

Stanway Primary School

Villa Road Stanway Colchester Essex CO3 0RH

Headteacher
Telephone
E-mail
Website

Mrs Rebecca Loader BA(Hons)NPQH
01206 574819
admin@stanway-pri.essex.sch.uk
www.stanway-pri.essex.sch.uk



Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finally come to the end of a long and eventful term, I would like to look back on what we have achieved. It is easy to lose track of what has taken place when we are all tired and looking forward to the Easter holidays but we have had so much to celebrate in the last few months.

A highlight of the term was undoubtedly the STEM week held at the beginning of March which ended in a very well-attended Mantle of the Expert event where each class produced something slightly different to show to their parents. We had a cake sale in the Early Years, seed bombs in Key Stage One, a Zoo Project in Year 3 and 4 and some young entrepreneurs trying find backers for their Dragons' Den projects in Years 5 and 6. There was such enthusiasm among the pupils during this week, and also lots of entrants for the Scientist Book competition which was run simultaneously.

We also have had some interesting one-off events for our eldest pupils such as the World War 1 and II simulator days way back in January, the Shakespeare Workshop a few weeks ago and the recent On-line Safety Assemblies run by the Fire Service for Year 6.

Our pupils in Years 3 and 4 have also been active this term with a trip to Colchester Castle for Year 4, some absolutely fantastic (and highly informative) assemblies on the Ancient Egyptians by Year 3 and a group of Year 3 and 4 girls taking part in a celebration of girls joining in sports at Stanway Fiveways. An Iron Man was also spotted in the grounds at one point!

Year 1 have been hard at work with their English – practising their phonics and writing with dinosaurs as a stimulus, as well as producing some eye-catching collages around their wildlife topic. They enjoyed welcoming parents in recently to read their writing with them. Year 2 have also been very busy what with their class assemblies and their visit to Colchester Zoo.

The whole school enjoyed World Book Day and Red Nose Day earlier this month with some colourful costumes and a Book Swap run by the Reading Ambassadors. Special mention should be made for the School Council this year. Not only did they organise a School Joke Book which was sold on World Book Day, raising over £200, but they also held several assemblies of Tolerance and asked each class to write a Tolerance poem earlier in the term, in keeping with our whole school focus on Showing Racism the Red Card.

Over in the Nurture Rooms, the Friday Forest Fun sessions are encouraging everyone to join in with learning and an opportunity to socialise and wind down at the end of the week. Children have also loved being visited by Fern, the therapy dog, each week. Fern is a friendly and extremely affectionate springer spaniel and her visits are awaited with gusto – including by me!

Alongside all these activities, Year 6 have of course been preparing for their SATs tests in Reading, Maths and Writing in May and June under the expert eyes of Mrs. Riggs and Miss Vanner. I have been very impressed by the progress they have made since September, and nowhere is this more evident than in their writing which is of a high standard already. A large number of children have been staying on after school for half an hour on two nights a week to receive some extra tuition in these subjects and their attitude and motivation have been fantastic. Although these tests are a

performance on the day, and not the be all and end all by any means, we are looking forward to supporting our children to be the best they can be in May.

This work ethic has been echoed in the rest of the school and we were delighted that the Governors commented upon the children's excellent behaviour for learning during the recent Monitoring Day which focused on Maths. They also recognised the consistent teaching throughout the school and the careful adaptations for different abilities as well as clear and engaging strategies to teach Maths used by staff.

Our PTA continue to do us proud by organising popular events which provide pleasure for all our families. This term they organised a successful Family Bingo Night and held a Mothers' Day Sale in school. Their dedication to the school and support in raising much needed funding is greatly appreciated. We were extremely sad to hear of the death of a former PTA treasurer and parent, Mrs. Julia Randall, earlier this month. Julia was loved and respected by all who knew her and she worked tirelessly for the school community, attending and helping with events even when she was quite poorly. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Lastly, we have ended the term on a real high. What a pleasure it was to see the Year 4 performance last week. They really exceeded our expectations on every level and they were a credit to themselves, Mrs. Pook, Mrs. Mattock, Miss Milburn and Mrs. Adams, and their families. The singing, in particular, really raised the roof – it was a delight to hear.

I end this letter by thanking you all for making our school community what it is – for your support for school events, in helping your children to be punctual and achieve excellent attendance – we have seen a marked improvement this year - and for your own attendance for events such as the STEM week and the school performances. I wish you and your families a relaxing, safe and enjoyable Easter break.

Warm wishes,

Rebecca Loader



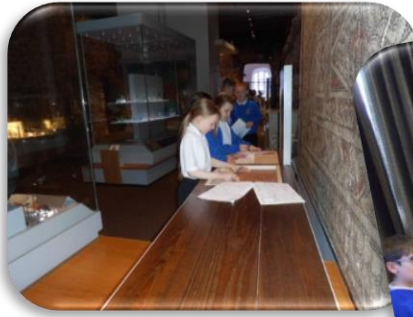
Dragons' Den in Year 5 and 6



KS1 Seed Bombs



Year 6 World War 1 Simulator Day



Year 4 Colchester Castle Trip



Year 2 Zoo Trip



Festival of Sport for Girls



Year 4 Production



World Book Day