

Ho! Ho! Ho!



Stanway Primary School Newsletter

I can't believe we are finally reaching the end of this incredibly busy and rather long term! Lots of events have taken place, lots of learning and we are all now ready for a well-earned rest.

Mantle of the Expert

This was a Pens Down Day using our school approach of Mantle of the Expert to explore the experiences of migration and particularly the movement of people from the Caribbean to the UK through Windrush. The children explored these concepts through drama and group work and the results were thought-provoking and encouraged the children to think beyond their own experiences and about the diversity experiences that feed into British culture.

Trips

There have been many trips this half-term, probably the most exciting of which was the Year 5 trip to the Planetarium. Despite the lengthy coach journey, the children had a brilliant day immersed in astronomy and all kinds of information about space and space travel. Then, we have had several other visits and workshops with Dancing workshops in the hall for Year 3, a trip to Jimmy's farm and even a trip to the post box for Hendra and Rosen classes, as well as the Year 6 trip to Duxford and Year 1's visiting the local church.

Playground Developments

At long last, the front playground has finally been finished with some other items of playground furniture to complete the design. The ball catchers are proving very popular already and the story-telling area will come into its own particularly during the warmer months where we hope it will encourage children to read and be creative outside..

Music Events

It was an absolute pleasure to take our Junior School Choir for the second time to the Rotary Club Schools Competition in November. We didn't get into the final, but I couldn't be more proud of their efforts and behaviour. They performed brilliantly and, for some, it was their first time on a full-size stage.

Then, a few weeks ago, Year 4 and the choir visited Lexden Springs Special School to perform

School Council Update

The Senior School Council, Minnie, Eissa, Millie-May and Gracie, presented an assembly to KS2 on Tolerance at the beginning of the half-term. This is an issue they want to work on throughout the year,, and is supported by our whole school focus of Showing Racism the Red Card (more information on this overleaf).



songs on the Ukulele, some pieces were also performed by individual instrumentalists (well done, Rudi, Jonny and Leo) and the choir also performed again. There was a lot of foot-tapping and joining in and the children again conducted themselves brilliantly.

Monitoring Days

This term we have been monitored by our School Effectiveness Partner, the Governing Body and have had a Peer Review by local headteachers. The headline findings for each were that children are making good progress at the school, behaviour is very good and lessons are well thought-out and engaging. Our particular subject priorities this year are Maths and Writing, and we were pleased that the feedback from these monitoring days reflected our own evaluation of our performance.

PTA Events

The PTA held a successful and lively Quiz, discos in December and a raffle. Thanks to them, Santa also has paid the children a visit, residing in his own grotto this year!

I know you will join me in thanking the staff for their hard work and dedication in supporting your children this half-term, Thanks also to our Governors who give up their time to ensure that we are held to account as a school and are offering a high quality education for all - a newsletter from them is included in this newsletter.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy new 2025!

**Rebecca Loader
Headteacher**



Choosing Day

Another enjoyable Choosing Day took place on November 23rd and has become something of a school tradition, raising money for the School Council and their chosen charity, Make a Wish..

EYFS Nurture Cabin

An opening ceremony was held on Friday, November 12th with contributing businesses, parents, children, staff and governors attending. After a year of hard work by the PTA, led by Jemma, the Nurture Cabin is now complete. Mr. Malcolm Bailey, one of our school governors, officially cut the ribbon to open the Cabin and parents and children enjoyed a sneak preview to see what was inside. This building enhances our Nurture Provision throughout the school further and allows children with additional needs a space to decompress. Learn a little bit more about the PTA on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.



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Show Racism the Red Card

Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. It was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.



In the 1990's, Newcastle United's 'Entertainers' were challenging for the Premier League title. It was with this backdrop, that Shaka was at a petrol station near St. James' Park one day filling up his car with petrol when he was confronted by a group of young people shouting racist abuse at him. After they got closer and one of the group realised that they had been shouting at Shaka Hislop, the Newcastle United Goalkeeper. Their attitude suddenly went from abuse to admiration and instead they began asking for an autograph.

It was from this experience that Shaka realised he could harness his influence as a professional player to make a difference. Coupled with the power of 'the beautiful game' and his status as a role model, Shaka thought education could be an effective strategy in challenging racism in society.

At the charity's first ever event, Shaka and fellow teammate John Beresford visited Gosforth High School in the North East of England to speak to pupils about their experiences in football and society; the rest is history!

To this day SRtRC continues to utilise the high-profile status of football and football players to help tackle racism in society and has also expanded into other sports and involved other personalities. The majority of the campaign's work involves the delivery of educational workshops to young people and adults in schools, workplaces and at events held in football stadiums. Across the UK, SRtRC provides educational sessions to more than 50,000 individuals per year, along with hosting the UK's largest equalities themed School Competition. In 2023, SRtRC has surpassed the landmark milestone of engaging 1 million people in these programmes.

We are using resources from this charity's Education Hub to promote understanding of diversity and the dangerous and damaging effects of racism on individuals and society. They have informed assemblies, discussions and PSHE lessons throughout the school and we will be continuing to do so throughout this school year. Unfortunately, we still do from time to time have racist incidents within school. This is totally unacceptable and our aim is to eradicate these incidents completely. We need to be absolutely clear with children about what racism is and its detrimental impact. Your support as parents is vital in confronting this issue head on. Please have a look at this website for more information.

Attendance

This term we send out your child's attendance record so you can see what percentage of attendance they have achieved so far this year. Over 95% attendance is considered to be good. Below 90% is classed as persistently absent and below 80% is severely persistently absent. It is your legal responsibility to ensure that your child attends school every day. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. We are still having some children who are being kept at home for relatively minor issues such as headaches or coughs. An interrupted week means that children miss key explanations or events and stops the flow of their learning. Often children pick up throughout the morning and forget any aches or pains once they are with their friends and following their normal routine.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone us on the first day of absence and then on each subsequent day they are off. Let us know that your child won't be in and give us the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let the school office know

TERMLY ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Well done, **3 Morpurgo**, for the best attendance this half-term,
2nd place: 5 Shakespeare

3rd place: 5 Rauf

Class	Attendance % Present
R Hendra	94.1%
R Rosen	94.7%
1 Blake	94.7%
1 Donaldson	95.1%
2 Bond	95.7%
2 Dahl	93.8%
3 Morpurgo	98.4%
3 Wilson	94.8%
4 Jackson	95.0%
4 Zephaniah	94.8%
5 Rauf	95.9%
5 Shakespeare	96.2%
6 Rowling	93.5%
6 Tolkien	94.2%

Points Winners!

1 Donaldson - KS1 Winner
5 Shakespeare - KS2 Winner



Stanway Pupil Voice

Stanway Primary School Newsletter

Young Journalists:

Welcome to the section of the newsletter prepared by some budding Year 6 journalists. We have a summary of their term and some photos of some of the learning completed in different year groups during the term.



A brilliant year 6 term

By Louise Davidson And Sri Saravanan in 6 Tolkien

This term has been a fascinating and astounding one for me. I've learnt many new things and I am going to explain how great it was. Please read on to learn about my term and what we have learnt as well.

WW2:

Since the day I joined Y6, I have been learning about WW2, and this term, everything was related to it. I learnt about how it started, about Hitler, about children evacuating, about the blitz and etc. The way that our teacher (Miss Vanner) teaches us about history, makes me intrigued and keen on learning more about this topic. I have learnt loads about it now and know all about it. Ask me a question about it and I bet I could answer it in 30 seconds. Did you know that 1.5 million people got evacuated from their homes to the local countryside!!

Duxford imperial war museum

This term we went to Duxford which is 1 hour and a half away. We learned that most of the planes in the America planes hangar are the inspiration of the star war planes we went to in most of the hangars. I hope this inspires you to go.

Stanway Primary School's Caribbean Day!

As we learnt about WW2, we had another effervescent event happening, Caribbean day. This is a day when you get put into groups and you get given a Caribbean theme. You need to make pictures, presentations and much more. Then at 2pm, parents come in and see what we have done. This gave me an opportunity to show teamwork and learn more about the Caribbean. This was such a fun, jovial day!! Without this day, the Caribbeans would have never been known.

Anne Frank

We have learned about the life of Anne Frank and all of year 6 wrote a biography about Anne Frank and her awesome life. Did you know that Annes sister also had a diary but it was never found? It's been really good learning about Anne and her life. I hope if you learn more you will find it fascinating .



Senior School Counsellor Newsletter

Autumn Term

This term

As a school we have decided that our charity of the year would be... Make-A-Wish. Make-A-Wish grants magical wishes to children and young people aged 3-17 who are fighting life-threatening illnesses. We will be holding fundraising activities in the new year.

We recently just had an amazing school disco! We all enjoyed this event and everyone was really engaged. We had a bubble machine, sweets and the lovely PTA also provided drinks.

This term, we have happily introduced new equipment to our front playground that includes: a wooden sitting area, tarmac paintings, ball catchers, and a new reading area outside!

We have really enjoyed the clubs including:

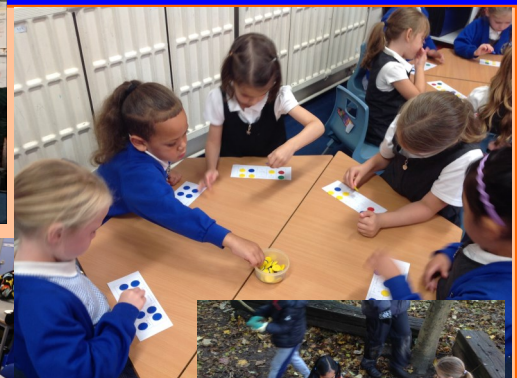
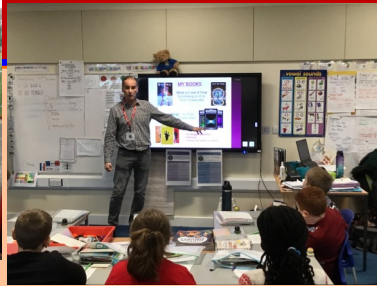
- Choir
- Hama Beads
- Football
- Netball
- Creative writing
- Gardening club
- Golden ticket

Next Term

We would really like to use the ideas listed below to improve on are school environment. As this is year six's last year we would like to make it the best. Here are some of our school council ideas:

- Buddy bench
- More club's
- Senior School council Tuesday club
- more fun and exciting activities

We have many ideas to improve our school and make this school the best it can be!



Meet the PTA Trustees



Chair

Michelle joined the Parents Teacher Association (PTA) in 2021 and assumed the role of Chair in 2022. She has been a dedicated employee at the Bar Council for 11 years, where she oversees the business partnership portfolio, membership fees, and various services. Additionally, Michelle volunteers her time with the NSPCC.

Michelle is a firm believer in the PTA's vital role within the school community. Over the years, the PTA has successfully raised substantial funds, which have been utilised to enhance the educational experience and development of students at Stanway Primary School. Beyond fundraising, the PTA strives to foster connections between home and school, bringing together staff, parents, grandparents, and friends in support of the school.

In her spare time, Michelle enjoys watching football, building model cars, and reading.

Vice Chair

Megan joined the PTA in 2022 as Vice Chair and has continued in this role for the past couple of years. She will be serving as Vice Chair again this year.

Megan works full-time at Essex County Council as a Registration Officer. She has two boys and has been a parent at the school for eight years, with her youngest child still attending. Megan enjoys planning events and designing content for our social media platforms, although she leaves the artistic flyers to Jemma and Jon.

Fun fact about Megan: In 2023, she bred a litter of eight Double Doodle puppies but has promised herself it was a one-off experience. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family and watching musicals whenever she can.





Treasurer

Jemma joined the PTA in 2022 and took on the role of Secretary in 2023. This year, she has assumed the position of Treasurer. Jemma has three children, two of whom currently attend the school. She is employed part-time as a Staffing and Finance Officer at the University of Essex. Jemma is highly dedicated to the PTA, demonstrating her commitment through her artistic talents and significant contributions. She has played a pivotal role in designing and constructing the nurture cabin, as well as creating the games and boards featured at our exceptional Summer Fayre.

Fun fact about Jemma: she is surprisingly skilled on a pogo stick and at Jenga. She is also training to run her first marathon next year.

Secretary

Jon is new to our school and has assumed the position of Secretary this year. He is a father of three with a passion for drawing, music, and crochet. He loves spending time with his family and browsing Hobbycraft. He works as a freelance illustrator. In his spare time, Jon enjoys attending gigs, bingeing boxsets, and watching live comedy. He is really looking forward to working with everyone in the PTA and raising money for our school.





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SPRING TERM 2025

JANUARY

Monday 6 th	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 7 th	Children return to school
Tuesday 7 th	Reception Heights, Weights & Vision Checks (9:00am)
Monday 13 th	New Intake Tour (1:30pm)
Thursday 16 th	Census Day
Tuesday 28 th	6 Rowling Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Wednesday 29 th	Chinese New Year
Thursday 30 th	6 Tolkien Class Assembly (2:30pm)

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 4 th	5 Rauf Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Thursday 6 th	5 Shakespeare Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Tuesday 11 th	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th	Parents Evening (4:00pm-7:00pm)
Thursday 13 th	Parents Evening (3:30pm-6:30pm)
Friday 14 th	Break up for Half Term
Monday 24 th	Children return to school
Thursday 27 th	Bikeability Course 1 (9:45am-2:30pm)
Friday 28 th	Bikeability Course 1 (10:00am-2:30pm)

MARCH

Thursday 6 th	World Book Day
Thursday 6 th	Bikeability Course 2 (9:45am-2:30pm)
Friday 7 th	Bikeability Course 2 (10:00am-2:30pm)
Monday 10 th	Science Week
Friday 14 th	Maths Mantle
Tuesday 18 th	3 Morpurgo Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Wednesday 19 th	Bikeability Course 3 (9:45am-2:30pm)
Thursday 20 th	Bikeability Course 3 (10:00am-2:30pm)
Thursday 20 th	3 Wilson Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Wednesday 26 th	Year 2 Trip to Colchester Zoo
Wednesday 26 th	Bikeability Course 4 (9:45am-2:30pm)
Thursday 27 th	Bikeability Course 4 (10:00am-2:30pm)
Thursday 27 th	Year 4 Parents Dinner (tbc)
Friday 28 th	PTA Event – Mother's Day

APRIL

Tuesday 1 st	2 Bond Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Thursday 3 rd	2 Dahl Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Friday 4 th	Break up for Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2025

APRIL

Tuesday 22 nd	Children return to school
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MAY

Wednesday 7 th	Throughout the month – KS1 SATs Reception Trip to Hasty's Adventure Farm
Monday 12th – 15th	KS2 SATs
Thursday 15 th	Census Day
Monday 19 th	Art Mantle Week
Tuesday 20 th	1 Blake Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Thursday 22 nd	1 Donaldson Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Friday 23 rd	Art Exhibition

JUNE

Thursday 5 th	New Intake Meeting (5:00pm-6:00pm)
Friday 13 th	PTA Father's Day Event
Tuesday 17 th	R Hendra Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Thursday 19 th	R Rosen Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Thursday 19 th	Year 2 Parents Dinner
Monday 23 rd	New Intake Individual Meetings
Tuesday 24 th	EYFS Multi-Skills Event at Rowhedge
Thursday 26 th	Year 6 Transition Day (tbc)
Thursday 26 th	Moving Up Day/Open Evening

JULY

Tuesday 1 st	4 Jackson Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Wednesday 2 nd	New Intake Stay and Play
Thursday 3 rd	4 Zephaniah Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Thursday 3 rd	New Intake Stay and Play
Tuesday 8 th	Year 6 Performance (time tbc)
Thursday 10 th	Year 6 Performance (time tbc)
Thursday 10 th	Meet The Teacher
Saturday 12 th	PTA Summer Fayre (11:00am-2:30pm)
Monday 14 th – Wednesday 16 th	Year 6 Residential Trip to Bawdsey Manor
Tuesday 15 th	EYFS Transition
Tuesday 22 nd	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 22 nd	Break up for Summer Holiday