



Newsletter

18th December 2025

www.stonehill.herts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is in the air and the children have enjoyed practising and performing their Christmas nativities and concerts for their families and friends. Last week, we had the pleasure of watching our Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas concert, the Key Stage 1 performance of "Everyone Loves a Baby" and our Early Years nativity story. The children worked so hard this half term and it was lovely to see them all enjoying the performances. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and support our children: every seat in the hall was taken for every performance. It means so much to the children when family members and friends are there to see their hard work. We are very proud of the children's achievements and we hope that you are too.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Christmas raffle this year. We had so many wonderful items our assembly lasted 40 minutes! I would like to thank Miss Drake for her hard work in organising the event which raised more than £300. Our Christmas disco was also a great success, raising £260, and the children enjoyed it so much they have asked if we can do it again next term!

Continuing the theme of Christmas, we had many fabulous entries for our Christmas bauble competition and the tree in the hall looked beautiful.

Congratulations to the following children who have all won a prize:

Albie, Emi, Patryk, Mia T, Alara, Tommy W, Frankie O, Evie P

Finally, on behalf of all members of staff, I would like to thank you for the lovely cards and good wishes you have sent this term, they mean so much to us. We are always very grateful for your support and want you to know that we really do not expect special gifts at the end of term. Your thanks or a card from your child are all we need to make us feel valued and appreciated.

I hope that you all have a very happy and restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all next year on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

Best wishes,

Elaine Close

Head teacher

Applications for September 2026 Reception Places

Thank you to those parents who we can see have already made their application for a Reception place for next September. May we please remind you that applications for Reception places must be made online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions by **Thursday 15th January 2026**. Places will be offered on Thursday 16th April 2026. Please remember that you must apply for a Reception place, even if your child currently attends our Nursery. We have one more tour for prospective Reception 2026 parents on Thursday 8th January at 9.15 am. Please click the link below if you would like to book a place on the tour.

[Click here to book Reception tour place](#)

50th Anniversary Logo Competition Winner



Thank you to everyone who entered our logo competition for Stonehill's 50th anniversary. We had some amazing entries, and it was very hard to choose one winner - but we did!

Our winner was Lillie in Year 3, whose design is shown. Lillie's logo will be used on our school letterhead throughout our special anniversary year.

Applications for September 2026 Nursery Places

Applications for Nursery places for September 2026 are open. Please click the link below if you would like to apply for a Nursery place for September 2026 (for children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023).

[Click here to apply for a Nursery 2026 place](#)

YEAR 6 NEWS

Wow, this half term has gone quickly! During this period, we have created an amazing piece of artwork that is now proudly displayed in the corridor based on trailblazers, showcasing the creativity and talent of our students.

The children also participated in the Crucial Crew afternoon where they engaged in vital learning experiences that promote safety and well-being. In addition, we have thoroughly enjoyed writing and performing our persuasive speeches aimed at banishing our pet peeves, allowing students to express their opinions and develop their public speaking skills.

Furthermore, we explored the historical significance of the Maafa and took part in a cooking session where we prepared a healthy balanced meal, reinforcing the importance of nutrition.

As we look forward to the next half term, we are excited about the new learning opportunities that await us.

Mrs Olivia Freeston

YEAR 5 NEWS

Year 5 worked hard until the end of term. It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying books and quizzing in the last week of term. Thank you for all the support.

Thank you also for the contributions to Space Day. There were genuine 'wow' moments during the day.

Hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing break. We look forward to seeing you in January.

Mr Timothy Chan

YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have been very busy this half term! We have been learning all about sound in Science and we have learnt some fascinating facts about amazing animals' hearing. In our History topic, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. To support our learning, we all enjoyed a visit from Cas and Rosie from North Hertfordshire Museum, in Hitchin. The children were able to handle some replica and even some genuine artefacts from around 1,500 years ago!

The whole class have done really well learning the recorder and practising Christmas songs, as well as a performance poem for our Christmas concert. It was lovely to see so many family members supporting the children. All the pupils were amazing. Well done Year 4 and Year 3!

In D&T, we have been learning about how to keep food fresh, and this week we made healthy snacks.

We really have done so much in the past few weeks, and the class have worked incredibly hard. We are all very proud of them.

Mrs Catherine Devonshire

YEAR 3 NEWS

Year 3 have had such a busy half term! We had a trip to Hitchin Museum, where we learned all about the Stone Age and Iron Age and took part in a workshop, where we were able to handle replica Stone Age tools. We also made our own replica prehistoric pots.

Caz from Herts Music Service came in to teach the children to play djembe drums, which they performed with as part of the Years 3 and 4 concert to parents.

Last week we went to the Grange Baptist Church for a nativity trail, where we learned about the nativity story and made Christmas crafts. We have also cooked ratatouille and made tacos!

Mrs Katherine Boshoff

YEAR 2 NEWS

It has been a busy end to 2025 in Year 2. We really enjoyed performing our nativity to you and hope you enjoyed watching it. We also went to the Grange Baptist Church for a nativity trail. We made crafts and learned about the nativity story in a really interesting way. It was lots of fun! Well done Year 2. You have been amazing all Autumn term. Have a great Christmas and bring on 2026!

Mr Nick Phillips

YEAR 1 NEWS

Year 1 have been working very hard this half term. They have just finished reading the story 'Gruffalo Crumble and Other Recipes' in English and have produced lots of writing linked to this.

In Maths they have been consolidating their understanding of numbers to 10 and have now moved on to learning about numbers to 20. They have been using place value equipment to make numbers in different ways.



The children have enjoyed their Art topic this half term called 'Funny Faces and Fabulous Features' and have learnt about the concept of the portrait and how the collage technique can be used to make a portrait.

In Science the children have been learning about the Human Senses and have been learning how to name and count body parts and identify similarities and differences. They have also learnt about the body parts associated with each sense and their role in keeping us safe.

The children practised hard to learn the songs for the Key Stage 1 performance of Everyone loves a baby and really enjoyed performing to the parents.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to seeing the children in the Spring term.

Ms Elmarie Gunther

RECEPTION NEWS

Reception have had another busy and fun-filled half term! We really enjoyed learning all about the different jobs people do at night time and what happens when we are asleep. We learnt all about space and made our own rockets from junk modelling materials. 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy told us about Baby Bear's adventures on the moon, and we talked about what we would take in our space suitcase! We've been counting down the days until Christmas and enjoyed doing lots of different Christmas crafts. The children have made their own Christmas cards, written letters to Santa and finished the half term by making decorations for their Christmas tree.

Well done to both the Nursery and Reception children for all of their hard work for their Christmas Nativity!

Miss Laura Webster

NURSERY NEWS

This half term Nursery have been learning about nocturnal animals. We read lots of different stories to help us find out which animals are nocturnal. **Wow! It's Night Time** told us the story of an owl waking up at night time and noticing all the different animals around him. **Owl Babies** gave us opportunities to learn about different owls, what they eat and where they live. We were inspired by an artist called Kirsty Elson and made our own amazing owl artwork. **It Was a Cold Dark Night** taught us about hedgehogs and how they

find somewhere cosy to sleep when it starts to get colder. We made our own little hedgehogs using clay.

As the term comes to an end, we have been looking for signs of winter. It has been getting colder and we notice the frost and ice in the mornings. This has inspired lots of learning about colder climates and we read **Blown Away** and learned about penguins.

Finally, we have been looking forward to Christmas by enjoying lots of different Christmas crafts! We wish you a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Mrs Anna Denton

Family Support Worker News

We have had a busy half term running two Lego Club lunchtime groups, and planning the groups for next year. Mrs Burnett is a Mental Health First Aider, and has had her refresher training. We have also attended training on identifying and supporting Young Carers and had a successful visit from the Local Authority Attendance team, who monitor the school's attendance figures and processes.

Uniform

Please remember to name your child's clothing. This half term we have had more than 60 unnamed items (mainly hoodies, cardigans and jumpers) in lost property, including 10 coats. Sadly, we can't return them if we don't know who they belong to.

Pre Loved Uniform volunteers

Do you love sorting and organising? If so, you would love our Pre Loved Uniform cupboard! If you would like to volunteer some time each week to help keep the cupboard in order, we would love to hear from you. Please do get in touch with us.

Attendance Matters

We have been monitoring the whole school attendance and we're pleased to share that this half term 131 pupils have had attendance of 95% and above. This has increased compared to last half term. Thank you for all your hard work in making this happen.

Mrs Grace Read and Mrs Vicki Burnett

Parking Outside School

Parking outside school can be difficult because of congestion in Western Close, but it is essential for the safety of our children and parents that parking is both safe and legal. Please remember that parking on the zig zag markings at the front of the school is illegal at all times and applies to all drivers. *There are no exceptions to this.* Additionally, please be considerate of our neighbours in both Western Close and Avocet by not blocking driveways or double parking near road junctions. Alternatively, why not park slightly further up Western Close and walk the last few metres?

Governor News

We are pleased to announce that Cinzia Marino has been elected as a new parent governor, and Jeni McCarthy has been re-elected. We have also welcomed Thomson St Germain as a co-opted governor. We're looking forward to working together as a larger team this year.

Attendance

If your child will be absent from school, please remember to phone the school absence line (01462 620262, option 1) by 9 am on the first day of absence. Thank you.

PE Kit

Children come into school wearing PE kit on their PE days. PE days are **not** non-uniform days, so may we please remind you that PE kit must be in our school colours of navy and pale blue, and items of clothing must be plain, without sports logos.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to parents for your generosity in donating prizes for our Christmas raffle, buying raffle tickets and supporting our disco this week.

Thanks also to you for the support we receive during the term from parents who come in to listen to readers, sort our pre-loved uniform and help on school trips and visits. We appreciate you all.



*We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

*We look forward to seeing the
children again on
Tuesday 6th January
at 8.45 am.*

