

December 2024

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Stourport Primary
Academy

Dream

Achieve

The latest news and information from the staff and children at Stourport Primary Academy.

What a fantastically full-on half term we have had! The sleigh bells started jingling as soon as we came back from the half term break as the children started rehearsing for a fabulous run of Christmas performances - starting on with Rainbow's Nativity - which always starts our Christmas festivities with a bang. I would like to thank you for supporting the children so well, as I am aware that these performances would not be as wonderful without you practising lines at home, listening to the songs around the house and sourcing some fabulous costumes! Equally, I would like to take an opportunity to thank all of the staff who have contributed in every little way possible to ensure the children gave the best performances they could.

We are very happy to announce that the SPA family has increased by not one, but two, this term! We send our warmest best wishes to Miss Bragg and her partner on the arrival of John Paul on the 7th December and to Mr and Mrs Bennett who welcomed Gus into the world on 21st October. We hope they have a wonderful 1st Christmas all together.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year - and we are looking forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 7th January.

Merry Christmas!



Stourport Forward Celebration Event

On Tuesday 5th November 18 members of year 5 and 6, along with Mrs Maybury and Mrs Thomas, went to Stourport Yacht club for a very special celebration.

Stourport Forward is a local group of volunteers who give up their time to help teach our children about Stourport's rich history. We are always very grateful for their time.

A year ago Gill, who helps run the organisation, approached Mrs Maybury to say that the organisation would be shutting down due to lack of funding. They had put a lottery bid in, but were not hopeful it would be successful. In September Gill emailed with the wonderful news that Stourport Forward had been successful in its bid and invited us to take part in the celebration event. 18 children sang 'Messing about on the River' and 'Peace is Flowing' to a selection of local dignitaries at Stourport Yacht Club. It was quite nerve-racking but the children did a wonderful job and got lots of applause. We were very proud of them!

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Reading FOR PLEASURE

We are delighted to continue to encourage **Reading for Pleasure**. In assembly this week, some children will be rewarded with books and reading hampers. We now have Mrs. Cartwright in the library every lunchtime who is keeping everything lovely and tidy in and also overseeing the colouring club. The library is open for parents every Thursday, from 3.30pm to 4pm. Parents can share books with their children and borrow books to take home.

We are holding an exciting **competition** taking place over the Christmas holidays and we need you to take part!

All you need to do is encourage your children to read and take a photograph of them reading in the most unusual place or position. You could read upside down, with your pet... the possibilities are endless! Photos should be emailed to: office@spa.saet.co.uk

Entries need to arrive no later than Thursday 9th January 2025 ready to be judged by the school council.



We are excited to announce that we have booked Ingestre Hall in Staffordshire from 8th-10th October. The trip will be open to children from current Year 2 through to current Year 5. The activities will be 'Arts' based with options to select: Drama, Art, Dance, Music and Animation. Letters will be sent out soon.

Curriculum Corner

Reception

Our topic for next half term will be 'Past and Present.' We will be exploring how things were before our lifetime began and delving deep into homes of the past, transport and dinosaurs! We are very fortunate to have borrowed an artefacts box from Hartlebury Museum to study real sources. We can't wait to become Historians. Alongside this, we will also be exploring further celebrations across the world by celebrating Chinese New Year.

Year 1

Year 1 will be travelling into the past to explore the history of toys through their topic of 'Welcome to the Toy Shop.' We will be discussing our favourite toys and comparing how they differ to toys played with by our parents and grandparents. In Art, we will be exploring the work of Allan Inman to create our very own still life drawing of a toy. We will finish our topic by hand crafting 6 different toys at the Toy Workshop.

Year 2



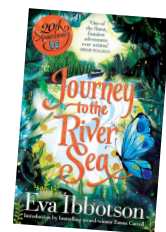
When we return after Christmas we will be studying London through our topic 'Fire! Fire! London.' We will begin by learning all about the history of the famous event the 'Great Fire of London.' Then we will travel forwards in time to study current famous landmarks.

Year 3

Year 3 will embark on an exciting journey to discover the wonders of the Polar Regions! They will explore the unique geography of these extreme environments, learning about the icy landscapes, harsh climates, and the incredible wildlife that calls them home. Alongside their geographical studies, they will delve into the captivating history of Ernest Shackleton, uncovering the challenges and triumphs of his legendary expedition to the South Pole. Through this topic, children will gain a deeper understanding of the resilience and determination required to explore one of the most unforgiving places on Earth.

Year 4

In Spring term, Year 4 are travelling around the World. We will learn about the physical and human features of the World as well as developing our skills as geographers. The topic will culminate with a World Cafe which will be our Design and Technology project for the term.



Year 5



Our topic next half term is 'Amazing African Americans'. We will be looking at the slave trade from the very beginning right up to its abolishment. We will be writing persuasive speeches inspired by Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech. We also have an exciting Art project to complete at the very start of the term! Our class reader will be 'Sisters and Champions' - alongside this we will also be reading biographies from the series 'Little People Big Dreams'.

Year 6

Next term Year 6 will be studying the topic 'Pollution Solution.' In this topic we aim to teach the children about the causes and consequences of pollution both locally and further afield. We also research companies, organisations and individuals who are trying to make a difference and improve the world we live in. To help us with this topic, we would love parents and children to be on the lookout for 'good' and 'bad' examples of packaging over Christmas. Please send in clean packaging for us to analyse in the New Year.

Kindness

Respect

Christmas at SPA



Our Christmas celebrations began on December 5th, with **Rainbow's Nativity**, which brought the 'Christmas Cheer' early to SPA this year. In the first week of December, Rainbow performed their first ever school production of 'The Sleepy Shepherd.' They spent so long rehearsing their lines, songs and dances and were thrilled when greeted with a huge round of applause from so many friends and family.

Key Stage 1 Year 1 and 2 children loved performing their KS1 Christingle to the school and to their parents/guardians. In the build up, they had been very busy practising their speaking parts, songs, dances and acting roles! Thank you again to all of the adults at home that sorted fantastic costumes.



Years 3, 4 and 5 took to the stage with their fantastic production of Bethlehem Bake-Off this year! This hilarious and heartwarming twist on the classic baking show featured talented young actors, singers, and dancers showcasing their skills. Thank you to all the parents/carers who provided the wonderful costumes worn by the children.

Year 6 Carol Service at St Michael's Church. We are very proud of Year 6 for how well they performed the Christmas Story. They delivered their lines with lovely expression and sang with enthusiasm and confidence. Thank you to Reverend Carey for inviting us to hold our Carol Service at St Michael's.

In the final week of term, we have had a visit from a certain gentleman dressed in red – yes, you guessed it – **Santa came to breakfast!** The children have had a wonderful time singing songs and telling jokes with Santa as well as tucking into a lovely breakfast and receiving their gift. Our **Christmas Lunch** was fabulously prepared by Laura and Liv! How they manage to prepare such an amazing feast for nearly 250 people and serve us in such a short space of time is magical!



The NHS has launched a new **Mental Health** website called LumiNova. LumiNova is a therapeutic game that helps children (7-12 years old) facing difficulties with anxiety, including:

- Phobias e.g. Being afraid of spiders or insects, heights, being near dogs, or the dark.
- Social anxiety e.g. Feeling worried about making new friends, going to social events.
- Separation anxiety e.g. Unable to sleep alone, worried about being away from parents, going to school.

<https://luminova.app/>

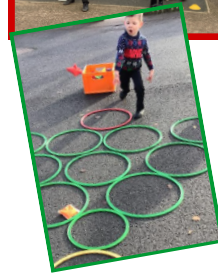


Honesty

Teamwork



The whole school found the time during this very busy period to get outside and be active. Due to the wet weather, we were unable to hold the event on the school field but this did not stop the children running around the elves' track, prancing around like reindeer, helping Santa save his baubles and decorating their own Christmas trees. Thank you for sending the children in with their favourite Christmas jumpers; they all looked very festive!



HOUSE POINTS

Another fantastic half term for all our houses. Well done to **Clee** house for winning this half term's total points.

GRAND TOTALS THIS HALF TERM			
656 BREDON	640 MALVERN	735 CLEE	688 CLENT

The children in **Clee** enjoyed their reward at the end of term.



Which house will win next half term? It's all to play for!



Fundraising for SPA:

We would like to **Thank you** all so much for supporting our fundraising efforts this term. We're pleased to announce that the Halloween disco and Christmas film night have brought in a very much needed £2000!!!

This term we have spent some of our fundraising pot on:

- New playground markings
- New books for the library and in classrooms.

With the ongoing support from all our Parents/Carers, we will continue our hard work of fundraising throughout the new year!

Well Done Everyone!



During Spring term all children need to bring in appropriate PE kit, which should consist of black/navy trousers, SPA navy blue T-shirt, trainers and SPA hoody. With the cold weather continuing, coats may be required during outdoor games lessons.

Please contact your child's class teacher or the school office if you need any help with PE kit.



This term, children have been thrilled to take part in TTRS! We've hosted exciting tournaments between year groups, classes, houses, and even schools. Children have been answering questions to earn coins and unlock the coveted Doubles Day guitars.

Next term promises even more excitement with brand-new items coming to the shop and fresh tournaments on the horizon. So, keep playing, and let the rock and roll continue! Rock on!

History Off The Page

Year 3 participated in a Stone Age workshop where they spent the day learning about life during the Stone

Age. They experienced an immersive and interactive day, examining items used during that era. The children created tool and arrowheads in the same manner as Stone Age people, investigated bones to understand their uses, attempted to create cave paintings in traditional Stone Age styles, and learned some archery skills.

Year 4 dressed up and spent a day being Vikings on the 18th October. We learned about many aspects of Viking life and wrote in Runes, made Thor's hammer necklaces as well as learning about daily life as a Viking. A great day was had by all.



The Egyptian Museum has been a fantastic success! We want to congratulate all the children for their hard work, effort, and enthusiasm. They have had a great time sharing their knowledge with their visitors. A big thank you to all the parents and visitors who gave

thier time to see all the children's hard work.

Cross Country

On Friday 15th November a group of Year 5 and 6 students took part in a very cold cross country event. Despite the cold weather, everyone involved performed admirably and supported each other thoroughly throughout the day. It was a pleasure to see such a wonderful group of students supporting each other and enjoying themselves.



On Wednesday 27th November, children and staff were treated to a very special piano recital during assembly. Luke Pender (one of our ex-pupils) who is currently in Year 10 returned to SPA to play the piano for us. Luke is an exceptionally talented musician who studies at the Birmingham

Conservatoire. He performed a range of classical and modern pieces as well as leading the whole school in singing 'Thick of It' by KSI, which he had learned especially for us.

The Children and staff were inspired by his performances and we do hope he will return again soon.



Kindness

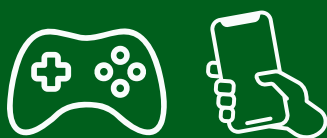
Respect

Online Safeguarding at Christmas

Online Safeguarding at Christmas

This Christmas lots of children will be using their smartphones and games consoles. Children often spend their free time digitally connected to both friends and family and we know this can be a lot of fun.

The catch is, of course, that anything with access to online platforms brings risk of cyberbullying, scams, and seeing content not appropriate for children.



A parent/carer plays a key role in helping their child/ren stay safe online. Any games or gadgets should be checked for safety and appropriate content, while communications and hours spent on them should be monitored.

Talk to your child about what they should do if someone tries to talk to them that they do not know and encourage them to share with you any communications which make them feel uncomfortable.

If you feel your child is being bullied, threatened or blackmailed online this is a criminal offence and should be reported to the police immediately.

STAY SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Attendance is a key priority at Stourport Primary because if children are not in, they cannot learn. Currently, our whole school attendance figure is 93.6% while the national average for primary school is 95.3% which means we still have some improvements to make. Therefore we are having a major focus on all year groups to ensure that attendance improves. Attendance is celebrated in school during our assemblies including classes receiving the 'punctuality puppies' for arriving at school on time each day.

There is still lots of work to do with attendance and we are meeting regularly with those that we are most concerned about. If you need any support with your child and attendance, please let us know and we will be happy to support.

Guide for Absence reporting

If your child is going to be absent you must contact school between 8:30 am and no later than 9:30am to let us know the reason why. (01299 822120) If no message is received the following procedure will be followed:

Day 1 – Phone call home or home visit

Day 2/3 – Home visit, carried out by the attendance team.

Day 5 – Follow up home visit, carried out by the attendance team.

We have a duty of care to ensure your child's safety as well as their regular school attendance. If your child's attendance is a concern, medical evidence may be requested (appointment card, medication, prescription etc).

The Top 3 classes for Attendance this half term were:

Elm: 95.7%, **Ash:** 97.3%, **Willow:** 94.8%

You can see the weekly updates on [Facebook](#), or the [attendance page of our website](#).

Upcoming Events

January 2025

7th - First Day of Spring Term
28th - KS2 RE Trip to Green Lane Masjid

February

3rd-7th - Children's Mental Health Week
4th and 6th - Parents' Evenings
7th - NSPCC Number Day
7th - KS1 Football Festival

17th-21st - Half Term

24th - First Day of Spring 2
28th - Dodgeball Festival

March

3rd-7th World Book Day Activities

7th - KS2 Girls' Football Festival
10th - Year 4 Roman Workshop
19th - Under 11's Indoor Athletics
24th - Year 5 & 6 Netball Festival

We will send out more details about events nearer the time. You can also see all of our events on the calendar on our website.

stourportprimary.worcs.sch.uk/news-and-events/calendar/

