



# Stanway Primary School Newsletter

## Busy, busy, busy!

What an action-packed term it has been! We have had some lovely whole-school events that have been brilliantly supported by children and parents, and class trips are being set up for next term as we speak (the Bluebells and Daisies are ahead of the curve with their trip to Colchester Zoo on Tuesday), and it is so nice to be able to reward the children with their first school disco since the pandemic began way back in 2020, thanks to the hard work of the PTA. All this, despite coping with another Covid surge in the school— we have done well!

Let's start with World Book Day which we celebrated this year with some dressed-up toys and potatoes— we were bowled over by the ingenuity of children's designs and they had great fun during the day taking part in a competition to redesign their classroom door as a book cover! I went round the school during the day taking pictures and a highpoint of the next day was seeing how excited the children were to see these in assemblies— the KS2 children particularly enjoyed seeing what the KS1 children had got up to.

Then, two weeks ago, we all wore as much red as possible to raise money for Comic Relief— assemblies were a sea of red, and we gathered nearly £350 for an excellent cause.

Many thanks to parents for attending our face-to-face parents evenings which took



place just after half-term. It was very encouraging to see the high level of engagement and appreciation for what is happening in the classroom.

On a sad note, we say goodbye tomorrow to Mrs Hunt in Daisies, who has worked tirelessly for the school during the last two and a half years and moves to a school nearer to her home. We will miss her greatly, but hope she will stay in contact, and look forward to welcoming Mrs Thorley to the Reception Team.

It was lovely to see the children choosing their Mothers' Day Gifts on Friday, and again, what a treat to have a school disco again, and a high note to end the term on. I hope you all have a relaxing break with your families and come back well-refreshed for an even more exciting summer term.

Rebecca Loader  
Headteacher



## CLUBS

We have planned a good range of clubs next term, and we will be sending home the application form for these when the children return after Easter. Look out for more sports clubs including a Girls' Football Club!



## LUNCHTIMES

We are so pleased with the impact of the new lunchtime arrangements; lunch feels calmer and more leisurely and the menu choices are delicious. The salad bar and baked potatoes are very popular, and I've certainly enjoyed sampling the delights of the pudding menu, although my waistbands aren't thanking me for it! The new summer-time menu has been sent out this week; why don't you consider trying some of our meals after Easter, if you don't normally?

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



## Stanway Primary School Newsletter



As you will probably be aware, there are events across the country in June to mark the momentous occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we would also like to pay tribute to this event in school. We plan to celebrate this in several ways.

First of all, on Tuesday, 24th May, we will be having a street party to replace the normal lunch in the hall. Nicky, our school catering manager, is already planning a jubilee-themed cold lunch and those with packed lunch will join us in an alfresco lunchtime experience. Each class will be designing some decorations based on Union Jacks to give it a festive feel.

We would also like to collect together any memorabilia your family has to do with the Queen— it may be photographs of family members celebrating previous jubilees, mugs, coins, tea towels— we will be creating a display in our front entrance so the children can learn a little more about the Queen's role and what she has done for the country.

Lastly, we will be planting a tree in our school grounds to commemorate this occasion, as part of the Queen's wishes to create a green canopy as a tribute to her reign. You can read more about this at this website: <https://queensgreencanopy.org>





# Parking Issues

**Unfortunately, in the last week we have had several complaints about serious parking violations by parents of children at our school.** An elderly neighbour had their drive blocked and was then verbally abused by a parent when they politely asked them to move their car.

The school has also received an email from Nicholas Percival Estate Agents informing us that parents are parking in the private car park of one of their managed properties in Chapel Road which is preventing residents from parking in the private car parking spaces themselves.

As they state in their email, there is signage up at the property stating that it is private, so there should be no confusion. Inconsiderate parking such as this affects the reputation of the school in the local community as well as potentially causing a major inconvenience to people living near the school who should not be subjected to this kind of anti-social behaviour.

## Rock Steady

The children who are a part of Rock Steady have been practising in their new bands each Friday. It's great to see them enjoying learning a new skill.

If you'd like your child to be a part of Rock Steady, please see the bulletin from last week which has information attached.

ROCK ON!!



## ACCELERATED READER

This term, the children in Years 2 through to Year 6 have been working incredibly hard to improve and develop their reading through our Accelerated Reader programme. Each week, in our assemblies we have celebrated a growing number of children who have achieved a word count of 250,000 or 500,000. We are also delighted to announce that the following children have reached the dizzying heights of the Word Millionaire Club; each child has received a book of their choice in recognition of their effort and achievements and will become a Reading Ambassador for the school:

- ★ Thomas (4PH)
- ★ Felix and River (4W)
- ★ Dunbarin, Ted and Avaneish (5SM)
- ★ Oliver (5W)
- ★ Austin, Molly, Sydney and Zachary (6C)
- ★ Aaron (6R)

Every half term, we also recognise the two most-improved AR winners from each class. This half-term, the children will be celebrating with a special hot chocolate and biscuits treat.



Well done to all of our avid readers! We hope that you will enjoy our Easter Holiday Reading Challenge too!

# Reception



This half term the reception classes have been on a world tour as we have learnt about all the continents of the world.

We started with

- Asia last term, as we celebrated Lunar New Year
- We have travelled through Africa, with African drumming
- Europe; making pizzas and learning about landmarks
- North and South America- learning about Paddington Bear coming from Peru!
- We learnt the seven continents song!
- Finally, as we prepared for Mothers' Day, we learnt about traditions from around the world!



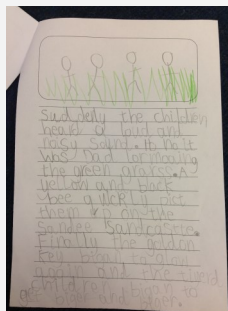
In our final weeks of the term, we read a lovely book called "The Naughty Bus" by Jan and Jerry Oke. This little bus makes a mess as he travels on his adventures. It inspired us to plan and write our very own stories! We learnt about story maps. We planned our own adventures. We also made our own Naughty Buses to take on exciting journeys around our own homes! Then we wrote our best stories!



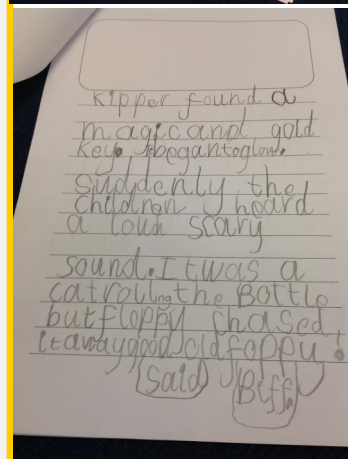
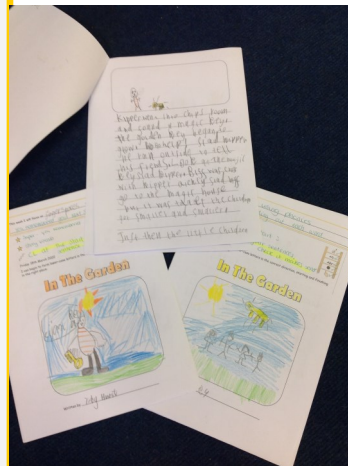
The reception children have had an amazing half term and we know they will go on to have an AMAZING summer term as they get ready to transition to Year One! The children are excited to welcome Mrs Thorley to the teaching team.

## Highlights in Year 1 Spring Term 2

This half term we have had a chance to show off our fabulous writing skills by becoming authors. Over the last few weeks we have been learning about story writing, in particular we have focused on creating our own story problems and solutions. We began by learning a story about a magic key that made some children shrink to the size of a match stick. Then we looked at changing the middle part of the story by imagining different problems the children might confront. We thoroughly enjoyed using our imagination and came up with some very creative ideas. In our writing we impressed our teachers by using lots of amazing story language and describing words to bring our writing alive. Our stories are wonderful and we are very proud of our work.



# Year 1



In Spring 2, the children in Year 1 have been using bee-bots to immerse themselves in their computing learning. Over the term they have programmed the small robots with their own directions to learn how algorithms are sequences of instructions which create an outcome. They were introduced to bee-bots by explaining what each button was for and how we can use them. The teachers explained that they do not have a brain and will do exactly what we program them to do. The children had some time in small groups exploring using the bee-bots and practised inputting an algorithm using algorithm cards. When they felt more confident the children had great fun navigating their bee-bot to a certain toy on the shelf, using the toyshop bee-bot mat. They wrote their algorithm down beforehand and then input it into the bee-bot to test it. The children worked very well together and even challenged themselves to debug (correct it) if the algorithm didn't work.





# Year 2



This half term's topic has been THE LION KING!

We have been learning all about the continent of Africa through stories, fact books, art, music, geography and so much more.

In Art we have been learning how to weave and create African art. We combined this with our maths learning about pattern and shape to create finished pieces. We've also made our very own lion masks. We learned how to curl paper to create the mane around the lion's head.

Lions have also been the main focus of our Reading and Writing lessons. We started the half term by learning a traditional African tale called The Lion and The Mouse. We used the ideas to plan our own version of the story set in another habitat for example 'The Polar Bear and The Snowy Owl'. These will be written up, edited and published in our final week of the half term.

For Geography we have been exploring the continent of Africa and comparing it to the UK. We have been using atlases and google earth to explore the different physical features of both Africa and the UK, comparing their landscapes and climate. We have also looked at the human features of both continents and through looking at traditional clothing, foods and lifestyles as well as modern living we were able to make comparisons and identify similarities and differences between our countries.

In PE we have journeyed under the sea to develop our gymnastic skills, modelling our movements on the vast array of graceful ocean dwellers. We have developed controlled movements and balances independently and have been creating a sequence of movements with a partner incorporating the techniques and skills we have learnt through our topic.



# Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic term. In maths, the children have worked extremely hard to master fractions and measurement. They have written some wonderful mystery stories in English and also became actors, performing their own playscripts. Science this term was all related to light and shadow, where the children enjoyed completing different investigations. They also produced some lovely art work focusing on tone and shade.



### Class 4PH's Rotten Roman's Adventure!

This half term has been so busy; time has flown by. As a class we have been studying the Roman Empire's beginnings and considered different aspects of the Roman life and the army. We have explored how Roman engineers created roads fit for purpose, by making our own Roman roads with biscuits! Aqueducts are a lasting example of the Roman Empire's creativity and we explored this by creating our own aqueducts. In English we wrote a set of instructions on how to become a Roman Gladiator.

The children are beginning to master the art of Fractions! All the children are clear on what a fraction is and can add, take-away and identify fractions of amounts. We have considered equivalent fractions and how to order them. A challenge indeed but a challenge well met.

In science the children have looked at and examined the skills and experiments of various scientists such as microbiologists, forensic scientists, zoologists, and pharmacologists.

The children have also risen to the new handwriting scheme, and many have now got their pen license.

*A busy, rewarding term. Well done year 4.*



# Year 4



In 4W, we have been studying the 'Rotten Romans'. The

children have worked hard writing instructions this term. They have explored instructions through Lego building, following instructions to build their very own chocolate Roman road and finally written a set of instructions of their own on how to be a Roman Gladiator using all their learning about the history of the Romans and from their guided reading.

This theme has also continued into our DT project and we have started to construct Roman Aqueducts. The children have been working in teams, carefully selecting appropriate materials that will provide the strength and dynamics required for an aqueduct's purpose.

In addition to this, in maths we have been tackling fractions, not only learning how to add and subtract fractions but also finding equivalent fractions, and fractions of amounts and quantities, whilst in science, we have been learning all about the different types of scientists that exist and have had the opportunity to explore these roles in our lessons. For example, we have been forensic scientists and analysed fingerprints and we have become zoologists and made careful observations of animals' behaviour and their habitats.

Lastly, we have been paying close attention to our handwriting and completed some fun handwriting activities over the last few weeks. A particular favourite was producing some beautiful drawings whilst also promoting our vocabulary choices. I have been blown away with their progress in achieving neatly joined-up handwriting this term and so many of the children are on the right track to receiving their pen licenses very soon. The children should be extremely proud of themselves and deserve a restful Easter break, ready for citing summer term

our  
ex-  
ahead.

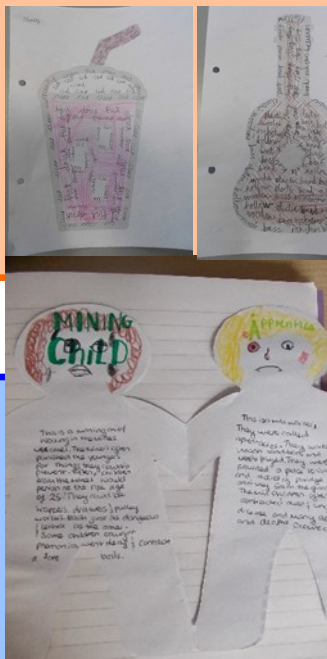
# Year 5

This half term in Year 5 has been out of this world! Our Space topic has really sparked the children's interest and we have explored the planets, space exploration and the Big Bang as well as lots of other topics.

In English, we wrote an explanation text about the Curiosity Mars Rover and how it was launched into space in 2011. We used technical vocabulary, causal conjunctions, and subheadings to make our writing really clear as well as interesting to read. There were also some excellent examples of creative writing earlier in the term when we read 'Hidden Figures', the story of the first black women to work for NASA. The children worked so hard to write in character and consider how the women in the book would have felt at different points in the text.

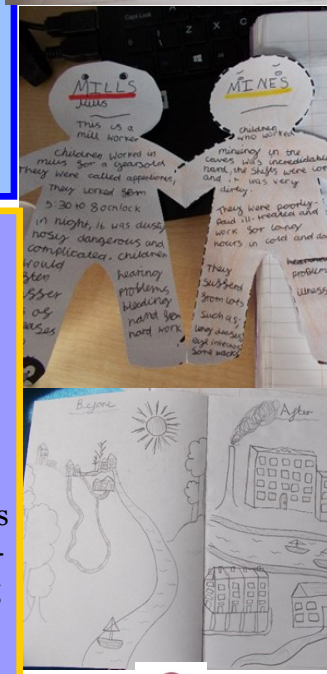
This was all developed by our learning in Science, discussing the planets, how we get night and day, and the different phases of the moon

In Maths the year 5 children have been developing and deepening their understanding of fractions, decimals, and percentages.

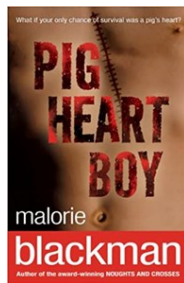


This term, 6C have completed lots of exciting work! In English, the children particularly enjoyed designing their own drone which they wrote a persuasive piece of writing about. Their designs and letters have been sent to Dyson to be seen by their engineers! During World Book Day, the children worked really well together to decorate our classroom door depicting the book Wild Boy – 6C even won The Head Teacher's award in the Friday assembly for their hard work!

In Maths, the children learnt how to solve algebraic questions as well as ratio and proportion problems. The children have studied The Theory of Evolution in Science lessons and enjoyed carrying out an experiment to see which 'beak' was the best at picking up 'seeds'! It has been the children's first term learning about The Victorians including The Industrial Revolution and important Victorian inventions. Our Art topic has also been linked to The Victorians; the children have been learning about William Morris and they have created and tested out their own printing block just like Morris!



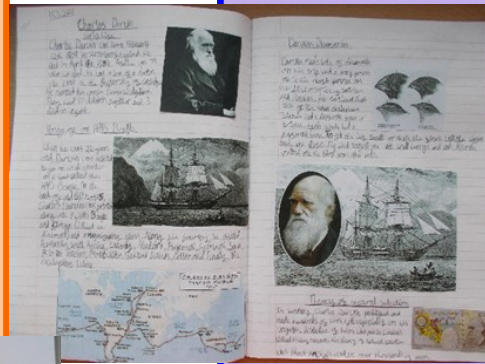




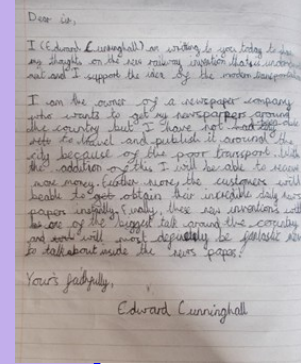
# Year 6



It has been an industrious half-term in 6R!

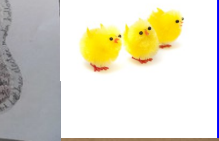


In English, we spent some time considering the pros and cons of drones before holding a class debate about whether or not people should be allowed to buy, and use them, for their own pleasure. The children then designed their own drones, each with a particular use in mind (such as tracking endangered animals, allowing search and rescue missions to easily locate missing persons, or monitoring melting ice caps). Once the designs were finalised, we wrote persuasive letters to the James Dyson Foundation, with the aim of convincing them that our drones were worth developing. We are hoping to hear back from them shortly!



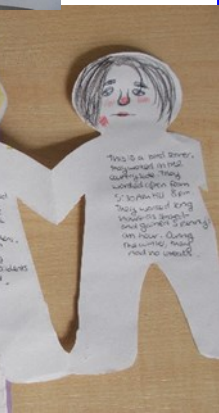
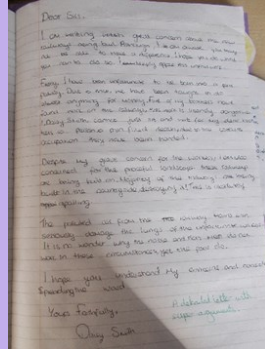
In the latter part of the half term, we began to focus on magical and mysterious doors, writing poems about what could lie behind them.

The children then wrote some fantastic portal stories, challenging themselves to incorporate key grammatical features, including colons and semi-colons, parenthesis and personification.



For our class texts, we have read the incredibly thought-provoking *Pig Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman, and we are currently half way through *Darwin's Dragons* by Lindsay Galvin, which links fantastically to our Science topic.

In Maths, we have been focusing on measures. The children have learned to convert between miles and kilometres, and to calculate the area and perimeter of rectilinear shapes, triangles and parallelograms. For the last two weeks, we have been working on ratio and, in particular, have been studying the links between ratio and fractions, using the ratio symbol and calculating ratio.



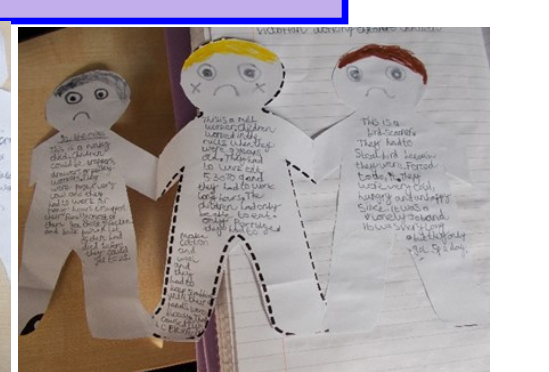
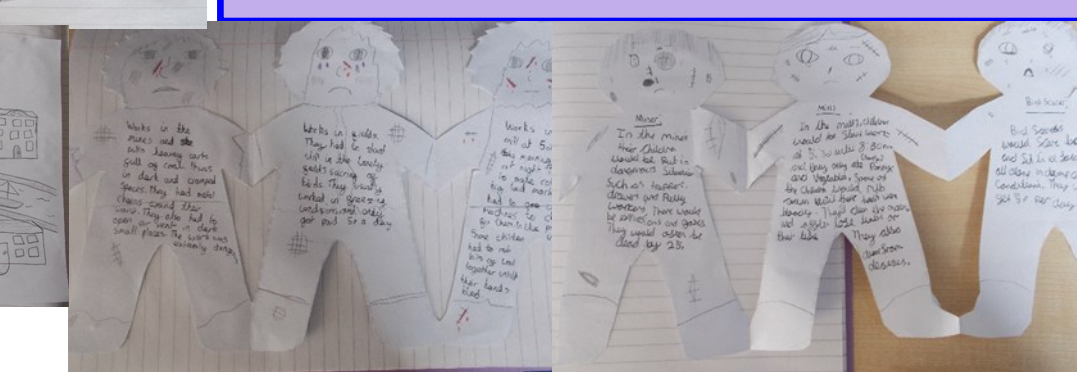
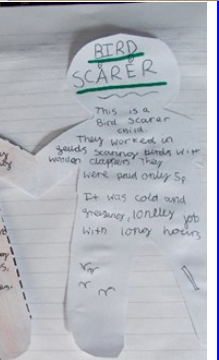
Our Science focus for this half term has been Evolution and Inheritance. We have learned about inherited characteristics, and had great fun thinking about characteristics that might be inherited by the offspring of Mr Men and Little Miss characters! We then focused on the work of Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection. The children created some amazing information reports to showcase their learning:

With Darwin's theories about the Galapagos finches in mind, the children carried out an investigation into which type of beak was the best adapted for picking up seeds and would therefore be most likely to evolve over time. Their 'beaks' consisted of tweezers, cooking tongs and pegs, and the task was to see how many 'seeds' (Starbursts, Maltesers and pearls) they could pick up with each beak in one minute!



Our History topic this half-term has been the Victorians. So far, the children have learned about Queen Victoria's reign, the effects of industrialisation, the invention of railways and the working lives of poor Victorian children. They have written newspaper articles and letters, and have also produced a paper-chain of Victorian children to portray the different types of jobs that they had to do:


We have also been learning about the work of Victorian artist, William Morris, in Art, and have produced some super designs, and sketches of natural objects, based on the style of the artist.



KS1

# APRIL

## READING BINGO



Read outside	Read to someone younger	Read aloud to an adult	Make a den and read inside	Read instructions for something
Read a book that someone in your family liked when they were a child	Write and read your own story	Read a book that makes you laugh	Read a non-fiction book	Read in an unusual place
Read a poem	Listen to an audio book		Read an award-winning book	Read a chapter of your favourite book to your adult
Read a book about one of your topics for the summer term (Science, History or Geography)	Illustrate a book with no pictures	Read a book that's been turned into a movie. Which version do you prefer?	Read a book by an author you haven't read before	Read a book set in a different country
Create a game eg Top Trumps for your favourite book/characters	Design a new cover for your favourite book	Read to your cuddly toy in your pyjamas.	Read a book about a different culture	Write a book review

[Easter Holiday KS1 Home Learning Challenge: Miss Firth's' Reading Bingo!](#)

Let's see how many children can complete all of the squares?!



# APRIL READING BINGO

Read outside	Read to someone younger	Read aloud to an adult	Make a den and read inside	Read instructions for something
Read a book that someone in your family liked when they were a child	Write and read your own story	Read a book that makes you laugh	Read a non-fiction book	Read in an unusual place
Read a poetry book	Listen to an audio book		Read an award-winning book 	Read a chapter of your favourite book aloud to your friend
Read a book about one of your topics for the summer term (Science, History or Geography)	Illustrate a book with no pictures	Read a book that's been turned into a movie. Which version do you prefer?	Read a book by an author you haven't read before	Read a book set in a different country
Create a set of Top Trumps for your favourite book characters	Design a new cover for your favourite book	Read a genre that you haven't read before	Read a book about a different culture	Write a book review

**Easter Holiday KS2 Home Learning Challenge: Mrs Riggs' Reading Bingo!**

Let's see how many children can complete all of the squares?!



# The Acorn Diner

WEEK COMMENCING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Week 1</b> <b>18. 4. 22</b> <b>9. 5. 22</b>	Chicken Nuggets Chips Baked Beans	Homemade Sausage Roll Potato Puffs Spaghetti Hoops	Roast Beef Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding Green Beans & Sliced Carrots Gravy	Homemade Lasagne Garlic Bread Sweetcorn	Flipper Dippers New Potatoes Peas
	Quorn Nuggets	Vegetarian Sausage Roll	Quorn Fillet	Quorn Mince Lasagne	Quorn Dippers
	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings
	Lemon Sponge Pudding & Custard	Mandarin Cheesecake	Angel Delight	Raspberry Smoothie	Goosey Chocolate Brownie & Ice Cream
	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo Bread roll with a choice of filling from the above with, sea salted crisps, cherry tomatoes, cheese portion, piece of fruit, fruity flapjack and a drink	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo
<b>Week 2</b> <b>25. 4. 22</b> <b>16. 5. 22</b>	Open Beef Burger on a Bun Herby Diced Potatoes Corn on the Cob	Cheese & Tomato Pizza $\frac{1}{2}$ Jacket Potato Homemade Coleslaw	Roast Gammon Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding Vegetable Medley & Gravy	Omega 3 Fish Fingers Spiral Fries Spaghetti Hoops	BBQ Chicken Wraps Potato Wedges Salad Bar
	Quorn Burger	As above	Quorn Fillet	Cheese Omelette	Quorn BBQ Wraps
	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings
	Arctic Roll	Eve's Pudding & Vanilla Sauce	Frozen Yoghurt Pot	Apple Pie & Whipped Cream	Vanilla Sponge & Strawberry Custard
	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo 2 triangle sandwiches with a choice of filling from above with, tortilla chips, carrot & cucumber sticks, piece of fruit, yoghurt and a drink	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo
<b>Week 3</b> <b>2. 5. 22</b> <b>23. 5. 22</b>	Bubble Fish Potato Waffles Peas	'All Day Breakfast' Bacon Scrambled Egg Hash Brown & Baked Beans	Roast Chicken Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding Carrots & Sweetcorn Gravy	Toad in the Hole Fondant Potatoes Runner Beans Gravy	Cheesy Pasta Bake French Bread Broccoli
	Cheese & Onion Bakes	Vegetarian Burger	Quorn Fillet	Vegetarian Toad in the Hole	As above
	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings	Jacket Potato with various toppings
	iced Chocolate Marble Cake	Cornflake Tart & Custard	Fruit Jelly	Belgian Waffle & Ice Cream	Fresh Fruit Salad
	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo Bread roll with a choice of filling from the above with, sea salted crisps, cherry tomatoes, cheese portion, piece of fruit, Yummy Biscuit and a drink	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo	Packed Lunch - Ham, Cheese Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo

We are planning to hold a special lunch on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The menu for that day can be seen on the separate attachment to this menu.





# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Sausage Roll

Sandwiches

(Egg Mayomaise, Ham, Tuna & Cucumber, Cheese & Tomato)

Chicken Nuggets

Crisps

Cucumber & Carrot Sticks with Hummus Dip

Victoria Sponge

Strawberries

# School Council



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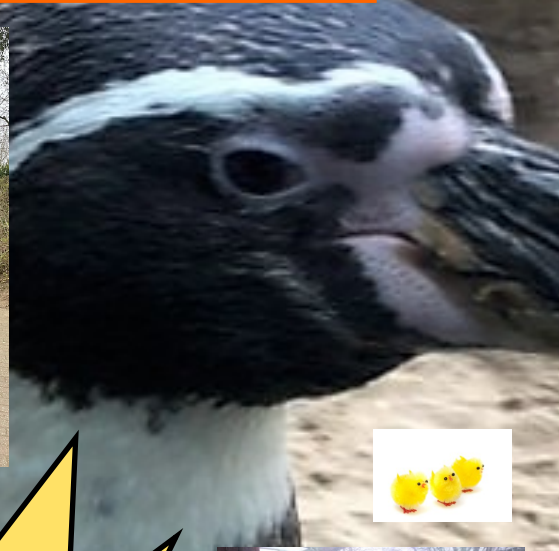
The School Council are going to holding a Choosing Day during the second half of next term where students are allowed to bring in one pound to choose their own clothes, choose the meal for that day (which will be suggested by a vote) and choose the subjects for that day.

On that day we will also be doing activities to raise money for the school library. Each class will be coming up with an activity or competition to raise some more money during the day. Speak to one of your class councillors if you have an idea for what the competition or activity for your class could be and watch this space for more information!

Ella and Austin (6R)



Some photos from the Reception trip to Colchester Zoo on Tuesday...thank you, Mrs. Hunt!!



*Did you spot them all???*



**And finally.....a  
massive thank you and  
well done to all the  
staff at Stanway  
Primary School.  
Thank you for all your  
hard work this term!**

