



# THE STRATFORD PRIMARY STANDARD



## DATES AND THINGS TO REMEMBER

**18<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 puppet theatre visitor / Rec sing at Care Home**

**19<sup>th</sup> December – Celebration assembly & 1pm Holy Trinity service.**

**School closes at 2pm – all children collected from church**

**Christmas Holidays – 22<sup>nd</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Staff Training Day**

**Children return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Celebration assembly (invite only)**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 5 Bikeability**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – FOSP Meeting 7.30pm**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Celebration assembly (invite only)**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 – Celebration assembly (invite only)**

## HOUSE POINTS

**Arden – 1437**

**Hall – 1366**

**Shakespeare – 1150**

**Hathaway – 1524**

**Winners – Hathaway**



# ATTENDANCE

Attendance from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Our attendance is rising again 😊**

**Whole School = 96.9%↑**

Reception = 98.6%↑ Year One = 98.6%↑

Year Two = 96.3%↑ Year Three = 95.6%↑

Year Four = 95.6%↓ Year Five = 99.7%↑

Year Six = 93.8%↑

**The dragons go to Y5, YR & Y1**

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



## SAFEGUARDING - IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

### ROBLOX

Be mindful of the games your children play online. Many of the games our children are now exposed to have a variety of ads which are age in-appropriate.

One such ad is Polybuzz. Polybuzz is 'supposed' to have highly robust age verification in place meaning users below the age of 18 can't use it, however we all know that this can be circumvented. Monitor your child's screen time.

Follow this link for parental control settings:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

## 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.

The staff and children of Stratford-upon-Avon Primary School would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please enjoy their messages below.



Reception have had a truly wonderful term, filled with curiosity, laughter and so many proud moments. The children have embraced every new experience such as forming friendships, beginning their phonics journey to discovering the joy of stories and developing a real love of reading. Their creativity has shone through in the fantastic crafts they have created and the role play area has encouraged imagination and adventure. It has been a joy to watch their confidence grow and to see how much progress each child has made. We are incredibly proud of them all. Wishing every family a warm, joyful and magical Christmas as we look forward to more exciting learning in the spring term.

Merry Christmas, Miss Hitchens, Mrs Banks, Miss Buchanan and Mrs Hartley





### Year 1's Autumn Learning Journey

The children have thrown themselves into Year 1 with energy, curiosity and growing confidence, making excellent progress across the whole autumn term. They quickly settled into new routines and expectations, developing independence while building strong foundations in reading, writing and maths. In English, learning came alive through high-quality texts and immersive experiences: hunting for a lost teddy, retelling *Owl Babies* through drama, exploring traditional tales such as *Hansel and Gretel* and *Goldilocks*, and writing for real purposes, including letters, poems and alternative story endings. A particular highlight was following and writing instructions to design, make and evaluate their own gingerbread people, combining literacy with practical skills in a memorable way. Phonics teaching progressed confidently from Phase 3 into Phase 5, enabling children to read and write longer words and utilise an increasingly secure vocabulary of tricky words. In maths, pupils deepened their understanding of number through hands-on exploration of place value, number bonds, addition and subtraction, building fluency and confidence. Beyond the classroom, children investigated the natural world through outdoor science, compared life in the past and present, experimented with colour, form and materials in art and DT, and developed teamwork, coordination and resilience in PE. The term ended on a high note with a fabulous Christmas performance and festive celebrations, where the children proudly showcased their hard work, creativity, and growing confidence as Year 1 learners.

Merry Christmas Ms Desai and Mrs Green



Year 2 have had a busy half term! During our Crazy Creatures topic, we have learned all about brilliant nocturnal animals with different super powers that make them perfect for their habitats - from bioluminescent angler fish in the deep, dark oceans to British owls in our barns and woodlands! We watched as birds of prey swooped over our heads and explored microhabitats at Forest School as we hunted for minibeasts. We have written fascinating fact files that you can read for yourselves in our school library! Finally, we finished our busy half term with our performance of 'Christmas with the Aliens', when teamwork really did "make the dream work"! (Our Year 2 motto!) We hope that you all enjoyed it.

Ms Chapleo and Mrs Mingins





PIC • COLLAGE

This term has been packed with exciting learning and memorable experiences for Year Three. In history, the children explored Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age bringing their learning to life with a fantastic visit to Stonehenge. The children deepened their understanding through creative writing, producing Stone Age inspired stories and clear instructional texts explaining how to make a flint axe, as well as designing and making their own Bell Beaker pottery. A BFG workshop at the Royal Shakespeare Company inspired drama and imagination, while cooking tacos developed practical life skills. Outdoor learning was enjoyed during our visit to the Heart of England Forest, and festive fun came from watching *Ready Steady Colour's Christmas Feast*. Have a well deserved Christmas Year Three!

Miss White and Mrs Macdonald





We have had a fabulous half term in Year 4. We began with a wonderful trip to the Heart of England Forest, where we learnt all about the Anglo-Saxons and how they invaded Britain. The children became archaeologists for the day where they played an invasion game, took part in pottery making, built Saxon village models and even tried their hand at weaving.

Back in school, we spent the rest of the first half term learning in more depth about Anglo-Saxon life: how they lived, the fascinating excavation of Sutton Hoo, how Angle-land was ruled, their conversion to Christianity, and the story of Alfred the Great. In Science, we carried out some exciting investigations too, including creating a model of the digestive system to show how poo is made, and exploring what different liquids do to the enamel on our teeth by soaking eggs in vinegar, orange juice, milk, coke and energy drinks.

We have also loved diving into our Vikings topic in Autumn 2. The children explored how Vikings lived, including their homes, daily life and beliefs. They were intrigued by the attack on Lindisfarne, learning why it was such a significant moment in history. We also discovered how Vikings dyed their clothes using natural materials and spent time examining Viking runes and their meanings. In STEM lessons, the class particularly enjoyed designing and making their own Viking longships and experimenting with Viking horns to investigate how sound works.

A special highlight this term was the incredible opportunity to sing with the Armonico Consort at Coventry Cathedral. The children worked hard learning the songs and performed beautifully in such an inspiring and historic setting.

It has been a busy and brilliant half term, and we are excited to continue our learning journey as we move into the Spring term in January. Happy Christmas Mrs Archer, Mrs Beesley and Ms Davies.







What a fabulous term! Year 5 have been extremely busy this term. One of the most exciting things of the term was when the children came in one day to find their classroom totally destroyed! They had to work as detectives using their retrieval and inference clues to work out what could have happened and who (or what) did it. They have now reported this by writing a newspaper article linked to this event. The children have also been finishing learning about the Shang dynasty, forces and have also focused on life cycles and human development in Biology. They then linked this scientific knowledge to their STEM lessons where they investigated patterns between growth, engineered a moving arm showing how it works and designed their own invention that would help people in different stages of the human life cycle. They have been getting creative when learning how to use tints, tones and shades to develop their drawings. As well as participating in many sporting events - winning first in a hockey tournament, first in a south Warwickshire dodgeball tournament and third in the county dodgeball tournament.

They have worked so hard and really deserve a fantastic break. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Looking forward to seeing you all in 2026!



What a fantastically productive term! Year 6 have really risen to the challenge of being 'top of the school' and have made a super start in their position as Stratford Primary leaders and role models. This has been commented on by so many of our prospective reception parents, who have been toured around the school so well by all of the year 6 guides. In our learning this term, we have been scientists and geographers, travelling the world, following in the footsteps of Charles Darwin, and also have loved immersing ourselves in the history of WWI and WWII, during our Britain at War topic. 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 beautiful bookmarks - complete with handsewn buttons and mini handmade pompoms - and our recycled bunting to hang for our End of War celebrations. One of the highlights of Year 6 so far has to be meeting our new Reception buddies, getting to know them and, of course, proudly watching them perform in their Nativity play. We are all looking forward to January when our class will be entering the realm of the Frozen Kingdom. Until then - a huge 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' from all in Year 6!

## End of Term Message from the Governors

As we come to the close of another vibrant term at Stratford-upon-Avon Primary School, it is a good moment to reflect on the work undertaken so far this academic year.

Our role as governors is to support the school in creating the very best environment and curriculum for our children—a place where they can learn, develop, and thrive. Over the term we have celebrated excellent behaviour and attendance, reviewed key policies including SEND, Supporting Children with Medical Conditions, and the English curriculum and ensured all governors completed statutory Safeguarding training. We have appointed named governors for SEND, Safeguarding, and Pupil Premium, and each governor is linked to priorities in the School Improvement Plan.

Governors spend time in school with subject leaders and pupils, asking questions, tracking progress, and seeing firsthand the dedication of staff. We are continually impressed by the inclusive and varied curriculum, and by the pride and enthusiasm of children who are eager to share their learning. They tell us they feel safe and happy in school, which is the best endorsement of all.

This term we have joined special events such as the Remembrance commemorations, where the Mayor accompanied Year 6 pupils and governors on the school's Poppy Trail. The children's understanding and respect were deeply impressive. We also saw pupils take part in the town's wreath-laying and march past, living out the school rule of Respect. More recently, governors attended the Christmas productions, delighted to see every child included and performing with such energy and confidence.

We look forward to helping serve Christmas lunch and joining the end-of-term service at Holy Trinity. On behalf of the governing body, we are proud of every child and grateful to all staff for their hard work and commitment.

We wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every good wish for 2026.

Kate Llewellyn.

Chair of Governors





A huge thank you to FOSP for all their hard work with The Children's Christmas Fair and our special visitor Santa and his elves. Also thank you to the Year 6's for working so hard at the fair.













We continue to work with our community. The children have been singing in care homes and in the local area this festive season. Year 5 and Year 3 have been out to two care homes and Year 2 sang at Gail's in the town. Reception are also singing at Scholar Mews as our newsletter goes out. More photos in January. So proud of the outreach work we do.







**WHY DID THE ELF  
PUT HIS BED IN THE  
FIREPLACE?  
BECAUSE HE  
WANTED TO SLEEP  
LIKE A LOG**

**WHAT DO YOU CALL  
AN ELF WALKING  
BACKWARDS?  
A FLE!!!**

### A FESTIVE MESSAGE FROM MRS HUMPHRISS

What an amazing Autumn term it has been so full of different things. The children have experienced so many different trips and visitors to school. They have danced at discos, sang in choirs, scored winning goals in hockey, participated in a variety of sports and represented our school well in community events. Throughout it all they have kept learning a variety of subjects and continue to make progress each day. Reception have learnt all about their community; welcoming police, fire service, doctors and dentists. They have explored Autumn and Winter seasons and wowed us all with a brilliant Nativity. Year One have been brilliant historians learning all about the world of their grandparents and explored enchanted woodlands meeting fairies and elves. They sang their hearts out in their Christmas play. Year Two went back in time to medieval castles learning their Kings and Queens. They have become naturalists exploring the world of owls and predators. Their confidence shone through when they took to the stage to explain the Christmas story for aliens. Year Three began their year with a trip to Stonehenge to understand the world of Neolithic man moving through the ages to Iron Age and created Beaker pots. They are such brilliant artists and sculptors. Year Four have been exploring invaders; Anglo Saxons and Vikings. Their STEM work with Mr Kelly has seen them testing shields and Viking long horns. They had an amazing experience singing in Coventry Cathedral. Year Five have been to the other side of the world learning about Shang Dynasty and China. They have improved their writing skills by becoming journalists and solving crime scenes. Their PE skills have improved no end as they continue to either win or be placed in sporting events. Year Six – top of the school and such incredible role models. They have toured many visitors round the school demonstrating their knowledge of the curriculum over time and genuinely being proud of Stratford Primary. They began their year learning about evolution and learnt to extract DNA before understanding how our world has been shaped by WW1 and 2. They have been super leaders in school too supporting the younger children. Well done to all the children for your continued hard work. You deserve a rest.

A huge thank you to the team of brilliant staff who continue to dedicate themselves to ensuring the children succeed and are happy, safe and well on a daily basis. Mrs McCormack, Mrs Fade, Miss Campbell, Mrs Nailor, Mrs Buchanan, Mrs Archer, Mrs Beesley, Ms Davies, Miss White, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Hartley, Ms Chapleo, Mrs Mingins, Ms Desai, Mrs Green, Miss Buchanan, Miss Hitchens, Mrs Banks, Mr Kelly, Ms Chibge, Mrs Dale, Mrs Chisholm, Mrs Woulf, Mrs Edwards, Miss Houghton, Mr Hodgkins and of course my right hand lady – Ms Parton. I hope you have a good Christmas break and relaxing time with your families.

Thank you to our volunteers Pat, Sarah and Karen who come in on a regular basis to listen to the children read. We appreciate the time you take to do this. Also to The Friends of Stratford Primary. They are always doing things behind the scenes which we appreciate – they decorated the school for Christmas and it looks amazing. They sort out the second hand uniform, sell cakes, do events and raise funds to make your children's lives better. Thank you as well to our governing body. They continue to challenge me and my team to do the very best we can for your children but also come to so many events. They served Christmas lunch yesterday with us and go on trips and check in with us all.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support. I hope you are able to spend time with the ones you love. Take time to laugh, talk, play games and be together. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in January.

The children return on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.