art we have been exploring line and using wax and watercolour washes and in Geography we have refreshed our knowledge of the continents, compass points and the northern and southern hemispheres. All in all a busy few weeks!

Brigade Uniform



Brigade uniform have confirmed that they will be delivering any uniform orders made online directly to Parents and not via school as they have done in the past.

SeeSaw

You should have now have received a QR code from your child's class teacher and have linked on to their new page. Teachers will use this platform to share with you your child's learning.

The message function is not available at this time. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher or get a message to them please do so via the office or use your child's diary



This week Stondon celebrates

Writer of the week

Year 1– Macie– Jayne

Year 2– Parker

Year 3– Linnet

Year 4– Haidee

Stondon Superstar

Year 1– Rose

Year 2– Raadin

Year 3– Riley S

Year 4– Aidan

Team Points

Spitfires– 62

Lancasters– 77

Tiger Moths– 69

Hunters– 69

What's coming up.....



Macmillan Coffee Morning– Friday 25th September

As you are aware unfortunately we are unable to take part in Macmillan's Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning this year. If however you are holding your own coffee mornings (or afternoon tea) to raise money for Macmillan then please send us in some photos so that we can share them with the children and in our next newsletter.

If you would like to make a donation to Macmillan then please send money in to school in a clearly marked envelope and we will combine any money raised to we will send it in to Macmillan on behalf of school.

Diary Dates

Date and time

Event

W/c 12th October (Date TBC)	Virtual Harvest Assembly
W/c 9th November (Dates TBC)	Parents Evening (virtual appointments)
12th November	Individual photographs

Term Dates 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

Monday 7th September 2020 - Friday 18th December 2020

(Half term: 26th - 30th October)

(Inset days: Thursday 3rd September, Friday 4th September and Monday 2nd November)

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 26th March 2021

(Half term: 15th-19th February)

(Inset day: Monday 4th January)

Summer Term 2021

Tuesday 13th April 2020 -Thursday 22nd July 2021

(Half term: 31st May- 4th June)

(Inset day: Monday 12th April)