



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 6

23 October 2026

Holidays are here!

The killer 8 week term is DONE! Well done to our whole school community for pushing through and making it to half term – there have been few sniffles and illnesses which is a blessing as children have really got stuck into their learning and found their feet and routines.

As I write this, I'm listening to one of our Year 3 children reading with Mrs Downes, one of our volunteers who gives up her time to come and read with our children. It's so much more than just reading though! Our volunteers are superb and share their life knowledge, experience and passion for reading and life with the children. The conversation is prompted by an event in their reading books and interspersed with laughter and chatter.

Our PTA are also in school prepping the hall for our eagerly anticipated pumpkin party! There has been MUCH chatter about this during the week.

We also have a winner of the conker competition! Arthur Foord in year 6 conquered (literally conkered!) Josie (year 3) in the final – well done to them both for making it so many rounds.

It was with great pride today that we sent off over 40 shoeboxes stuff with amazing goodies for children in the UK and abroad – thank you to all who contributed either items or a completed shoebox, the Rotary club wrote to me immediately afterwards to say "Stockbridge's generosity is very much appreciated!" THANK YOU!

I wish you all a happy and hopefully relaxing half term holiday and look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 2nd November.

Mrs Emma Jefferies
Headteacher



Safety

A local headteacher, whose friend works in the burns unit at Salisbury hospital asked us to share this message.

We will be learning about firework safety in the first week back but please do take care around Halloween with naked flames and costumes particularly.

Thanks!

All change!

Today marks a fond farewell to Mrs Hughes as she leaves to have her baby girl. We are so grateful for all she has contributed to the school over the last 8 years – she is a shining example of what we hope our children aspire to be. She has been a critical part of our Stockbridge family and we now wish her all the very best as she looks after her own. Mrs Luke has already begun and is getting to know the children well, we'd like to really extend a warm welcome to her as she too becomes part of our 'family' here.

Carving collaborations

The pumpkin carving entries were AMAZING this year – a very welcome return to a lovely addition to the pumpkin party. Thank you to FOSS for a fabulous party!

The winners were:

Funniest: Sienna's

Most creative: Edith's

Most Scary: Georgiana



Winter school uniform

After October half term, we are into winter uniform.
Quite simply:

Trousers not shorts

Grey dresses or pinafores not red and white check dresses

Tights are preferable over socks if wearing a skirt/dress

Please ensure school shoes and jumpers are still smart and not chewed or torn or holey.

Winter PE kit:

- ☐ Jogging bottoms (plain and black or navy)
- ☐ Red PE t-shirt with logo
- ☐ Hoody or spare school jumper
- ☐ Spare socks in case of wet feet
- ☐ Gloves and a woolly hat

We do PE in most weathers other than torrential rain.

Trading Tuesdays

We are still aiming to be on the field as much as possible during the winter but we have to be realistic about the weather and mud!

We are therefore introducing 'trading Tuesdays' where children can bring their football, pokemon and other top trump cards etc **ON TUESDAYS** only and we will provide a safe, adult led space on the playground to swap and exchange cards.

This does not need to result in spending lots and lots on new cards or children giving away cards they treasure and we will be reiterating this in our Tuesday assembly each week.

Cards will be kept in classrooms in a 'trading Tuesday' box during the day.

REGULAR



UPDATES

Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

Learning

So that you can get a heads up and know what your child will be learning about next half term, here is an overview for each class/section of school. Anything you can read, do, experience around these topics would really give your child a flying start to their learning and pique their interest.

Sprat & Winkle	Our youngest children have such an exciting topic 'Fire and Flames' and will try to formulate their own answer to the big question 'how do other people celebrate?' All of their drawing club books, which inspire writing and creativity, are built around a range of tales about fire and legends and they will be down in forest school on 'Forest School Fridays' with Mrs Jefferies and Miss Aplin. On Tuesday 8 th December their topic will culminate in Rory Bear's birthday party at The Grosvenor. Children will be learning the rhyme of London's Burning, be able to recite 'remember, remember the 5 th of November and know the fairytale of the Frog prince. Exciting times!
Lower School Redbridge & Horsebridge	
The topic title of Autumn's next learning unit is 'CHALK AND CHEESE' and its focus is on the Victorians and what school was like in Victorian times compared to now. We'll celebrate and investigate our school being established in the Victorian period and look at how school has changed over time so we will definitely be drawing on your school experiences as well as those of your parents and grandparents where possible. Stockbridge School was started in the Town Hall in the 1890s and moved to our current building in 1910. We still have the original building drawings and specification by the architects as well as the log books going all the way back to 1890 – if your relative attended here, we'll be able to find out what they got up to! The topic will be brought to life with our Manor Farm visit on Thursday 5 th November 2026 where children can see what a Victorian classroom would have been like. We will broaden our contextual and global understanding of schools across the world also and look in our outdoor learning at how playground games have developed and changed over the years (or not!). our driving question will be 'Is life fair?' We will explore artwork by Lowry and then in RE learning, we will branch out into learning about how Christianity and Judaism use light as a symbol.	
Upper School Mottisfont & Clatford	
After a hugely successful Ancient Greeks topic this term, upper school are turning their heads to history closer to home; Shakespeare and his stories in their topic 'Lights, Camera, Action'. They will read Macbeth (both classes) and then Clatford will study Romeo & Juliet and Mottisfont will tackle Midsummer Night's Dream. Children will apply learning from design and technology of cams, levers and pulleys to create 'maquette' which is a stage design in a box. They will visit the Mayflower theatre on Tuesday 24 th November and have a private backstage tour to see how plays and performances are created and shaped as well as seeing scenery production and changes. In Science, children will be exploring electricity, light and sound and will also incorporate these elements into their maquettes. Their RPSHE learning focuses on celebrating our differences and e-safety learning, done on the first Monday back after half term and then threaded through the teaching in the following weeks, will develop children's understanding of online relationships; the dos and don'ts and how to stay safe. In forest school, Clatford will build on previously taught skills of creating fires and cooking over fire (like the witches in Macbeth!) and Mottisfont will	

From time to time we send home information about local clubs which may be of interest to families. We are in no way endorsing these clubs and urge parents to carry out their own safeguarding checks:

- Are the staff qualified to teach what they're teaching?
- Are they DBS (police) checked?
- What's the safeguarding policies for the organisation?
- How will they keep my child safe, engaged and manage unwanted behaviours in a way I am comfortable with? **Might be some questions to ask before enrolling!**

Diary Dates Autumn term 2026-27

These are diary dates for parents for the next fortnight until the next newsletter is out.

Our website is also updated with all of these new dates and will now be up to date as we've bravely moved to an online diary for all staff!

Date	Who does it apply to?	Time	Notes
OCTOBER			
Mon 26th – Fri 30th All HALF TERM			
NOVEMBER			
Mon 2nd	All	All	Back to school!
Thurs 5th	Years 1-3	0.9.00am – 3.00pm	Manor Farm trip – Dress up in Victorian clothes – Letter to follow
Fri 6th	Selected children		Junior Road Safety Officer training
Tues 10th	Years 4-6	9.30am	INFilm showing of Wonka at the Town Hall
Wed 11th	S&W - CFD	8.40am – 6.40pm	Parent meetings – MFT will have meetings at the end of November. Link to follow
Wed 11th	Whole school	10.45am	Whole school at War memorial to commemorate Remembrance Day
Sun 12th	Year 6	9.30am	Remembrance Sunday service in church – year 6 reading
Wed 18th	Years R-3	1.30pm	Road Safety live presentation
Thurs 19th	All	9am	Church assembly at St Peter's
Fri 20th	All	All	Time to shine day – dress in something bright! Road safety awareness
Tues 24th	Upper Sch	All day	Mayflower Theatre visit – Letters to follow
Fri 27th	All	Lunchtime	Stir up Sunday lunch – TBC
Thurs 3rd	All	9am	Church assembly at St Peter's
Fri 4th	All	3.15pm	Carols around the tree for all and then year 3/4 opening Christmas lights on the High Street – tractor parade at 4pm from outside school
Sat 5th	All	Am	Christmas tree sale/collection from St Peter's (FOSS run)
Tues 8th	Year R	Am	Party at The Grosvenor linked to topic
Wed 9th	Guitar players	9.15am	Guitar concert
Fri 11th	Years R-2	6pm	Nativity in the church
Tues 15th	All	Lunchtime	Whole school Christmas lunch
Thurs 17th	All	All day	Visit to the Christmas play at The Watermill, Newbury – packed lunch there
Fri 18th	All	1pm	End of school term.