



STONE ST MARY'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Caring Growing Shining Together'

Dear Parents/Carers

Can you believe we are moving towards the end of Term 1 – time is flying but it has been great to have the good weather during September meaning the children have been able to use the school field for longer.



Our Autumn break this year runs from Wednesday 23rd October until Friday 1st November 2024 inclusive.

Our last day this term will therefore be **Tuesday 22nd October (collection at normal time)** and children will return to school on Monday 4th November 2024.

Collective Worship

Congratulations to Dolphins, Crickets, Jaguars & Foxes classes who have performed their class worship. Well done to them all!

It is a great time for the children to be able to reflect on school values and visions and use different class messages to help them in life.

A big thank you to all the Parents who attended and supported worships – the children love to see you watching them and seeing how proud you are of them!

Harvest Festival



We will be holding our Harvest Festival on Monday 21st October 2024 :

KS2 – 9.15am – Thanksgiving Worship

KS1 – 2.00pm – Thanksgiving Worship

Please bring donations of food including biscuits, sweets and toiletries that can be used at the St Mary's food bank.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

All parents are welcome to join us in our celebrations.

Medication in school

If your child is unwell and requires medication during school time, the medication must be brought into the school office and you must complete the medication form, so we can administer it during the school day.



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School photographs

Individual school photographs took place on Friday 11th October, please scan the code on the card given to your child on the day to order the photographs.

#Hello Yellow Day

On Thursday 10th October we took part in World Mental Health Day which is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. Thank you to some of our Year 6 Junior Leadership Team who lead our #HelloYellow workshops.



The children also took part in a young minds workshop to raise awareness. Thank you for your kind donations, the school raised over £450.00.

Train Safety Workshop

On Tuesday 15th October a representative from Network rail came into school to speak to the children about the importance of rail safety.

Show Racism the Red Card

Today the children took part in 'Wear Red Day' we all stood together as a community to say no to racism.

Our Agents for Change lead worship today and spoke about the importance of being united as one and how as a school we say no, we will not tolerate any racist behaviour.



New Year R intake – September 2025

OPEN EVENTS FOR YEAR R INTAKE SEPTEMBER 2025

(birth date 01.09.2020 – 31.08.2021)

We will again be holding our very sought after Open Mornings so that families are able to look around our lovely school and be able to see how much we have to offer our pupils.

Tuesday 5th November

9.15am -10.15am Tour & Headteacher Talk

Thursday 21st November

1.45pm – 3.00pm Tour & Headteacher Talk

Wednesday 4th December

9.15am -10.15am Tour & Headteacher Talk

Please telephone the school office on 01322 382292 to ensure that you have booked a slot at one of our open events.

Please pass on this information to any families that you know who may have new Reception children.

Year 6 Remembrance Worship –Monday 11th November 2024

Year 6 will be leading our Remembrance Worship in school. This will take place at 9.15am. We invite all year 6 parents to join the whole school in sharing in with this remembrance time.

Poppies and other products will be sold daily from Monday 4th November. Please ensure you have some money to donate for these purchases.



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Attendance

If your child is absent from school, please telephone and speak with the office before 9.00am. If we do not receive a reason for absence on the morning, then this will be recorded as unauthorised.

The Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance changed from 19th August 2024, With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes have come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid with 28 days. Reduced to £80 per child, per child if paid within 21 days, Per Parent, Per Child Penalty notices are issued per parent for each child that was absent.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a penalty notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent per child paid within 28 days. No discount will be offered.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to a magistrates court. Prosecution can result in a criminal record/s and fines of up to £2500.

The attendance policy can be found on the school's website.

Attendance Ladder



Morning drop off / Lateness

Morning drop off, the gates close promptly at 8.55am, once this happens you will need to press the buzzer at the main gate. From 8.55am - 9am your child must go through the school office to their classrooms to ensure they are not late, no parents are able to walk their child to their classroom.

If your child arrives after 9am they are late, persistent lateness also contributes to a loss in a child's education.

So please ensure you are getting your children to school promptly.

Getting your child to school on time really matters

| If in a school year your child is late everyday | Your child would have lost approximately | Or they would have missed approximately |
|---|--|---|
| ***** | ***** | ***** |
| 5 Minutes | 3 days from school | 16 lessons lost |
| 10 Minutes | 5 days from school | 32 lessons lost |
| 15 Minutes | 8 days from school | 48 lessons lost |
| 20 Minutes | 11 days from school | 63 lessons lost |
| 30 Minutes | 16 days from school | 95 lessons lost |

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Football Teams

On Tuesday 24th September, saw the first sporting event of the year - the Girls Annual Tournament! They won their group and were back on Friday for the final!

On Friday 27th September saw the year 5/6 girls take part in the final, despite the weather, the girls showed determination and teamwork on the pitch. A huge congratulations to the girls who represented the school! Overall, they came 4th out of 26 schools - an incredible performance!



On Thursday 26th September several of our year 5 and 6 boys represented the school in the annual tournament organised by Dartford FC. The boys played well in all of their matches and came tied second in their group. Well done to the boys!



Netball Team

The school netball team competed at the Trust Netball competition on Thursday 26th September and showed great determination, team work and perseverance.

They all had lots of fun and can't wait for their next match.

Hockey

On Friday 11th October several of our year 3 and 4's represented the school in a Rush Hockey event held at Gravesend Hockey Club. They all enjoyed taking part in lots of different hockey drills, learning new skills and working together as a team. This helped us in the next session when we started to play against other teams. All our students showed great sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the morning.

Well done to all of those that took part!



On the same day some of our year 6's represented the school in a Quick Sticks tournament at Gravesend Hockey Club. They played well in their teams and had lots of fun! Each of our teams won a game out of the several they played. Well Done everyone!



Highland Games

On Thursday 17th October some of our year 3 and 4's took part in the Highland Games! From welly throwing, to throwing the caber to tug of war, lots of fun was had throughout the morning. Each child showed great sportsmanship and determination!



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Parent Consultations – by appointment

We will be implementing some changes regarding parent consultations, which are as follows:

Appointments during the day:

Mon 18th November 8.30am – 4.00pm
(Kipper, Ladybirds, Beetles, Otters, Turtles, Tigers & Eagles)

Tues 19th November 8.30am – 4.00pm
(Gruffalo, Bumblebees, Grasshoppers, Foxes, Sharks, Jaguars & Swifts)

Weds 20th November 8.30am – 4.00pm
(Elmer, Dragonflies, Crickets, Meerkats, Dolphins, Lions & Falcons)

Appointments after school:

Thurs 21st November 4.30pm – 7.00pm

Notifications will come to you after the break to let you know how you can book a time slot with your child's teacher through Arbor – watch this space.

Parent Workshops

Many thanks for all those parents who came to the Phonics Workshop. It was great to hear all of the positive feedback and how much you thought it had helped you to understand the different strategies used in Stone classrooms to support your child with their phonics learning..

The next parent workshop is to be held on Tuesday 25th November at either 9.00am until 10am in the school hall or 6.00pm – 7.00pm online via teams. The topic for this workshop is KS2 Maths workshop.

It would be really great to see lots of parents at this event as we have lots to share with you in the teaching of maths across KS2 and how you can help support your child's progress too.

More information will be sent out in due course to sign up for this workshop.

Year 6 Roles And Responsibilities

Congratulations to our newly appointed Junior Leadership team- Abaan M, Nella O, Masimba C, Vanessa A, Nora C and Braxton W.

By the end of this term each of our Year 6 pupils will have a responsibility. We look forward to seeing this support their maturity, continued growth and development.

House Captains

St. George's – Toni F & Peter S

St. Patrick's – Zion O & Dami J

St. David's – Esme D & Lewis R

St. Andrew's – Amalia C & Creedan-Lee M

We look forward to all of the above supporting our school community in lots of different ways throughout the year and being excellent role-models for all the pupils across the school.

This team will help support the school leadership team in continuing to drive school improvement through a monitoring programme. We look forward to working alongside them.

Agents for change

This term the Agents for Change lead an anti racism worship as part of wear red day. We have also helped to create an anti bullying video which will be shared nationally when it is edited so watch out for this.

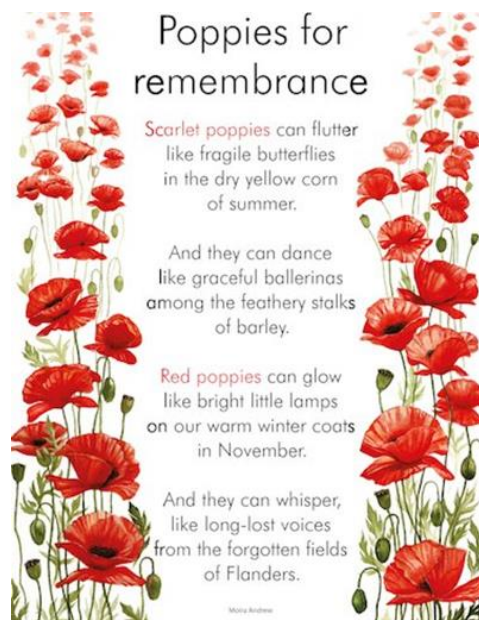
Today we shared our 'KS 2 advert' and opened up applications for some New Agents for Change, letters will need to be written explaining why children would make good Agents and handed into the school office if anyone wishes to apply.

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Diary Dates

Please make sure you write all of the dates into your diary for Term 2 so that you do not miss anything!

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Mon 21 st Oct | Harvest Festival | KS2 – 9.15am KS1 – 2.00pm |
| Tues 22 nd Oct | Wear PINK day – in aid of breast cancer awareness – donations via buckets & Arbor | |
| Tues 22 nd Oct | Last day of term | Normal finish time |
| Mon 4 th Nov | First day of term 2 | |
| Tues 5 th Nov | Admissions for Sept 2025 – Open event | 9.15am |
| Weds 6 th Nov | NHS - Flu Immunisations | Whole School |
| Mon 11 th Nov | Year 6 Remembrance worship – Parents welcome | 9.15am |
| Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd Nov | No After School teacher led clubs – Due to parent consultations | |
| Mon 18 th Nov – Weds 20 th Nov | Parent Consultations (See above for details) – By appointment | 8.30am – 4.00pm |
| Thurs 21 st Nov | Admissions for Sept 2025 – Open event | 1.45pm |
| Thurs 21 st Nov | Parent consultations – By appointment | 3.30pm – 7.00pm |
| Fri 22 nd Nov | Non Uniform day – Donations of Chocolate | |



Many thanks to everyone for their continued support – please have a great break and we look forward to a fun-packed Term 2!

Mrs Jane Rolfe – Headteacher



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