



Stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 18

22 May 2020

Half term holiday update

We will be closed for half term and no learning will appear on Google classroom. Thankyou for your support this term. Enjoy the break!

Children returning after 1st June

A letter has been sent to you if your child is in Year R, Year 1 or Year 6 or one of our keyworker children. This is personalized to each bubble. Please read carefully, even if you're not planning on sending your child in straight away. Videos for children will be on Google classroom in the half term and we'll text you when they're ready.

Sporting success!

Yet again, we won the small school 'School Games' award for the whole of the Test Valley this week – well done to all of you who took part! Mrs Hutchinson & Mrs Lee ran 1 mile to celebrate!

Sunshine brightens our days

Haven't we had the gift of such beautiful weather in the last 10 weeks of being at home? It's been really lovely seeing so many children on class assemblies and parents and children out walking and on their bikes. I do hope that even in the difficult moments, there have been times of joy and happiness. I know the children will be loving spending this precious time with you – they'll never get it again. Thankyou so much for your continued support, especially in the face of changes to year groups coming back and continued home schooling.

Mrs Jefferies
Headteacher

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN – WE LOVE HAVING THE HOUSE MARTINS EACH YEAR.



House Martins

By Evie Matthews, age 11 and Magnus Bradbury, age 10

This week, Stockbridge Primary School key worker group have been looking at the birds that have migrated all the way from Africa over to our school in the U.K. These birds are called House Martins. When we have been playing out in the playground we noticed they had arrived and had started to build their nests for their babies! We were very excited to see these wondrous creatures. To discover more about House Martins we were able to witness them dashing around in the air trying to catch small bugs as food for the chicks.

What did we discover?

When we were on the playground observing the House Martins we discovered that before they enter their nest they almost hit our heads! They are quick and they glide on the wind when their wings get tired. Their babies, when they have grown feathers and are about to leave the nest, are called fledglings and we were almost able to witness one being brave enough to do this. On the internet we researched to find that they come

back to the same nest each year (I mean how do they not get lost?!) They have up to 4-5 eggs! Imagine having to look after that many children and turning them into teenagers!!! We heard their song and it's so high pitched.

Did you know??

Did you know house Martins
never land! They only land
in their nests!!!

Facts about House Martins

House Martins are 12.5 cm long and their wingspan is 28cm long. They eat small bugs in the sky by opening their mouth and catching them for their chicks. They belong to the family of Martins and Swallows as well as Swifts since they are all migrating birds. A group of house Martins is called a 'cerclage'. It takes them 10 days to make a nest out of mud, which I find crazy because they are really small. It takes their eggs 14-16 days to hatch. House Martins place their nests underneath eaves in houses. They make a high-pitched *pritt pritt* sound and they use it in the air as well. They fly at 5.3 wing beats (per second)

Did you know a House Martin's diet?

They eat; wax worms, crickets, flying ants and meal worms. They must be small because they need to feed it to their babies.

Random facts!

- weight= 15-23 grams
- Fledge days 19-25
- breeding= April-May
- Scientific name= *Delichon urbica*
- Lifespan= 2 years
- Number of clutches 2-3

