



Stanton Drew Primary School
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NEWSLETTER 3

February 2025



Stanton Drew Primary School

Halfway Through the Year!

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year! It has been an incredibly busy and productive time across the Federation, and I hope you'll forgive the extended information in this newsletter. While it is a longer read, I feel it's important to share key developments, the positive impact of ongoing work, and the strategic direction we are moving in.

The greatest joys of school are always seeing the incredible work and enthusiasm of our pupils and this term has been no exception. I have been particularly wowed by the quality of focus by children in their 'toots' music lessons, and we hope to share performances later this year – one to keep an eye out for!

The joy of outdoor learning continues to be evident with forest school sessions bringing so much excitement and it was a highlight of the term to join Cygnets on a very wet but wonderful day at Folly Farm!



Linked to this, our pupils have truly embodied the value of respect through their kindness, willingness to help others, and supportive attitude—especially toward younger children. A shining example of this was during Children's Mental Health Week when Connor at Bishop Sutton led a cake sale to raise funds for Place2Be, a charity supporting children's mental health. With further bakes from other children who also raised funds, a real demonstration of how respect and compassion come together to make a difference. We were so proud of them all for their efforts.



Stanton Drew Primary School

You will hopefully be seeing the benefits of our increased text notifications, allowing for faster and more efficient sharing of information. We were also thrilled to welcome families to our first curriculum share of the year and look forward to hosting more of these events. To ensure we are sharing better information around teaching and learning, curriculum maps have been published for each class, which have been positively received. These will continue to be provided for each half term to help keep parents and carers informed on children's learning for the term ahead.

In response to feedback, and to bridge the gap between parents' evening and detailed learning updates, we are introducing mid-year reports after half term. These one-page progress summaries will be sent just before parents' evening, accompanied by a letter outlining the key details. We hope these provide valuable insights, and we welcome your feedback as we continue to refine our approach.

I want to pay credit to the outstanding work of some of our teachers, both in their own classes and across our schools, strengthening our Federation and Trust. There is a significant amount of exceptional work on curriculum taking place to enhance learning within our schools. In phonics, Miss Pestell, alongside visiting literacy specialist Mrs Larner, continues to expertly implement our new phonics scheme, *Unlocking Letters and Sounds*. Her leadership ensures a significant impact across both schools. This term, Miss Gilmour has successfully introduced a new trust-wide history curriculum, enhancing staff training and ensuring children retain and enjoy their learning. In maths, Miss Nash's leadership of our *White Rose Maths* curriculum is driving consistency across the Federation. She collaborates with Boolean leads and will welcome them to Bishop Sutton next term. At Stanton Drew, we are also benefiting from the support of Mr Capel, maths lead at Portishead Primary, who is coaching staff and strengthening mixed-age planning. Finally, in personal development, Miss Wools has been meeting with our school council pupil leaders to refine our school values. This valuable work will shape class assemblies for a core vision and values designed by our pupils. I'm sure you will share my gratitude and pride to lead such a dedicated group of practitioners.

Please remember that school is closed for our trust-wide Inset day on Friday 14th February. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 24th February.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a safe and wonderful half term and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school after the break.

Best wishes

Tim Eustace



Stanton Drew Primary School

Exciting News: Brand-New Minibus for the Federation

We are delighted to announce the purchase of a brand-new minibus—a significant achievement made possible through funding from a local authority grant and support from the Stanton Drew Friends. Our previous bus had become increasingly costly to maintain, draining our resources and exceeding our budget. A replacement wouldn't have been possible without this vital funding—my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this possible!

This vehicle will have a major impact on both schools, especially Stanton Drew. Its lighter design means more staff are licensed to drive it. This will enable more regular use, and open up further places for the on-site wrap-around care at Bishop Sutton for Stanton Drew pupils, including breakfast club. More details will follow as we get everything in place.





Stanton Drew Primary School

Investment at Stanton Drew

I'm delighted to share details about the exciting improvements underway at Stanton Drew. These investments are part of a wider strategy to enhance the school for both our pupils and the local community, ensuring it remains a thriving place for learning for years to come.

As part of this plan, we're focusing on bringing together different aspects of the school to create a more cohesive and welcoming environment. This is not just about a new logo—it's about aligning every part of the school with our shared vision for the future, creating an inspiring space for children to learn and grow.

We are also making much-needed upgrades to Stanton Drew's facilities. Many of these improvements are long overdue, and I'm pleased to be working with our community groups to secure the necessary funding. One key improvement is the replacement of broken chairs and tables, which will provide our pupils with comfortable, functional furniture for the first time in years. These updates have been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Stanton Drew Village Hall, reflecting everything that is special about our village—its spirit of community and commitment to supporting the school and its children.

Additionally, we are repairing crumbling walls, installing more effective heating systems, and revitalising learning spaces. These changes will make a big difference for both staff and pupils, ensuring they have the best possible environment to thrive in. These investments, alongside the ongoing work to improve teaching and learning, are essential to ensuring that Stanton Drew continues to provide the high-quality education and support our children deserve. I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and appreciate your continued support as we make these exciting changes.





Stanton Drew Primary School

A huge thank you to Barbara Lee (Autumn's Nanna) for creating a stunning mural for our school! It beautifully captures Stanton Drew, our school 'houses'—**Fox, Hedgehog, and Deer**—and the historic stones. We can't wait to see it installed for all to enjoy. Thank you, Barbara, for creating this beautiful piece of artwork for our school.



World Book Day—Thursday 6th March

We will be celebrating books in school with a variety of activities, but also realise that some children enjoy dressing up. With that in mind, children from both schools can dress up as a book character or the children can bring in something they have made to celebrate books. This could be a picture/new blurb/own story based on a book/decorated plate or potato etc. or just bring in a favourite book to share in class. Children may also wear non-uniform if they prefer.

We would be very grateful for a £1 donation to go towards books for the school. Thank you.



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MEERKATS

Meerkats have had another busy term and have been working hard as always! We have been learning all about the Great Fire of London and how London was very different back then. As part of this learning we were lucky enough to have the Fire Brigade visit us to talk about how they help people and how we should keep ourselves safe. We even got to go in the Fire Engine which didn't look anything like the pictures we have been looking at in History! We have been experimenting with colours in Art to make our own Great Fire of London pictures too.

We have also been talking about different celebrations, particularly Chinese New Year and have been making lanterns and finding out about the different animals. This year is the year of the snake so the EYFS have been practising their cutting skills making swirly snakes and Year 1 and 2 have been fact finding. Meerkats loved showing off their books at Curriculum Share this term and it was lovely to see how proud they were of their work!





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CHINCHILLAS

We have had another busy term in Chinchilla Class. In our DT lessons, we have been learning about strengthening materials for different purposes. We have twisted, rolled and glued paper and card and have tried to build objects that will support a heavy weight. It was tricky, but the children were amazed at how strong the paper became.



Year 4 have enjoyed going to tennis this term. They have learnt lots of new skills, have had lots of fun and behaved very well.

Last week, the whole school celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week. We had the help of our Mental Health Ambassador, Maddy for our assembly at the beginning of the week. Throughout the week, we have discussed the importance of talking to our friends and families about our feelings and also the importance of looking after ourselves. We designed our own personality islands and dressed up in the 'Inside Out' colours on Thursday afternoon.





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LEMURS



English - Ossiri and the Bala Mengro
Lemurs have been using this fabulous children's book as a stimulus to writing descriptions, diary entries and flashbacks.



History - Bristol and Trade
Lemurs have been finding out about Bristol's role in trade over the years - the trade in shipbuilding, tobacco, rum, chocolate - and even slaves!



Art & Design - Architecture & Cityscapes

Lemurs class have been inspired to create cityscapes like famous artists. They have been emulating pop art cityscapes such as drawn by Charles Fazzino and they have been using acrylic paints to create a puzzle-picture inspired by Leonid Afremov's famous city paintings.



Debating Day
Lemurs class went to Downside School this term and took part in a debating tournament! Groups of pupils had to argue and persuade to keep a famous person from being thrown out of their balloon, and a special mention goes to the winning team - made up of Riley Angell, Leo Gould and Abel Hobbs - well done, boys!





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KEY DATES

<u>Key Dates</u>	
February	
Thursday 13 th	End of Term 3
Friday 14 th	INSET DAY – School closed to children

Term 4

<u>Key Dates</u>	
February	
Monday 24 th	Start of Term 4
Tuesday 25 th	Sponsored Pancake Flip—please send in sponsor money on Parentpay or in cash
March	
Monday 3rd March	Open meeting session with Mr Eustace—5:30pm
Thursday 6th	World Book Day
Monday 10th	Meerkats– Folly Farm – letter to follow
Wednesday 12 th	Year 2 Gymnastics Festival – Chew Valley School
Thursday 20 th	Year 5 ONLINE meeting for Charterhouse 5pm – details to follow
Tuesday 25th	Parents' Consultation Evening
Thursday 27 th	Parents' Consultation Evening
April	
Friday 4 th	End of Term 4



Stanton Drew Primary School

KEY INFORMATION

SPONSORED PANCAKE FLIP!

All children will take part in a sponsored pancake flip on Tuesday 25th February.

Please pay all sponsor money on Parentpay or in cash if you prefer by end February.

All money raised will go towards fiction books for the classrooms and non-fiction books for the library.

Thank you!



TERM 4 PE DAYS

Meerkats: Monday +
Thursday

Chinchillas: Tuesday + Friday

Lemurs: Tuesday + Friday

Swimming

In addition to our curriculum run swimming lessons, the following local swimming pools have spaces available should you want your children to learn this valuable life skill.

Hengrove Pool—

<https://www.leisurecentre.com/hengrove-park-leisure-centre/swim>

Paulton Pool—

<https://paultonpool.org.uk/swimming-lessons/>



Aspens dinner menus

Please ensure your child likes what you select on Aspens, as we have a large amount of food waste and children saying that they do not like what has been ordered. Thank you.



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KEY DATES

Term Dates 2024-25:

Term 1	Wednesday 4 September 2024 - Thursday 24 October 2024
INSET	Friday 25 October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 November 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024
INSET	Monday 6 January 2025
Term 3	Tuesday 7 January 2025 - Thursday 13 February 2025
INSET	Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 February 2025 - Friday 04 April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Friday 23 May 2025
INSET	Monday 2 June 2025
Term 6	Tuesday 3 June 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025



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Mental Health Week

As part of our commitment to supporting the mental well-being of our students, we've celebrated **Children's Mental Health Week** in a way that's both engaging and meaningful for everyone involved. Our children have shown great enthusiasm, and we're thrilled to share some of the activities that have taken place:

Our dedicated Children's Mental Health Ambassador took the lead in an assembly this week, offering valuable insights on the importance of mental health.

Personality Islands Activity (Inspired by *Inside Out*)

In one of the most creative activities, the students designed their own **Personality Islands**—a fun and reflective activity inspired by the movie *Inside Out*. The children explored different emotions and how they shape unique aspects of a person's personality, helping children reflect on what makes them feel happy, calm, confident, or joyful.

Thank you to all the students, staff, and families who contributed to making this week so special. We will continue to focus on mental health throughout the year, creating a supportive environment where every child feels seen, heard and valued.

