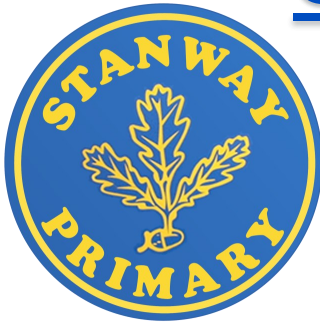


Something for Everyone!



Stanway Primary School Newsletter

This newsletter is going to be a little different from usual, focusing on some of the ways in which our curriculum has been enhanced during this half-term, and then spotlighting those events which are still to come as we enter the last half of term. There are also some important pieces of information concerning attendance and leave of absence requests as we have been receiving a lot of these in the last few weeks.

Year 2 Reading Sessions

It has been great to start inviting in parents to share in the life of the school again, and in particular the joy of reading for pleasure with their children. Thank you, Year 2 parents, what a lovely start to a morning.

On that subject, please note that we are restructuring how we carry out **Sports Days** this year. Parents will be invited to the afternoons of the Sports Days which is when we will be holding our flat races. Mrs. Booth has planned a mixture of straight and wacky races so that there is something for everyone. We are calling our collective sports days, part of our Sports Festival as we aim to combine these with a Fencing Day, and a Walk to School Week— see the next page for more information on this!

We also have the Year 6 play, several class trips and workshops in school, and the PTA Summer Fair to look forward to in the next few weeks!

Sky Blue Theatre Company

On Friday 10th June Years 5 and 6 will be taking part in an exciting, interactive theatre workshop! The Sky Blue Theatre Company will be coming into school, and helping the children to retell Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, using the children's own words and ideas. The children will become the stars of the show, complete with costumes to wear and props to wield!



As you read this, I will be on the Year 6 residential which has been able to take place after several years absence.

As we return fully to school life after the restrictions imposed by Covid outbreaks, it is a real pleasure to see how events such as the Sponsored Walk, extra-curricular activities, PTA and School Council-led initiatives all create energy, and a sense of well-being and enjoyment and enthusiasm throughout the school.

It has been very uplifting to see how our school's offer is developing the whole child, providing something for everyone to enjoy and reminding us that learning is about so much more than just Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Read on for more information on what else the Summer Term has in store....!

Rebecca Loader
Headteacher

CLUBS

These will continue after half term with a few changes to year groups that have already been communicated to parents.

The New Library

Well...we still managed to do it! Despite several very heavy showers of rain, the whole school managed to complete their laps of the field, and had a very enjoyable time in the process. Years 3 and 4 braved the rain, and the School Council Reps took over stamping everyone's sheets. The generosity of our parents has been overwhelming; we have surpassed our £6000 target which will more than cover the furniture for our new library, and hopefully fund some new books too.

Thursday, 26th May



Stanway Primary School Newsletter



Watch out for our new Reading Ambassadors. Mrs. Riggs is now inducting children who have reached their million word target to act as ambassadors for reading throughout the school. They held their first meeting last Friday, and we are looking forward to seeing them put into action lots of ideas to raise the profile of reading throughout the school and encourage more children to read.



Choosing Day

Yes, that time is nearly upon us....the first School Council Choosing Day on Friday, 10th June... all part of our Library Appeal.

On this day, the School Council are asking every pupil in the school to bring in £1 to wear whatever they choose and then an additional £1 to spend on a class activity (each class has come up with their own money-raising idea).

The School Council have held a school-wide vote to choose the school dinner on that day (hot dog and chips, followed by a doughnut and accompanied by a milkshake) and teachers have been told that children need to choose **at least** two lessons on this day!

Walk to School Week!

For each day starting from Monday 20th June, we would like the children to take part in Walk To School Week! Each morning, the children should aim to complete walked journeys (including wheeling, cycling, scooting and park and stride*). For each journey, the children will collect daily reward stickers as well as help to complete the class wallchart. In addition, the children will receive a pupil activity diary and also a bookmark upon completion of the challenge.

The theme for the week is **Power Up!** With five video game-inspired missions to complete, each class will need to **Team Up**; **Defeat Danger**; **Boost Health**; **Save the Planet**; and **Lead the Way**.

*Park and stride for our school includes parking at the village hall (or a distance further away) and walking from there to school.

Essex Wildlife Trust

Year 1 have loved taking part in their Forest School Sessions this term. There have been a lot of muddy boots and excited children on a Thursday morning, and teachers have reported that the sessions have really helped to develop children's independence and observational skills.

Educational Visits

Y4 are finishing this half term with a trip to the castle whilst Y1 visited Silver Witch Green this week and Y6 are currently on their residential trip. Next half term, there are several other visits taking place including: History visits to the school for Y1, Y3 and Y5; Y2 taking part in a drumming workshop, Y5 and Reception having a Road Safety session, and lots more...

Library Cards

Following information about the new Essex Library cards within the Bulletin published on Monday 9th May, we have now received the cards and will send them home with your child this week (Year 6 will receive theirs after half term). We hope you are able to use them over the half term break and, of course, during the summer holidays for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Jubilee Lunch

It was lovely to see the children eating their special lunch beneath their own bunting that was hung in the hall.

The children have been learning about the Queen's life through assemblies and work within class.

We hope you manage to celebrate during the long bank holiday weekend.





Stanway Primary School Newsletter

ATTENDANCE

As we go forward into the new half-term, we would like to clarify some of our school expectations regarding holidays during term-time and daily attendance, as there have been a spate of holiday requests during the last few weeks. As a rule, **Requests for Family holidays will not be authorised during term-time.** If you are taking your children out of school for this purpose, the time off will be marked as unauthorised, and you could receive a Penalty Notice.

Unauthorised absence includes:

- *parents keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.*
- *absences which have never been properly explained*
- *children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes however it is recorded as an absence for the session.*
- *shopping trips*
- *looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments*
- *their own or family birthdays*
- *holidays taken during term time without leave not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the headteacher- may result in school applying to the local authority to issue a penalty notice or if you have previously been issued a Penalty Notice, the school may request a direct prosecution by the local authority.*
- *day trips*
- *other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed*

Stanway Primary School Attendance Policy

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Therefore every school day counts!

Daily Attendance

Up until fairly recently, we have urged parents to keep their children away from school if they are even slightly ill, and we thank you for your support with this. Moving forwards, we would ask parents to use their discretion in deciding if their child is fit to attend school or not. Children who have mild cold-like symptoms, but feel well enough to be in school, can still attend school, and we would ask that parents support us in encouraging children to attend school as regularly as possible. **Even only two or three days missed every half-term equates to 18 weeks of missed learning throughout the primary phase– almost half a year of schooling...**

Whilst any child may occasionally have time off school because they are ill, sometimes they can be reluctant to attend school. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between the school, the parents and the child. If a parent thinks their child is reluctant to attend school then we will work with that family to understand the root problem and provide any necessary support. We can use outside agencies to help with this such as the School Nurse, The Local Authority or a Child and Family Support Worker.

Stanway Primary School Attendance Policy

Late Arrivals

Although children are not officially late until after 8.50am when the gates are locked, it is helpful if children are in school as early as possible so that they can be fully part of the morning routine, taking part in the registration activity and preparing themselves for learning. It is disturbing for both the child and the class if they get into a pattern of always entering slightly later than everyone else. Parents are asked to contact school before 9.00am to notify us of a child's absence. Authorised absence, e.g. illness or medical appointments, must be supported by a phone call, email or letter from parents explaining the reason for the absence. **Where parents fail to make contact providing a reason for absence, the School Office will go through all your child's named contacts and refer to our safeguarding policy if necessary.**

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



May 2022

Dear parent/carer,

Get involved in the Essex Year of Reading

To mark the Essex Year of Reading 2022, Essex County Council has been working on a range of initiatives to inspire every child in Essex to become a confident reader and develop a lifelong love of reading. We are also working to address the impact that Covid-19 has had on children and young people's education by providing events, activities, and opportunities to help improve their reading levels.

As part of this project, we are providing children with their very own library card and bookmark which they will receive via their school. Each library card has its own unique barcode, so all you need to do is bring this card along to any Essex Library to register it in your child's name. You can then get started right away. Children can use their library card to choose books, join in with out-of-school activities, access homework help, use free computers and lots more.

Once they have signed up for the library, children will be able to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This is a national initiative that encourages children to read books throughout the summer holidays, collecting a medal, stickers and a certificate along the way.

The locations of all Essex libraries and more information can be found at www.libraries.essex.gov.uk

You can also download the free Essex Year of Reading app to discover further online reading materials, fun activities and competitions for children and families to take part in. The Essex Year of Reading app is available from Google Play or the App Store. Simply search for Essex Year of Reading. Please also visit www.essexyearofreading.co.uk for more information.

Yours Sincerely,



Juliet Pirez
Head of Libraries
Essex County Council



Clare Kershaw
Director, Education
Essex County Council

Stanway Primary

PTA



Summer



Fair



Saturday 25th June 2022

11.30am – 2.30pm



FACE PAINTING

POP UP SHOP

SOMEONE
Special

TREAT YOUR SPECIAL DAD,
UNCLE, GRANDAD OR
SPECIAL PERSON

Friday 17th June 2022

Details sent out after half term.
£2 per gift