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# Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent consultation evenings on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February. It was lovely to see so many of you and I hope that you enjoyed speaking with your child's teacher. If you were unable to attend one of the consultation evenings, we are always happy to arrange a meeting for you. Please do contact your child's teacher if you would like an appointment to speak to them and look at your child's work.

This week we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year is 'This is My Place'. The children participated in activities and discussions to explore what it means to have a sense of belonging. Today was "Come as Yourself Day" and it was lovely to see so many children wearing clothes that reflect their personalities and interests.

Our value this half term was 'Kindness' and it has been a pleasure to read the many acts of kindness that the children have recorded on their sheets for our house point competition. The competition is still open, so your child can add to their list over half term to earn tokens for their house.

Looking ahead to next half term, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March it will be World Book Day. Our theme is "Breakfast and a Book" and we are looking forward to enjoying breakfast snacks together and sharing books on the day. It will also be a non-uniform day. Children can wear comfortable clothes, pyjamas or dress as a book character if they wish.

I hope all of our children have a restful half term holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Best wishes,

*Elaine Close*

Headteacher





## Mother's Day Events

We will be holding two special events to celebrate Mother's Day this year.

Nursery and Reception:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 8.45 am to 10.30 am

Years 1 to 6:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1.45 pm to 3.00 pm

Further information will be sent home soon.

## Stonehill School's 50th Anniversary Biodiversity Project

This academic year, schools were invited to apply for a grant from the Royal Horticultural Society, in order to increase biodiversity on their school premises. The theme was 'Grey to Green'. Here at Stonehill, we are very fortunate, as we have nature all around us, especially as the school is surrounded on two sides by farmland.

Around 10 years ago, a working party of staff, parents and other family members helped me to create the school garden, including six contained beds, two rockeries, a path, hedge and a bug hotel. We also added bird nesting boxes, compost bins and other wildlife homes to the site. Families had the opportunity to sponsor a nest box.

I am very happy to say that we have been granted some funding to add a wildflower meadow to one corner of our playing field and some wooden planters to the corners of the main playground. We are also going to develop a mini 'wetland' area to our woodland garden.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with this project in the next few weeks. Look out for further details!

*Mrs Catherine Devonshire*

## Diary Dates

An up to date list of diary dates will be sent out with this newsletter. Please note that term dates have now been set for the next academic year.

## Nursery September 2026 Applications

Applications for Nursery places close on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. The application form is on our website under Key Information → Admissions, or you can click on the link below:

[Click here to go to Nursery 2026 application form](#)

Nursery place offers will be made on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

## Governor News

This term we are focussing our school visits on speaking with pupils and seeing their work. We are looking out for how this half term's school value, Kindness, is being explored in school, and the impact this has on the whole school community. We are also continuing to look at how the children have opportunities to develop their writing skills across all curriculum subjects.

## Family Support Worker News

This half term we have had fun running two lunchtime Lego Clubs and a lunchtime Socially Speaking club. We've also been noticing all the ways the children support each other with kindness in the Rainbow Room. It's a joy to see the children freely offer a helping hand, thoughtful words and practical support to each other in times of need.

We have enjoyed planning activities for Children's Mental Health Week, on the theme of belonging, entitled 'This Is My Place'. The whole school has worked together to create a colourful collage representing every individual pupil. We can't wait to share the finished result with you. We've also enjoyed this half term's Tea and Talk event, with visitors from Angels Support, Citizens Advice, Letchworth Garden City Church and the Letchworth Family Support Team. There were lots of great conversations going on, and lots of useful information shared by our visitors. We are really looking forward to the next one!

### Uniform

After half term we will be selling our pre-loved uniform every Wednesday morning in the Community Room from 8.30 am to 9 am.

Please remember to name your child's clothing. This half term there are **68** jumpers/cardigans and **10** coats that are unnamed and unclaimed.

### Attendance Matters

Please see the attached Stonehill Attendance Ladder. You can check your child's attendance percentage on the Arbor app and then see where it falls on the ladder.

So far this year 37 pupils have had 100% attendance, and 107 pupils have attendance between 95% and 99%. Thank you for your hard work in ensuring your child attends regularly and on time.

### Citizen's Advice Bureau Focus Group

We know the rising cost of living is on everyone's mind. To help our school community, Kate from Citizens Advice North Herts is looking to hold an informal focus group to help develop resources that will help families find the best deals, know what support is available locally and share tips on how to make your money go further. She wants to hear from you: what information would help you? Whether it's demystifying energy bills, finding social tariffs, or managing debt, your feedback will help build a resource bank that truly works for local families. Come and grab a coffee, share your thoughts, and help us shape something useful for everyone. If you'd like to join, just let Mrs Burnett or Mrs Read know.

*Mrs Vicki Burnett and Mrs Grace Read*

## Please keep the gates clear!

It is nice that so many parents make time for a chat after drop-off in the mornings or when collecting children after school. However, as our entrances are quite narrow, may we please request that you move away from the gates, though, so other parents and children can get into and out of school without having to walk in the road or on the muddy grass.

## Garden House Hospice Charlie Chick Appeal

In the run-up to Easter, we will once again be supporting the Charlie Chick Appeal to raise much needed funds for our local hospice. We will let you know when they arrive!

## YEAR 6 NEWS

In our science lessons, we have been diving into the fascinating world of electrical components and circuits. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring how circuits work and have had the opportunity to experiment with making changes to their circuits.

In Geography, we have embarked on an adventurous journey to discover frozen kingdoms. Our exploration has taken us through the unique polar landscapes, where we have learned about the incredible people and animals that inhabit these regions. We are so proud of the children's hard work and creativity, and we can't wait to share these reports with you!

During our recent art sessions, we have learnt how to carve soap. The children have crafted beautiful designs that truly reflect their personalities

*Mrs Freeston and Miss Segard*

## YEAR 5 NEWS

Year 5 have been working on fractions in maths this half-term. It has been wonderful to see so many children use difference strategies to try to improve and deepen their understanding of fractions. Children have been using bar models and/or their times table knowledge to find equivalent fractions. This has allowed them to compare and add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

In English, children wrote letters to the headteacher. They were trying to persuade Mrs Close to allow pets, a chocolate fountain or an inflatable assault course in school! Now, they are working on a non-chronological report.

Groundbreaking Greeks is our history topic, and many children really enjoyed the workshop on Greek mythology. Another highlight was our mixed media art piece. Children used a variety of techniques, such as marbling and quilling, and materials to create a Greek or nature inspired picture.

*Mr Chan, Miss McMenamin and Mrs Geddis*

## YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have had a very busy term so far. In English, the children have really enjoyed all our class texts and are currently reading about real-life, unsolved mysteries. We have been role-playing as reporters and witnesses to a Bigfoot sighting!

We have been learning about mountains and rivers in Geography, and electricity in Science.

In Maths, we have been learning about lots of things, including shape. Our understanding of quadrilaterals is improving, and our geometry drawings are coming along very nicely.

In Art we have been revisiting our colour theory knowledge and have been mixing colours using watercolour paints.

We are really lucky to have had some Mindfulness sessions in school, with a visiting life-coach, who is also a qualified Mindfulness instructor.

After half-term, we are looking forward to going to Bedford with Year 5 to take part in a 'Faith Tour', to support our learning in RE, as well as enhancing our understanding and sense of community.

*Mrs Devonshire and Miss Rasool*

## YEAR 3 NEWS

We have had a wonderful start to 2026. The children have settled back into school life and worked hard. This half term, the children have published their own version of Alice in Wonderland. We have started our new art topic, 'Ammonites', where the children have had fun sketching, using a variety of techniques to make their drawing look more realistic. We look forward to making our very own ammonite out of clay after half term.

*Mrs Boshoff, Mrs Hearson and Miss Noble*

## YEAR 2 NEWS

Year 2 have started the year as wonderfully as we ended the last! With our glorious Nativity just a distant memory, we have been focusing on writing our own traditional tales with a twist (Rapunzel hunts the witches!) and using written methods to add numbers. We have also learned loads about coastlines and how different materials are suited to making different things. The start of 2026 may have also included Pokémon!

*Mr Phillips and Mrs Wilson*

## YEAR 1 NEWS

The children have really enjoyed reading our texts in English, 'Ruby's Worry' and 'Oi Frog'. They wrote a recount and created their own rhymes.

We are having a focus on handwriting this term and the children are working hard to ensure they are forming their letters correctly and neatly.

The children have been learning about their numbers to 20. They have learnt equal amounts of numbers and how to take away using a number line.

In Science, we also went for a walk around the school grounds to look for deciduous and evergreen trees.

*Ms Gunther, Mrs Jones and Mrs Fearn*

## RECEPTION NEWS

Reception have had a great half term! We have been exploring all things 'Old and 'New' as part of our topic 'Long Ago'. We looked at lots of toys and how they have changed compared to the toys that we have now. The children also made their own mini jack-in-the-boxes!

We have been getting involved in lots of dinosaur activities this week. The children have created their own dinosaur islands and been digging in the sand for fossils.

*Miss Webster, Miss Sawyer and Mrs Willis*

## NURSERY NEWS

Nursery have been enjoying our topic 'Long ago'. We started by looking at photos of ourselves when we were babies and thinking about how we have grown and changed. Using mirrors, we looked carefully at ourselves and painted self-portraits, which are now proudly on display outside our classroom.

We took part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and learned about different garden birds. We made bird feeders and watched for birds in the garden. Everyone still loves spotting blackbirds and magpies while we play.

We finished this half term by learning about dinosaurs. We followed dinosaur footprints to find an egg and guessed what might be inside before it hatched. Everyone was very excited to find it was chocolate eggs! We have also enjoyed dinosaur small world play, comparing different sized footprints in the play dough and using our creative skills to make our own hatching eggs.

Wishing you all a very happy half term.

*Mrs Denton, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Jones*

## **Reminder: Years 3 and 5 Swimming**

This is a reminder that Years 3 and 5 will be having swimming lessons after half term, starting on Friday 27th February. Details have already been sent home.

## **After School**

Please supervise your children at the end of the school day while still on the school site. We politely ask that parents do not allow their children to play on the activity trail after school, as there are no staff members outside at that time to ensure children's safety or to do first aid. Additionally, the field is very wet at the moment; when it is wet, the children do not play on it during the school day, so please do not allow your child to play on the field after school.

## **Meal Price Increase**

Our school caterers, Herts Catering, will be increasing the price of their meals from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Junior meals will cost £3.55.

## **Fundraising Events Coming Up**

Mother's Day Sale  
Easter Raffle  
Giant Teddy Raffle

We will be sending home further details very soon!



*Have an enjoyable half term.  
We look forward to seeing the children again on  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 8.45 am.*

