



SOUTH STOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Welcome back everyone! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and it's lovely to see all the children again and a special welcome to our new starters. We are looking forward to an action-packed term, full of learning, and it's great to see all the children start with eagerness and curiosity for the term ahead.

BUTTERFLIES

This term, the children have an exciting and varied programme of learning ahead! In Science, we will be investigating how our bodies help us survive and move, exploring skeletons, bones, joints and muscles. In Geography, we will become local geographers, investigating how land is used in and around South Stoke and carrying out our own fieldwork. In Art, we will take inspiration from artist Tianyin Wang to explore how tone, monochrome and different marks can be used to create texture and form in animal artwork. In RE, we will explore why churches are important to Christians, including how they are used for prayer and worship and to celebrate important events such as Baptism and Holy Communion. In PSHE, our focus on Rights and Responsibilities will encourage the children to think about their responsibilities at home, in the community and towards the environment, as well as exploring money, facts and opinions, and how we can make a positive difference. In Computing, the children will become digital designers through our Desktop Publishing unit, learning how text, images, fonts, templates and page layouts can be combined effectively for different purposes. In Music, we will continue developing our skills on our brass instruments, building confidence and musicianship as we learn to play together. Across all of our learning, we will encourage the children to be curious, creative and independent, and to grow in confidence when explaining and sharing their ideas.

CATERPILLARS

This term we are welcoming our new children and establishing learning routines and expectations. As well as starting some exciting learning. In Maths we will be focusing on number and place value knowledge. In English we will be using a range of texts to explore sentence construction and how to write an interesting sentence. In Science we will be investigating seasonal changes with a focus on Autumn. In Geography we will be looking at the local area its features and how it changes throughout the seasons. In Art we will be exploring colour and paint and creating our own seasonal paintings. In RE we will be exploring kindness; through Christian stories. In PSHE our focus is on our feelings and how we can communicate and share

these. In Computing we will be exploring how technology can help us and different parts of a computer; we will also be developing our mouse and keyboard skills. In music we will be looking at how music and actions can work together to tell stories. Across all our learning we will be exploring and encouraging our values of curiosity, compassion and confidence.

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

Please could any communication with school be made via the school office by using the office email address: office.2507@south-stoke.oxon.sch.uk rather than individual staff emails. This is to ensure that emails are checked regularly and can be passed on to the relevant member of staff as quickly as possible.

INSPIRING VISITORS AND WORKSHOPS

Do you know anyone inspiring who would like to visit our school and demonstrate or talk about their work? We are looking for sports people, authors or anyone who can share their experiences and inspire our children. Please get in touch if you have anyone in mind.

PARKING

As you will be aware there is a lot of building work taking place on The Street in the vicinity of the school, as well as scaffolding opposite the school. Please ensure that you drive and park considerately to allow plenty of room for construction and utility vehicles to pass through the village.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Sports Club with Coach James will take place on a Monday and Friday until 4.30pm.

LEGO club will continue on a Tuesday afternoon until 4.15pm on the following dates:

8th and 15th September

6th and 13th October

3rd, 10th and 24th November

1st, 8th and 15th December

On the remaining Tuesdays, as well as Wednesdays and Thursdays there will be after school clubs with a teacher until 4.15pm with the activities to be confirmed.

TIPS FOR ONLINE SAFETY FROM NSPCC

If you are looking for online safety advice, sites such as parentzone.org.uk, commonsensemedia.org, nspcc.org.uk, internetmatters.org and lgfl.net are great places to look! The NSPCC have written a guide with helpful tips to help you decide what's right for your child in terms of tech ownership and usage throughout childhood, thinking about under 5s, under 10s, pre-teens and teens as well as children with SEND.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

SOUTH STOKE SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the new school year and to all new parents. As everyone knows school budgets are stretched so the Parents Association is the charity group that fundraises for the extra things the children get to do in school like whole school trips, class events like "Young Voices," school parties, after school clubs and making the children's experiences of school a positive and fun one.

If you would like to get involved we have a Parents Association Whatsapp group we would love for you to join. You can be as involved as much or as little as you want so there is no pressure. Our two main fundraising events are Firework Night and May Day but last year we attended Goring Christmas evening and Woodcote Rally too.

Dates for your diaries

AGM – Thursday 24th September

Everyone is welcome and even if you do not want to take on a designated role but still want to know what is happening or share ideas then please join us. The more the merrier.

Clothing Drop off – Tuesday 22nd September

See separate leaflet. Great for the school and also the world.

Fireworks Night – 23rd October 2026

This year we will be doing the Doughnut stall, the BBQ and the Glow Stick stall so we need lots of volunteers. This is the main fundraising event and last year we raised several thousand pounds and without this event we would not be able to supplement the trips and clubs we do so it is so important.

More information will be sent out nearer the time asking for helpers on the day and night – even half hour would make a difference.

Thank you in advance.

As many of you are aware we are planning on supporting the school with their new school library venture and last term all the children got to choose a book from Wallingford Bookshop to go in the school library, funded by the Parents Association. It was lovely to see them all join in and hopefully we can continue to support the school this new academic year.

Other ways to support the PA:

South Oxfordshire school Lottery

If you are unable to attend or help at events but still want to support the PA then you can sign up for the South Oxfordshire Charity Lottery for a chance of winning prizes while contributing to good causes. If we sell over 20 tickets a week we get into a draw to earn more money and we are currently on 15 so please consider joining.

If you haven't signed up yet visit our page -<https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/south-stoke-primary-school-pa>

EASY FUNDRAISING

You can help South Stoke Primary School - Nr Reading WIN a £500 donation prize in easyfundraising's giveaway this month! South Stoke Primary School - Nr Reading will get a FREE entry each time a new supporter signs up before the 29th January! It only takes a moment and it's completely free, so please get involved if you haven't already - this would really boost our 2026 fundraising:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/southstokeprimary/oLGO9o/s2s/E7OVWoLo/PMCo4/email/>

As always thank you for your support 😊

Amy Snell

Chair of the Parents Association

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Clubs running this term are:

Monday	3:15 – 4:30	Sports club with Coach James
Tuesday	3:15 – 4:15	Lego club with Creative Brick Company / Teacher after school club
Wednesday	3:15 – 4:15	Teacher after school club
Thursday	3:15 – 4:15	Teacher after school club
Friday	3:15 – 4:30	Sports club with Coach James

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

Wednesday 2nd September	Terms starts
Thursday 24th September	Open afternoon 1.30pm – 3.15pm
Monday 12th October	Open afternoon 1.30pm – 3.15pm
Thursday 15th October	Harvest Festival 2.30pm
Monday 19th October	Flu vaccinations
Thursday 22nd October	End of term 3.15pm
Friday 23rd October	INSET (no children in school) and South Stoke Bonfire Night

Monday 2nd November	Term starts
Thursday 5th November	Parents Evening
Thursday 19th November	Open afternoon 1.30pm – 3.15pm
Tuesday 15th December	Nativity performance 2.30pm
Wednesday 16th December	Nativity performance 10.30am
Thursday 17th December	Assembly 9.00am
Friday 18th December	Christmas lunch and end of term