



# THE STRATFORD PRIMARY STANDARD



## *A FESTIVE MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS*

Another term has flown by and here we are at the end of 2023. All of the school governors have enjoyed hearing about the different experiences and activities happening at the school this term - and we have especially enjoyed our visits into school to speak to children and staff. This term we welcomed three new school governors and it's lovely to see them getting to know everyone.

One of the things all of us have particularly enjoyed this term is coming into school for governor Learning Walks. A Learning Walk is when governors will arrange to visit each of the classrooms and talk to children about what they are learning. We will generally have a particular subject in mind when we are talking to children. This term we've talked to children about Music, PE and Safeguarding. We generally ask the children what they are learning about in their lessons. One visit has really stayed in my mind because we asked a group of children how they know they are learning. One boy told me that he knows he is learning when he makes mistakes. I thought that was a brilliant answer. I've told the colleagues I work with about it. Sometimes we can think it's a bad thing to make mistakes and it was lovely to be reminded that they are an important part of learning and developing.

On behalf of the school governors we say a very big thank you to all of the staff, children, families and carers that make up our school community. We feel very lucky to be able to help and support the school. We hope you all enjoy happiness and peace over the holidays and throughout 2024. **Jacqui O Hanlon**



### Dates for your diary

## 1857

*The year  
Jingle Bells  
was written.*



25<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Christmas holidays

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Staff Training - school closed

9<sup>th</sup> January - All children return to school

12<sup>th</sup> January - Celebration Assembly

19<sup>th</sup> January - Celebration Assembly

23<sup>rd</sup> January - Year 4 Shakespeare workshop

25<sup>th</sup> January - Year 4 residential to York

2<sup>nd</sup> February - Celebration Assembly and FOSP disco

5<sup>th</sup> February - Y5 Stargazing in the forest

7<sup>th</sup> February - Y5/6 Athletics competition at Stratford School

8<sup>th</sup> February - Y4/5 Online Safety workshop (play in a day)

9<sup>th</sup> February - Celebration assembly and pancake races (2pm)

Break up for half term holidays.

## STAY SAFE IN A DIGITAL WORLD



### SAFEGUARDING - EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

EACH WEEK WE WILL SHARE SAFEGUARDING MESSAGES HERE FOR YOU

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE, HEALTHY AND WELL.

**Child Exploitation is happening in Warwickshire! Don't ignore it.** Children and young people have a right to be safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse. It's everyone's responsibility to spot the signs of child exploitation and protect children and young people in Warwickshire. Follow the youtube link to watch a short video - <https://youtu.be/MO0Z2iLDyRA>

Exploitation affects hundreds of children and young people every year in Warwickshire. By knowing the tell-tale signs, we can all play an important role in reducing that number.

#### What to look out for:

- receiving unexplained and expensive gifts or money, having no money but in possession of cigarettes, alcohol and other expensive items (could be a sign of running up debt)
- having new and significantly older friends, being picked up from school by strangers
- substance use (drugs / alcohol), changes in mood
- showing signs of self-harm, regularly going missing from school and home
- staying out late, being secretive about where they are going
- being secretive with their mobile phone, laptop, tablet or other electronic devices
- lack of interest in activities and hobbies

If this sounds familiar or you think this may be happening to someone you know, please get help by calling **01926 414144** between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or report it to Warwickshire Police via their [website](#) or calling them on 101.



## End of term news from our classes

In Reception we have had such an exciting and busy term. The children in Reception have made so much progress from September and are we are so unbelievably proud of them. We have created so many wonderful memories such as the Nativity, watching the Gruffalo at the theatre as well as having a visit from Santa. I hope Reception have a fantastic Christmas and new year! Kindest wishes, Miss Hitchens, Mrs Banks, Miss Campbell, Mrs Matthews & Mrs Humphriss



The children have settled into life in year 1 this first term fantastically and have enjoyed our topics 'Our Wonderful World' and 'Enchanted Woodland'. We have been exploring different parts of the world and comparing climates and cultures. We have ventured into the 'woodland' to collect woodland treasures where we also discovered a fairy garden! Making woodland crowns with our adults, growing plants, mixing paints, Alice in Wonderland, reading many fairy tales and our Christmas concert has been just a few of the many highlights this term. The children have grown in independence and confidence and we cannot wait to see what they can achieve next term. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Rushton, Miss Parton, Mrs Green, Miss Desai, Mrs Hartley, Miss Steel





Year 2 have had a fantastic Autumn term. It has been lovely to see the children's independence, creativity and problem solving develop and progress. They have impressed us all with their hard work and determination and wowed us at the Christmas Concert. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and well-deserved break!

Miss White, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Hartley and Miss Buchanan



Year 3 has had an incredible term, with a focus on the Bronze Age, working with clay and developing their scientific investigation skills. Teamwork has been particularly impressive this term, through our PE lessons, group tasks and developing listening skills and empathy in PSHE. They are showing increasing maturity and becoming excellent role models for our younger children. Wishing them all a lovely Christmas break, they have earned it

Mrs Slater, Mrs Beesley and Mrs Buchanan





We have had a brilliant half term in Year 4, we really enjoyed singing Christmas carols for the elderly at Stratford Bentley Care Home, at the Victorian Christmas Market and our very own Festive Evening here at Stratford Primary. We have loved learning about how the Vikings lived in Britain and are so excited for our trip to York in January to learn even more. We look forward to learning all about rivers and mountains after the Christmas break!

Mrs Archer, Mrs Buchanan, Mrs Matthews and Miss Buchanan

Year 5 have had another awesome term! One of the main highlights for Year 5 this term (apart from playing dodgeball in PE) was the trip to the Mad museum. The children were so engaged and their enthusiasm for learning shone as they explored the different mechanisms, watched videos of crazy experiments involving mechanisms and forces and created their own marble runs. They continued learning about the Shang dynasty and all wrote incredible cultural narratives at the beginning of the term. They also made their own pneumatic prototypes, learnt different artistic skills and explored the true meaning of Christmas for Christians in RE- writing a letter to our local MP about this, which some of the children then delivered to his office! On top of all this Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed letting their imagination run wild with our picture book 'Tuesday' and writing newspaper reports about the extraordinary events that take place in this book. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a well-deserved break!



PIC-COLLAGE



What a busy and exciting half term we have had in Year 6! We have immersed ourselves in the history of WWI and WWII, in our Britain at War topic, and are very proud of our creative work linked to this. Our thoughtful and emotive trench diaries and poems, inspired by Wilfred Owen, will transport you back to the battlefields of The Great War and our beautiful wet felt poppies are a fitting tribute to the soldiers we have been researching, who lived in our local streets, and even attended our school, and who sadly lost their lives during WWI. We have finished off the theme with our 'Make Do and Mend' challenges, learning all about the campaign itself and how to join materials using running stitch, whip stitch and blanket stitch in our DT lessons. We then used this to make our bunting to hang for our End of War celebrations. One of the highlights of this half term was of course proudly watching our buddies perform in their Nativity play. We are all looking forward to January when we will be entering the realm of the Frozen Kingdom. Until then - a huge 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' from all in Year 6!





# IN AND AROUND OUR COMMUNITY



**Stratford  
Town Trust**  
creating a vibrant and  
connected community



## FREE WINTER WORKSHOPS FOR FAMILIES

**at Stratford Town Trust Community Hub**

**Tuesday 2nd January, 10 - 11.30am**

*Crafts with Mandala Arts*

*Suitable for 6 - 10 year olds (younger siblings welcome)*

Join Mandala Arts to make your own fidget spinner

**Wednesday 3rd January, 9.45 - 10.30am or 11 - 11.45pm**

*Magical World of Stories*

*Suitable for 18 months - 5 year olds*

Join Jen on a magical adventure with stories, songs, dance and crafting fun

**Friday 5th January, 10 - 11.30am**

*Crafts with Mandala Arts*

*Suitable for 6 - 10 year olds (younger siblings welcome)*

Join Mandala Arts for a weaving activity



***Booking is essential by 4pm, 22 December***

email: [communityhub@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk](mailto:communityhub@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk)

or call 01789 295 011

Venture House, Avenue Farm Industrial Estate, CV37 0HR

[www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk](http://www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk)

Ended

FIN  
Y  
ICE



# junior parkrun

Free, weekly, timed, 2km for 4-14 year olds

Stratford-upon-Avon Rec juniors

Every Sunday at 9am

Stratford-upon-Avon Rec (by the pavilion)

Run, walk, skip and/or volunteer! For more information

and to register, please visit:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/stratforduponavonrec-juniors/>





# Attendance, Houses & More



## School council news

We will be announcing the winners of the school council competition in the first celebration assembly in January.

**Arden – this week's house cup winners**

**Overall half term winners Arden**



Arden = 1503  
 Hathaway = 1400  
 Hall = 1493  
 Shakespeare = 1431

This week's winners are:

Years 5 and 6 with 96%

Rest of school

**Reception = 94%**

**Year One = 93%**

**Year Two = 95%**

**Year Three = 92%**

Year Four = 92%

Whole school attendance for this week is:

94%

Oh dear! Illness and unauthorised holiday have affected our attendance. Hopefully a new year in 2024 will see us hitting record attendance again.



George and Desmond have been enjoying spending time with their egg. Year One have chosen the new baby dragon's name. She is called Mildred. The Dragon family wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Glorious New Year.

# FOSP - Friends of Stratford Primary News



What a wonderful festive evening FOSP arranged on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. It made everyone feel extremely Christmassy. There were games, yummy food, face painting, fantastic singing from Year 4 and incredible playing from Shipston Brass band but the piece de resistance was a visit from that marvellous man himself Santa Claus. Thank you again to the FOSP team for arranging yet again a great event.



Year 4 wowed the crowds again with their singing. It made everyone feel incredibly festive. Well done.



Ms Parton meets Father Christmas. I am sure she is on the nice list.





# The Big Sleep Out 2024

Join us for our 9th annual sleep out, helping us raise awareness of the causes and effects of homelessness.

**Friday 9th February 2024**

Helping Hands  
Community Project

Have you ever wondered what the causes and effects of homelessness are locally? Are you unsure of what you can do to help?

Experience what it's like to spend a night on the streets by joining us for our 9th BIG sleep out **Friday 9th February 2024**.

This event aims to give you an insight into homelessness, the factors that can cause it and the impact it can have on an individual living in such circumstances.

Helping Hands provides a safe space for vulnerable people in the local community.

The event is a chance to come together for a shared experience and hear from a range of speakers on various topics from several organisations and walks of life.

Your participation will help us to raise vital funds to keep our work going, supporting local people who are facing dire living conditions and circumstances.

Our very own Helping Hands food van will be on site, serving food and drinks throughout the evening, as well as breakfast in the morning.

You'll need to bring sleeping supplies, including materials to build your shelter for the night. We will also supply some cardboard and waterproof sheets for the night, but bringing plenty of your own supplies is recommended!

We ask you to book your place and buy a ticket to help cover the overheads of this event - including the food and drink.

Follow the link below to book

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-big-sleep-out-2024-tickets-7407306116?aff=arelexpr>

# REAL CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION SERVICE

We would welcome a donation for the collection of your tree, the money raised will support two local charities!

Our volunteers  
are collecting trees  
in your area on  
12-14th January  
2024



Book your tree collection  
online or scan the QR code:

[www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](http://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree)

Registration closes at midnight  
Monday 8th January 2024



 Join us on Facebook to find out more at  
[facebook.com/covamastrees](https://www.facebook.com/covamastrees)







Well done to our Stratford Primary girl's football team. Another great try on the football pitch.

Also thank you to the boys who represented the school as mascots at the recent match for Stratford Town Football club. Thank you Miss Postlethwaite for organising this.





# You're not alone this CHRISTMAS

**AnxietyUK**  
 03444 775 774  
[www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk)

**SAMARITANS**  
 116 123  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**mind**  
 0300 123 3393  
[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

**PAPYRUS**  
 0800 068 41 41  
[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

**ChildLine**  
 0800 1111  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Refuge**  
 0808 2000 247  
[www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)

**YOUNG MINDS**  
 TEXT YM to 85258  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**Switchboard**  
 LGBT+ helpline  
 0300 330 0630  
[www.switchboard.lgbt](http://www.switchboard.lgbt)

**shout**  
**85258**  
 here for you 24/7  
 TEXT SHOUT to 85258  
[www.giveusashout.org](http://www.giveusashout.org)

**CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY CALM**  
 0800 58 58 58  
[www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net)

**Beat**  
 Eating disorders  
 0808 801 0677  
[www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk](http://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk)

**AA**  
 UNITY SERVICE RECOVERY  
 0800 9177 650  
[www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

Other support organisations are available  
Please don't suffer in silence

**Cruse** Bereavement Support

*You're not alone*  
 0808 808 1677 [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)



# THE CHRISTMAS FUN PAGE

*Some Christmas jokes to make you laugh and use at the Christmas lunch table.*

*'You know that Albert Einstein was a pretty smart guy..*

*But his brother Frank was a monster'*

*I walked into a bakery and asked the lady at the register if I could buy a bagel with cream cheese.*

*'Sorry she replied. We only accept cash!!'*

*I bought my son a fridge for Christmas.*

*I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it!!*

*I saw a radio for sale, the tag said 50p, volume stuck on full.*

*I thought to myself, I can't turn that down.*

*Shout out to the people wondering what the opposite of in is!*



## Final words of the Autumn term

*Last week the world of education sadly lost an inspirational man who was an advocate for children and teachers across our country. Sir Tim Brighouse was a former schools commissioner and chief education officer in Birmingham. He fully understood that the building of relationships was key to children enjoying education to the full. His wise words will be missed.*

Sadly we said goodbye to two of our children this week who are both moving to different countries. We wish Lily in KS2 and Brooke in KS1 all the very best for their futures. You will be missed very much by us all but we feel privileged to have known you and being a part of your lives. Keep laughing, loving and learning. Good luck to both families.

Mrs Humphriss would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff of Stratford Primary. They are dedicated, caring people who never stop working for the children. Every day they make sure the children are taught the wide-ranging curriculum, they plan fun, creative activities, keep them safe and work closely with each and every one of our families. They deserve the break they are about to have with their own families.

Thank you as well to our governors who provide the school with challenge to ensure that the children are constantly making progress. They are always in and out of school and they do this in a supportive way.

Mrs Humphriss hopes that all our families have a safe, happy festive period. Thank you for your continued support and kind wishes as we head towards the end of term. We love your children and everything we do is for them. They deserve a good holiday break as they have all worked hard and applied themselves well in all areas.

Happy Christmas everyone. The Christmas Elves are on their way back to Santa.

Stay safe and well. See you on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

