



THE STRATFORD PRIMARY STANDARD



DATES AND THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1st December – Christmas Post box opens for business**
- 3rd December – Dodgeball Finals (selected children)**
- 4th December – Open morning for prospective Reception 2026**
- 5th December – Reception Nativity Performance 9.30am**
- 8th December – Year 5 singing carols at the care home**
- 9th December – Year 3 RSC visit**
- 10th December – Y1/2 Christmas Performance 10am and 2pm**
- 11th December – Rock Steady Concerts**
- 12th December – FOSP Children's Christmas Fair including Santa visiting**
- 15th December – Reception Theatre Visit**
- 16th December – KS2 Pantomime Visitor – The Wizard of Oz/Showcase evening**

HOUSE POINTS

Arden – 680

Hall – 709

Shakespeare – 786

Hathaway – 680

Winners – Shakespeare



ATTENDANCE

Attendance from 17th – 24th November

Our attendance so far is above national – Well done.

Whole School = 97.9%↓

Reception = 93.8% ↓ Year One = 96.7%↓

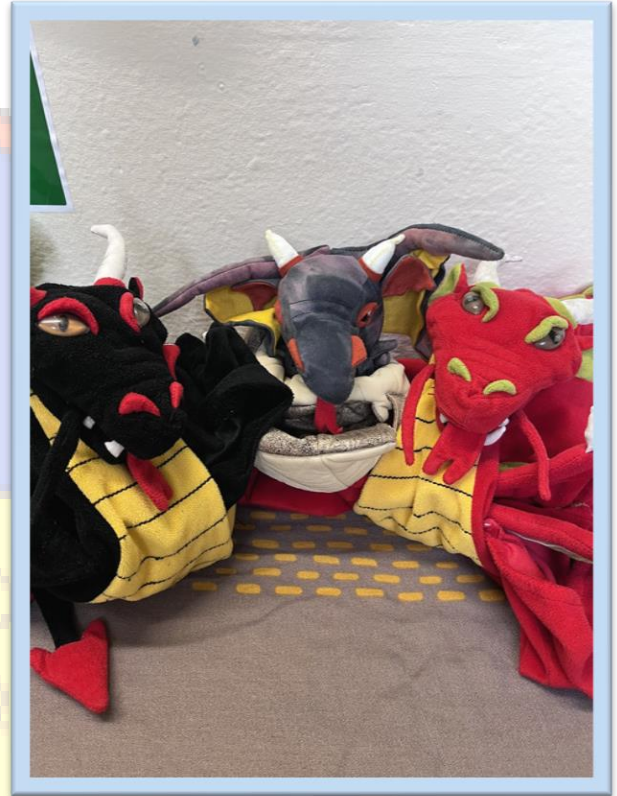
Year Two = 99% ↑ Year Three = 99.7%↑

Year Four = 97.5%↓ Year Five = 99.4% ↑

Year Six = 99.3% ↓

The dragons go to Y3, Y5 and Y6

The arrows indicate if the attendance is up or down from previous week.



SAFEGUARDING - IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Talking to children about Race and Racism – SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

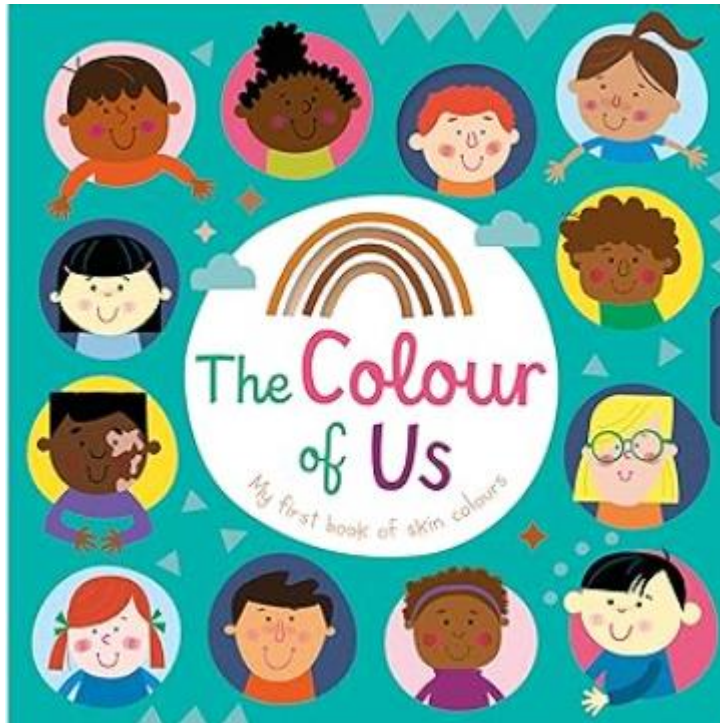
If you want to chat to a child or young person about racism, you might be worrying about how to start the conversation. You might worry about saying the wrong thing. Or you might want to shield your child from difficult issues.

Children may have seen images or stories in the news about race and racism. Some children might not fully understand the stories and may have questions. It's important to encourage positive and open conversations about race and racism with young people.

- Have conversations about this often, not just when it is in the news
- Keep the conversation going and let children know it is ok to ask questions
- Encourage children to understand the lived experience of ethnically minoritised groups better

Visit this link for more resources: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



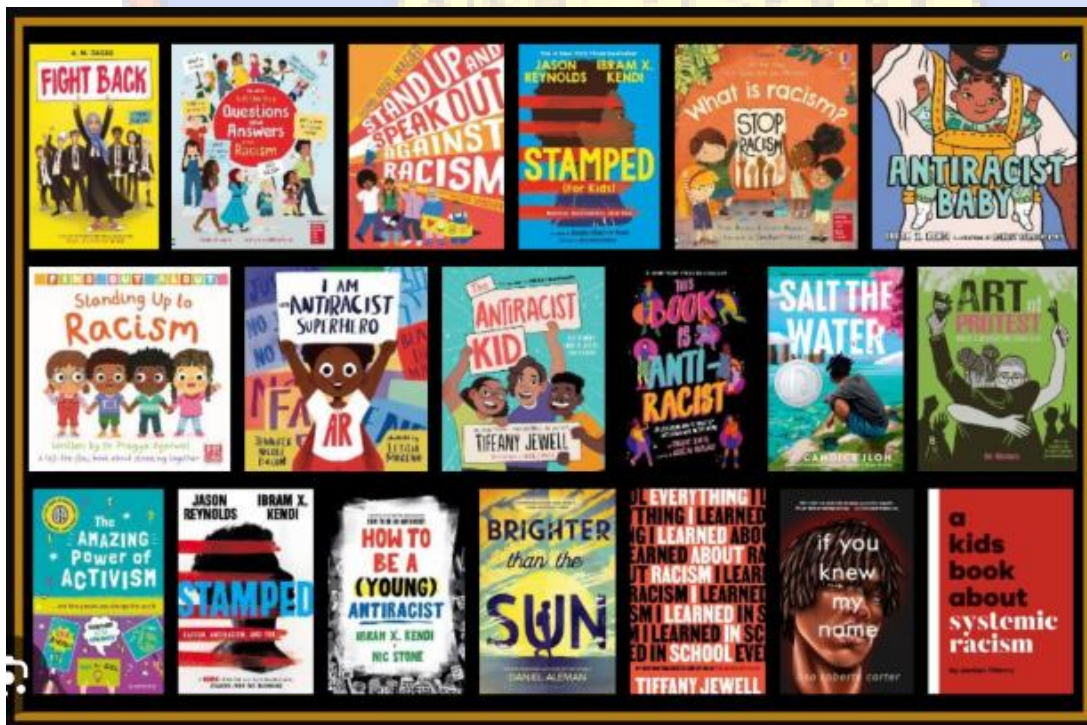
An interactive board book designed to encourage a first conversation about skin colour.

Full of simple rhymes

Beautiful images on every page.

Really good book to focus on personal, social development

Lovely book to promote how we are all unique but the same and encourage conversations about equality and diversity.



A range of books for older children to encourage the conversation about race and racism.

We all need to stand up to racism and ensure our society is equal and celebrates diversity and culture.

"I have a dream that one day my four children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." Martin Luther King Jr.

Our vision and curriculum in action

To create a happy place, where children and adults learn and flourish in a creative, rewarding atmosphere and are given as many opportunities & experiences to increase their life chances and careers.

STEM

As well as following on from their tidy environment topic last term, Year 1 were designing a dens with twigs and leaves to support their Forest School.



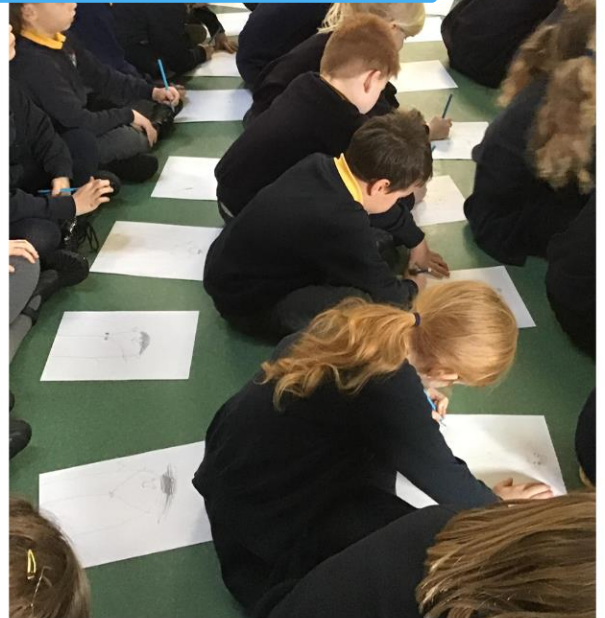
PIC•COLLAGE

Reception; writing, teamwork, people who help us

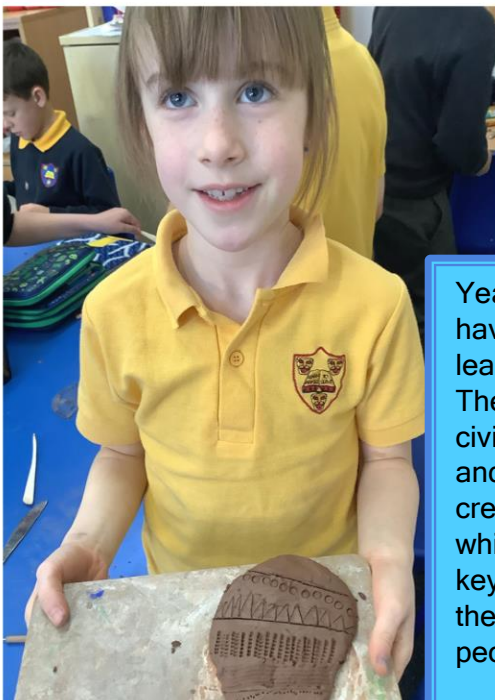




Key Stage One meeting a real live author - Holly Swain. She is also an illustrator and taught the children skills she uses to write her books.



Year Two using number frames in maths to develop their knowledge of number bonds and inverse numbers.



Year Three have been learning about The Beaker civilisation and re-created pots which were a key part of these early people



MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF MRS HUMPHRISS



Another busy week full of events and superb learning. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting the book fair - we took over £1000 which we can now convert into approximately £400 worth of new books for the library.

Our Year 5 children who attended a dodgeball competition did brilliantly and have made it through to the finals. This competition is not judged on points but on how the team work together and the values they bring such as respect. Well done everyone.

We welcomed Holly Swain - author and illustrator of Colin's Castle. The children learnt more about her career and how she uses her art and writing skills to create books which so many enjoy.

We had a wonderful FOSP meeting - our committee has swelled in numbers and we are so grateful for all of the hard work and support given to our school. Watch out for all the events coming up.

Finally we welcomed our local police team who came to talk to KS2 about how to stay safe in security incidents. The children had many questions. We educate the children against hate so that hopefully one day our society will be a peaceful, equal place.

***'A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.'* EEEYORE**



Our Year 4 choir singing in Coventry Cathedral



Key Stage 2 visit from the local police

Fantastic achievement from our Key Stage Two pupils in England Rocks. Their dedication to multiplication facts meant that they finished the competition in 51st place out of over 4000 schools. Well done.

Music to try at home

10 in the Bed



Instructions:

- line up 10 toys
- sing the song 10 in the bed
- each time 'one rolls out', act this out with the toys

*There were ten in the bed,
And the little one said, "roll over, roll over",
So they all rolled over and one fell out!*

*There were nine in the bed,
And the little one said, "roll over, roll over",
So they all rolled over and one fell out...*

☆ Try singing the song and acting out the lyrics yourself.

☆ Think of ways to change the song to include whole body movements that you can act out e.g:

- We were jumping in the bed....
- We were skipping on the bed...



Jar Xylophone



What you need:

- some glass jars
- water
- 2 x spoons



Instructions:

- Fill each jar with a different amount of water. You could use food colouring so that you can see the levels clearly.
- Tap gently on the jars with a spoon. Notice how the amount of liquid effects the pitch of the note produced.
- Explore different jars. Does the size of the jar affect the note produced?

Build your instrument:

- Arrange your jars into a line in front of you.
- Play the jars individually.
- Explore playing two jars together using two spoons, one in each hand.

Listen:

Listen to the sounds produced in 'Fossils' from 'Carnival of the Animals' by Saint Saens.

Think about creating your own 'Fossil' music using your jar xylophone. Record your music and share it with someone else.



Try some STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)



Turn milk into plastic - chemical reaction

Ingredients: Milk, white vinegar

Heat a cup of milk until it is steaming. Add 4 teaspoons of white vinegar to a mug. Add the milk to the mug with the vinegar in it. The milk should form clumps. Mix slowly with a spoon. Stack four layers of paper towels on a hard surface. Once the mixture in the mug has cooled a bit, use a spoon to scoop out the curds. You don't want the liquid. Fold the paper towels over the curds and press down to absorb excess liquid. Knead the curds together into a ball of dough. This is the casein plastic. You can add colour at this point too and mould into shapes. Leave to dry for 48 hours on the towels until it is hard.

COULD you design a new medal for the Shakespeare Marathon and Half-Marathon 2026?

Each year the event organisers, RunThrough, and supporters turn to the children of Stratford to dream up a design that can be used to create the medals that are hung around the necks of thousands of runners who finish the race.

Previous designs have included the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, swans on the River Avon, the Bard and colourful scenes from around the town.

But it's really up to you to come up with your own image.

Andy Veale, editor of the Stratford Herald which organises the medal competition along with Stratford Rotary Club, said: "We look forward to seeing your colourful and creative designs. The competition, which is sponsored by law firm Shakespeare Martineau, is open to children of all ages who live in the Stratford district or attend a school in the district.

"A panel of judges will pick the winner, who, as well as seeing their design turned into a medal, will receive a copy of the medal as a keepsake and £50 of vouchers."

The medal will be about 70-90mm in diameter and does not need to be round - the shape can vary as necessary - and can include up to eight colours.

The theme should reflect the town of Stratford, the marathon or Shakespeare. The race name - the Shakespeare Marathon and Half-Marathon - will need to be included in the design along with the Rotary logo and RunThrough logo.

RunThrough Events, which is organising after taking over from Stratford Rotary Club, will get the design made into medals.

Last year's design, pictured, was by Aria Kaminska, who at the time was a Year 4 student at Alveston Primary School. Previous competitions have been won by a mixture of primary and secondary school students and sixth-formers.

The deadline for entries is 5pm Friday, 28th November. Entries can be sent via e-mail to andy.veale@stratford-herald.com or to the Stratford Herald, Guild House, Guild Street, Stratford CV37 6RP. See previous winning medals below.



There is still time to enter the Shakespeare Marathon or half-marathon, which forms part of the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations weekend. Prices start at £40.

To sign up to the marathon or half marathon, which takes place on Sunday, 26th April, visit www.runthrough.co.uk.

Home to School Transport Consultation. Have your say!



Have your say! Consultation launches on Home to School Transport Policy

Warwickshire County Council has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to its Home to School Transport Policy.

Residents are invited to share their views on a series of updates aimed at improving fairness, consistency, and compliance with home to school national guidance.

As part of the consultation, a series of information sessions are being held across the county, both in person and online. To view the consultation documents, book a session, or share your views, please visit - [Home to School Transport Consultation](#).



With Christmas well on its way, here is a round-up of events and activities in the area for children and young people with SEND and their families to get into the festive spirit and enjoy.

Please note that Warwickshire County Council does not endorse any of these events and cannot guarantee availability. Please check individual websites or Facebook pages for up-to-date information.

Relaxed and accessible theatre performances

[Peter Pan at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington](#) – BSL interpreted performance - Monday 29 December. Relaxed performance - Friday 2 January.

[Goldilocks and the Three Bears at Priory Theatre, Kenilworth](#) – Relaxed performance - Friday 2 January.

[Robinson Crusoe at Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth](#) – Relaxed performance - Saturday 3 January.

[Sleeping Beauty at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry](#) – Relaxed performance – Friday 2 January. Accessible performances – Saturday 6 December (BSL), Thursday 18 December (Captioned).

[Aladdin at Bedworth Civic Hall](#) – Relaxed performance – Thursday 18 December.

[The Tiger Who Came to Tea at Warwick Arts Centre](#) – Accessible performances on Sunday 30 November and Sunday 14 December (Relaxed), Saturday 13 December (BSL interpreted).

Santa experiences and outdoor activities

[Super SEND and Wheelchair Ice Skating](#) and [SEN Santa Visits](#) at Whilton Locks Garden Centre, Daventry.

[Santa's Quiet Grotto at Dobbies Garden Centres](#) – Friday 5 December (check individual stores for dates as they may vary)

[Sensory Light Trail and Sensory Skating](#) at Warwick Castle – Monday 8 December.

[Enchanted Christmas Kingdom SEN Sessions](#) at Hatton Adventure World – Saturday 29 November.

[Santa sessions for SEN children and their siblings](#) at Spencer's Retreat part of the Langdale Trust, Berswell - various dates starting 6 December. To book, email enquiries@spencersretreat.com.

[SEN Zone Santa's Grotto at Reynolds Cross School, Solihull](#) - Sunday 30 November, 3pm – 4.30pm time slot, limited spaces available.

[Vintage Sleigh Ride and Santa experience at Coventry Transport Museum](#) - SEN sessions on 29 and 30 November, 6 and 7 December at 9.30am and 4.30pm.

[Luminate at Coombe Abbey](#) - sensory friendly slots available on Tuesday 2 December and Tuesday 9 December with reduced capacity and volume of the audio on the trail.