



Newsletter 11 8th May 2026

Dear all,

The sun is shining, the children are spending a good amount of time outdoors and the Maypole is up. As I write this, Mr Flint's skipping club is in full swing, the music is blaring and – for whatever reason – there is a long, multi-year-group conga line winding its way around the field. We must be in the summer term!

Good luck to our Year 6s who face their SATs papers next week – they have worked so hard up to this point and we wish them the best of luck as they look to let their light shine and show themselves and everyone else just what they are capable of.

We are only three weeks into this term but already so much has happened, with so much still to come...

Carymoor

Following up on our whole school visit to Carymoor last summer, we were treated to a visit by Gary from their outreach team. We started with a whole school assembly on why we recycle before splitting the school in half for two great classroom workshops. Reception to Year 3 were learning all about what to feed our food waste bins while Year 4 to Year 6 went on a 'Waste Odyssey' travelling far into the future to find out what will happen if we don't look after our resources now.

The children were brilliant, impressing with how much knowledge they remembered from our trip back in the summer and what they know from home!



Otter Class visit from the police

Great excitement for our younger children last week as we had a police car parked up on the school field! Two officers from Avon and Somerset Police came to talk to Otter class and children from Willow Set all about the role of a police officer and how they help to keep us safe. As you can imagine there were many, many questions! The children had a great time... even if Mrs B did somehow end up in handcuffs.





Shine Time this term

Shine Time has a new offering for the summer term! Playdough Therapy and Scavenging for Otter class; Animation, Lego Engineering, Board Games and Stand-up Comedy for Kingfishers and Ravens. What a way to end the week! Thank you hugely once again to Julie and Mel for coming in and offering their time on Friday afternoons 🙏😊



Break The Rules day

I can imagine there has been some discussion about this at home! Next Friday, as a nice end to SATs week, we will be having our first 'Break The Rules' Day in school in support of Friends of School. As this is a new concept for the children at Stoke, it has brought up some interesting ideas (!) but has allowed us to have some really important conversations about why we have rules. It's also reminded us that – even we are going to relax some of our rules for the day – our school values are ever present and we still approach this day with the same understanding of love, imagination, gratitude, hope and togetherness as any other day.



School Council have led in terms of agreeing the rules that can be broken should children choose to on the day:

- Bring in any snack you like
- Eat your pudding first
- Change your drink (not fizzy!)
- Wear your own clothes (remember it's a PE day!)
- Hats and hoods allowed indoors
- Crazy hair including chalk colouring
- Nail varnish allowed
- Bring in a small toy to sit on your desk

To raise funds for FOS it is 50p per rule or £2 if you would like to break them all.

Kingfisher Class Victorian afternoon

Kingfisher Class had a visit from the Heritage Service yesterday afternoon, where we got to experience a typical Victorian school day. Our school first opened in 1857 so it may have given some insight into what it felt like to be at school then!

First we dressed up as Victorian children before we met our teacher, Miss Noble, who was very strict and quite scary at times especially when she waved her cane about! The boys had to sit at the front of the class because they were thought to be much more important than the girls and it was only the girls who did all the jobs!

After a prayer and an inspection of our hands to check they were spotlessly clean, we learned how Victorian children wrote on slates. We were only allowed to use our right hands so it was tricky for the left-handers and it was horribly scratchy and screechy. Next we did some reading together and then some arithmetic. We had to be totally silent at all times and say "Yes, Ma'am" if we were spoken to. Bertie, Lorelei and Billy were chosen to individually recite a poem from memory in front of the class which they did really well; they were so brave. Then we did PE, which was basically standing on the spot, bending and stretching.

We got to look at lots of different artefacts and photos, plus do some sewing that some of us were fantastic at! We also learned that all



children were expected to work after the school day to help their families, so there was little time for play. It really was a most enjoyable, informative afternoon and thankfully no-one got the cane – phew!

Huge thanks to Friends of the School for funding this session for us.

Pentecost worship for the whole village in the square

On Wednesday 3rd June, Reverend Simon will be leading a Pentecost Worship for the whole village at 11am in the square. The whole school will be in attendance – come and join us!

Whole School Summer Trip

On Tuesday 21st July (the penultimate day of the year) we will be keeping up our tradition of the whole school trip with a visit to Magdalen Farm near Chard. More details about this will come out soon – watch this space!

David Rowland
Headteacher


Key dates:

Thursday 7 th April	Kingfishers Victorian Experience
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Friday 15 th May	FOS Break the rules day
Monday 18 th May (evening)	The Oak Partnership Combined Choirs Concert
Thursday 21 st May (afternoon)	Maypole from 2pm
Friday 22nd May	INSET day
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	Half term
Monday 1st June	INSET day
Wednesday 3 rd June 11am	Pentecost worship for the whole village in the square
Friday 12 th June	Pyjamarama Day
Friday 19 th June	FOS Father's Day stall
Wednesday 24 th – Friday 26 th June	Ravens Activity Week
Wednesday 1 st July	Transition/Moving up Day
Friday 3 rd July	Sports Day (times tbc)
Tuesday 14th July *Change of date!*	Summer Show in The Williams Hall (afternoon and evening)
Tuesday 21 st July	Whole school trip to Magdalen Farm
Wednesday 22 nd July	Leavers Service (9.15am) and last day of the year


Safeguarding Information:

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please direct to one of our safeguarding team members: Mr Rowland, Mrs Anderson or Mrs Daniels.

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm or in danger, please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or by email at: childrens@somerset.gov.uk



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School transitioning


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A safe and easy way to contact your School Nursing Team

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Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service, it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.



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KATHERINE RUNDALL MIKEY PLEASE
ANDY DAY RACHEL BRIGHT
JOSEPH COELHO EMMA CARROLL**

AND MANY MORE, THE FESTIVAL PROMISES A VARIETY OF EVENTS AND AN ARRAY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COMIC BOOK CREATION AND WRITING WORKSHOPS, COSTUME APPEARANCES, STORYTELLING AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES TO SUIT ALL AGES.

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT TAUNTON BREWHOUSE AND OUR BEAUTIFUL BOOKSHOP.
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CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, AND CAN I LODGE MORE THAN ONE APPEAL?

There aren't any places at my preferred school, what can I do now?

I'VE MOVED INTO THE AREA AND NEED HELP FINDING A SCHOOL FOR MY CHILD.

IS THERE ANYONE THAT CAN SUPPORT ME PREPARING FOR MY APPEAL?

CHOICE ADVICE

Somerset Choice Advice is a free and impartial service which supports families with advice and practical support through the school admission and appeals processes. This service exists to ensure that parents can play an active and informed role in securing a school place for their child

Call us on **01823 356 903**

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