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# Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely summer with your families and you are looking forward to the new term.

This newsletter contains curriculum news from the summer term and also information regarding projects that have happened over the summer holiday. There is also information for you about the new term ahead.

During the holidays, Mr Di Bernardo was busy getting the school ready for the start of the new school year. The outdoor play equipment has been treated and he has painted some of the communal areas in school. He also made repairs to our Early Years ramp and our Year 3 classroom has had some renovations. We have removed a walk-in cupboard and put down new flooring to improve the teaching and learning space for our children. The school is looking fresh and clean and we really appreciate everything that Mr Di Bernardo has done to get the school ready for September.

Looking ahead to next term, to enable you to meet your child's new teacher and learning support assistants (LSAs) and to find out more about the curriculum for the coming year, we have arranged class meetings for all classes from Year 1 to Year 6. You will find the diary dates attached with this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the class meeting and would like the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and LSA, please contact the school office and we will arrange an appointment for you. There are no class meetings at the start of term for children new to Nursery and Reception as the meeting for Early Years was held in July.

As we approach the start of a new school year, we ask that you please check that all information contained on Arbor, particularly emergency contact details, addresses and medical information for your child is up to date.

As many of you are aware, Stonehill School will be 50 years old in September! The adults and children have been thinking about ways to celebrate our special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and together we have thought of 50 projects or events we can participate in over the school year. We will be starting with a special birthday celebration picnic towards the end of September and a House competition for the children to design a special letterhead/logo for the school to use during this academic year. You will receive more information regarding these activities when the children return to school.

Finally, we have a vacancy for a parent governor. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out more about how the governing body works and to help support the school. If you are interested in joining our supportive governing body, please look out for the information regarding the vacancy that will be sent to parents at the start of term.

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Best wishes,

*Elaine Close*

Head teacher



## YEAR 6 NEWS

Year 6 have had a brilliant end to their time at Stonehill school. We really enjoyed putting together our end of year production of 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits.' We are very grateful to everyone who came and watched our performances. As staff, we are extremely proud of how the children worked together and shone like stars with brilliant singing, dancing and acting. We have been out on our Olympic day at KTS, even bringing back some medals. In Maths, the children thoroughly enjoyed planning, making and selling their Young Enterprise ideas; they were very successful. Then, to finish the term, we had a brilliant three days in the sunshine in Overstrand!

We would like to wish Year 6 the very best of luck as they start their secondary schools in September.

*Mrs Freeston, Miss Segard and Mrs Geddis*

## YEAR 5 NEWS

Year 5 have had an enjoyable and memorable half-term! There was still a lot of learning to do. The children looked at different timetables, such as train, flight and school. They learned to interpret these, as well as calculating journey and arrival times. In English, children created an advertisement for a product before moving on to writing a narrative description in the present tense. Children have also been learning about human ageing and reproduction in Science and PSHE. They handled this well.

The Year 5 trip went well. There was a wide variety of exhibitions and activities, with all the children appearing to enjoy some of them. They represented the school and themselves brilliantly. Similarly, the children did themselves proud during sports day and the performances.

*Mr Chan, Miss McMenamin and Mrs Fearn*

## YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have had a good last half-term and have been continuing to enjoy our learning topics. We have been working hard in all areas of the curriculum and are gaining confidence in our abilities.

In English, we have been developing our poetry writing, while creating haikus and rengas (collaborative poems from Japan). We have also developed our persuasive language skills by writing letters and speeches, inspired by the work of Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg.

In Maths, we have been practising written methods of calculation for all four operations. In D&T, we have been thinking about how ancient civilisations were able to build such incredible structures without the benefit of modern heavy-lifting gear, inspired by the pyramid builders of Ancient Egypt.

We have been learning about classification in Science, and have looked at some plants and animals that have been discovered in recent years.

The children enjoyed transition day and are looking forward to continuing their learning journey, in Year 5.

*Mrs Devonshire, Ms Rasool and Miss Watson*

## IMPORTANT: CLASS MEETINGS

We will be holding class meetings for parents to meet their child's class teacher during the first two weeks of the autumn term. Meetings will start at 9 am. Please check the diary dates sheet following this newsletter for the date for your child's class.

## YEAR 3 NEWS

It has been a busy year this year for Year 3. The children have worked well to improve their writing and research skills. A highlight this year has been swimming. We had so much fun. We are really pleased with all the children. Well done Year 3!

*Mrs Boshoff and Miss Noble*

## YEAR 2 NEWS

Year 2 have had a fantastic few weeks, which included a trip to the Natural History Museum. We saw dinosaurs, fossils, mammal models (including an enormous blue whale skeleton on the ceiling) and how busy London can be! Thank you Year 2 for representing our school so well. You were as incredible as always.

Pokémon Club continued to be very popular. We had many tournaments, brilliant battles and new champions. Our times tables happen to have improved too, which is great!

Recently, we looked after some caterpillars and watched them metamorphose into butterflies. After a few days, we let them loose outside to fly off and experience the wonders of Hertfordshire.

Well done Year 2 for all of your amazing learning this year. Have a Pokétastic Summer!

*Mr Phillips and Mrs Wilson*

## YEAR 1 NEWS

How quickly did this year go? What an amazing year we had together. This term we have been very busy learning about Victorian times during History and learning about different animals in Science. The children worked very hard and always made me proud.

We even designed and made our own supermarket sandwiches... yummy!

I hope you have a lovely summer holiday. Good luck in Year 2 and please make sure you come and say hello.

*Ms Gunther and Miss Sawyer*

## RECEPTION NEWS

What a fantastic half term we have had in Reception! We have loved our 'On the Beach' topic, talking about our holidays, doing seaside crafts and also finishing the half term with our amazing WOW day! On Friday, the children boarded Stonehill Airways and we had the best time exploring activities that represented different countries.

As well as this, the children really enjoyed their transition morning in Year 1 and are excited to come back in September.

Well done Reception for working so hard this year and making lots of special memories.

*Miss Webster and Mrs Anderson*

A picture from our Early Years 'Wow Day', when everyone went on an airplane!



## FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER NEWS

Our Pre-Loved Uniform order form is currently out of action - a new link to order the uniform you need will be available soon. In the meantime, please feel free to email the school to place your order (admin@stonehill.herts.sch.uk). We will also have paper order forms available.

There have been approximately 200 unnamed and unclaimed jumpers, cardigans and hoodies in lost property this year, along with a handful of coats - lots of good quality items that we cannot return to their owners because they are not named! For September, please make sure you write your child's name in their uniform and their coat, so that lost items can be easily returned to their owners.

Attendance Matters: We monitor attendance closely and have sent home letters regarding your child's attendance this academic year. Well done to the 84 pupils, and their families, whose attendance this year has been 96% or above!

*Mrs Burnett and Mrs Read*

## WRAPAROUND CARE

We are very excited that we will be able to offer parents wraparound care from September. Breakfast Club starts at 8 o'clock each day and costs £4 per child per session. There is no need to book.

Our new after school club, run by Clubs Complete, will start when we return in September. They will offer activities and care until 5.30 pm each day. A letter giving details of each day's activities and pricing is attached to this newsletter.

## EVENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We receive lots of information about events and activities outside school, some free and some chargeable. We do not endorse any of these events or activities, but put information about them on our website in case they may be of interest to some parents. Click on the link below to go to the information on our website:

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO WEBSITE](#)

## FABULOUS FENCING!

We hope you like our new fencing and gates as much as we do! From September, the pedestrian gate will be open during normal drop off and pick up times, but locked during the rest of the day. If you bring your child in late or need to collect them during the day, you will need to use the buzzer on the gate, which will be answered by the office staff.

Please remember, all pedestrians must enter the school by the pedestrian gates in Western Close and Avocet only; please do not walk through the car park as there may be vehicles moving around.

The car park is for staff, disabled visitors, children arriving by taxi and deliveries only. Please do not drive your car into the car park if you are not a disabled visitor.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to those parents who have given their time so generously this year to sort our pre-loved uniform, listen to readers and help on class theme days in school and on school trips. You are very much appreciated. Thank you also to all our parents for your ongoing support.



*We wish you all a happy and healthy summer holiday.*



*Goodbye and good luck to Year 6.*



*We look forward to seeing Years 1 to 6 again on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45 am Nursery and Reception, please check your start dates and times!*