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## NEWSLETTER 2

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# December 2024



# Stanton Drew Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

This term has been filled with wonderful activities and Christmas joy. Our Nativity and Christmas performances were a huge success across both schools, and the children's excitement about the amazing trips so far this year has been wonderful to see. These activities form part of our broader goal to provide children with the most rounded school experience possible, one that fills them with cultural capital, enjoyment in their learning, and the academic skills they need to be successful in the future.

It was a pleasure to spend time with our year 6 pupils as they embarked on one of the biggest adventures of their time at the Federation: Mill on The Brue! It was a privilege to see children facing and overcoming all sorts of challenges, encouraging each other, and needing to really draw on their resilience and courage. We are all really proud of everything they achieved on camp and hope that, in the future, the memories made will remind them that anything is possible when you step out of your comfort zone and believe in yourself! Year 5 can look forward to similar excitement at the residential to Charterhouse later this academic year. Other highlights have included Folly Farm and the Bristol pantomime. We have a superb calendar of trips and enrichment opportunities and look forward to sharing many more with the children throughout the year.

A personal highlight this term has been giving out the first of our 'presentation pouches'. These are the highest award available in school for presentation. Children are presented with these in celebration assembly and their coveted blue velvet pouch becomes a source of pride to showcase as role models for expectations and standards in their work. These can be awarded to anyone and, crucially, they are not about perfection. The standard needed to earn a presentation pouch is to take the best care that you possibly can to show pride in your work. Anyone can be awarded these for showing care and consistency in all that they do – children value these enormously and I hope to present many more throughout the year.

At the heart of everything we do in our Federation is a commitment to continually improve teaching and learning. This year, we are focusing on developing a consistent approach to pedagogy across the school, ensuring that every child receives the best possible teaching in a supportive environment where risk-taking in learning is encouraged. This can only happen when children feel safe to take those risks, knowing that they will be supported through those moments of challenge by the strong relationships with teachers that underpin everything. This builds on the fantastic work we've already done around growth mindset and embracing "marvellous mistakes," where we celebrate learning through effort and perseverance.



# Stanton Drew Primary School

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We are excited about our upcoming Inset day in January, where teachers will be participating in a training session focused on maths. This will support them in further enhancing their ability to help children to tackle challenge in their learning, particularly in areas where they may need extra support or extension. Please note that both schools will be closed for this on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January and the first day back for pupils is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Looking ahead to the next term, we will be introducing a whole-school value for the term—‘respect’—which we believe underpins our approach to building and sustaining positive relationships and behaviour across the school. We are committed to nurturing a school culture where mutual respect and kindness are at the forefront of everything we do, for both children and adults. Following this, I am thrilled to inform you that the Federation School Council will be working closely with our leaders in the new year to draft new values for each year group across the school. This collaborative effort will help to ensure that the values we teach align with the needs and desires of the children in our care. In this, the children have an opportunity to shape the next steps in our vision together, which puts them and their opinions rightly at the forefront of our approach.

Finally, as we approach the end of a busy and festive term, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. It has been a term filled with joy, hard work, and celebration. We are so proud of all the children for all that they have achieved so far this year and look forward to sharing further successes with you throughout the year.

I wish you and your families a relaxing and joyful Christmas.

Mr Eustace





# Stanton Drew Primary School

## Christmas Activities

All of the children enjoyed a Christmas dinner in school last Wednesday with crackers supplied by the Friends. We would also like to thank the Friends for giving each child a Christmas present.



## KS2 Pantomime trip

Thank you to the Friends who paid for the children in KS2 to attend Bristol Hippodrome last Friday.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the free ice cream!





# Stanton Drew Primary School

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## Message from Pauline Adams, Federation SENCo ...

Please do have a look at our Federation website, where you will find a lot of information regarding inclusion and how we support all our children who have an identified or emerging need.

The [SEND information report](#) in particular (which can be found on the website) provides a lot of detail about this:

There are also links to a number of other services for children and families within the local area. This covers B&NES, Bristol and N Somerset, and so access may depend on home or GP address.

Please also explore our [SENCo padlet](#) (online noticeboard) which has a wide range of website links, videos and other information to support parents of children with additional needs. This includes some suggestions for supporting children who can find the Christmas celebrations and holiday period unsettling and overwhelming.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zw8pg2p>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zv2c3j6>

We hope you find this information useful.

*Pauline Adams (SENCO)*



# Stanton Drew Primary School

## MEERKATS

It's been a jam-packed term in Meerkats Class this term and the children have been working super hard with all their learning. In History, we have been learning all about toys from the past and how they compare to our toys now. We were lucky enough to borrow a box of toys from Bristol Museum and the children loved exploring these and learning how to play Jacks.

Earlier in the term, the children enjoyed a visit to Folly Farm, kindly funded by The Friends (PTA), and had a super day creating outdoor Art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. They also loved going on a welly walk through the woods and seeing the new wild ponies there. We liked the one called Mozzarella!

As part of the EYFS curriculum we learn about people in our community throughout the year and this term we were lucky to have our local police visit us. They told us all about how they help to keep people safe and even brought their van to show us.

There's been all sorts of Christmas excitement happening in the last few weeks of term and the Meerkats all deserve a very big well done for their super Christmas play – 'A little bird told me'.

Everyone joined in and lots of grown-ups came to watch at the church. The children were all brilliant and spoke clearly and confidently. Meerkats have also enjoyed Christmas dinner and had a lovely time doing Christmas arts and crafts as part of their end of year Christmas Party.

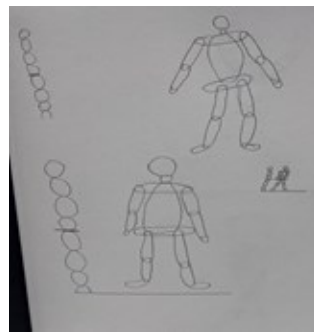




# Stanton Drew Primary School

## CHINCHILLAS

This term, Chinchillas have had a lot of fun learning how to draw parts of our faces using mirrors to help us. It was very tricky but we persevered and tried to replicate the other half of our faces using pencil and a black and white photo. Here are a few examples:



We then tried to look at how to sketch bodies in different positions. We used oval shapes to get the proportions right.

Later in the term, we had an exciting trip to Cheddar. We met a woman from the stone age and she showed us how to use flint to light a fire. The caves were full of lights ready for Christmas. Some were very big and others tiny but despite trying to stay quiet(!!!), we didn't see any bats! Before leaving, we got to see some more goats clambering the hills and try some cave aged cheddar cheese! It was very strong!!





# Stanton Drew Primary School

## LEMURS



Lemurs have been making lighthouses in D&T and some of them are huge! The children have designed them, built them, painted them and have added some wonderful touches of realism to their constructions. We've also done some amazing Science in our Bright Sparks project, learned so much about the country of Benin in History, and found out about slums in Geography. With a week of camp as well for the Year 6s in November, it's been a fantastic first term for Lemurs class. Merry Christmas from all of us!







# Stanton Drew Primary School

## KEY DATES

<b>Monday 6th January</b>	INSET day—school closed
<b>Tuesday 7th January</b>	Start of Term 3
<b>Wednesday 15th January</b>	Chinchillas Netball tournament CVS—info to follow
<b>Tuesday 28th January</b>	Lemurs Debating at Downside School
<b>Friday 14th February</b>	INSET day—school closed—End of Term 3
<b>Monday 24th February</b>	Start of Term 4
<b>Tuesday 25th February</b>	Sponsored Pancake flip-Info to follow
<b>Friday 7th March</b>	World Book day—TBC
<b>Monday 10th March</b>	Meerkats Folly Farm—Info to follow
<b>Wednesday 12th March</b>	Year 2 Gymnastics CVS—Info to follow
<b>Friday 4th April</b>	End of Term 4



# Stanton Drew Primary School

## KEY DATES

### Special menu— Census day—Thursday 16th January

As in October, Lighthouse Schools Partnership would like to offer **every child** a free school meal again on the next census day— Thursday 16th January.

Please order on Aspens as normal.

Our funding is determined by the number of children that order a meal on census day, and so we hope you will encourage your children to try a school dinner on this day. Thank you.

**DINER**  
= Day =  
**16 JANUARY 2025**

We're serving up a **FREE** all-American lunch straight from the diner: big flavours, classic bites and something for everyone.

**WHAT'S ON THE MENU**

= *Mains* =  
Burger or Cheeseburger  
Veggie Hotdog  
Battered Chicken Burger  
And lots of ketchup!

= *Sides* =  
Crispy Fries  
Corn on the Cob & Veggie Sticks

= *Desserts* =  
Snickerdoodle Cookie  
Chocolate Churro  
Fresh Fruit

**DON'T MISS OUT**

Head over to the Select system to make your meal choices now. It's **FREE** for everyone on this special day—be sure to grab your spot!

If you have not used the Select system before, please reach out to your school office and get your school and child code before registering.

[select.aspens-services.com/](https://select.aspens-services.com/)

A big thank you to our local suppliers for making this American diner lunch possible.

## TERM 3 PE DAYS

**Meerkats:** Monday + Thursday

**Chinchillas:** Tuesday + Friday

**Lemurs:** Tuesday + Friday

### Aspens dinner menus

Please ensure your child likes what you select on Aspens, as we have a large amount of food waste and children saying that they do not like what has been ordered. Thank you.



# Stanton Drew Primary School

## KEY DATES

### Term Dates 2024-25:

<b>Term 1</b>	Wednesday 4 September 2024 - Thursday 24 October 2024
<b>INSET</b>	Friday 25 October 2024
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 4 November 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024
<b>INSET</b>	Monday 6 January 2025
<b>Term 3</b>	Tuesday 7 January 2025 - Thursday 13 February 2025
<b>INSET</b>	Friday 14 February 2025
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 24 February 2025 - Friday 04 April 2025
<b>Term 5</b>	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Friday 23 May 2025
<b>INSET</b>	Monday 2 June 2025
<b>Term 6</b>	Tuesday 3 June 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025



# Stanton Drew Primary School

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## Attendance

Attendance really matters; a pupil who has attendance below 90% (classed as persistently absent by the government standard) misses 4 school weeks a year. We aim for the best attendance possible and for all pupils to be at 96% attendance, and above, throughout the course of the year. For those who dip below that number, we work with families to understand context and challenges in order to establish whether there are any actions that school or other agencies can put in place to help their child's attendance to improve.

As much as possible, we try to speak with families directly. Throughout the year, we also inform parents where children move below these percentages through letters, in line with the LSP policy for managing attendance. In all circumstances, our pastoral team are always here to listen and help. We understand that sometimes children are unwell and need to stay at home. However, often there are also further actions that, when shared, can enable us to put more support in place.

[Further information can be found in our attendance policy here.](#)

Finally, please be reminded that, during the summer there were changes to the national approach to school attendance and subsequent changes to our trust-wide attendance policy, which applies to all schools within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP). This specifically affects requests for term-time absence.

[A link to the original letter sent in July can be found here.](#)

## Parking around the site

Please help us to maintain positive relationships with our school neighbours by not blocking residents' driveways and by parking considerately around the site during drop off and collection.

## Healthy schools

Over the term, a number of parents have contacted us asking about snacks and appropriate drinks for children. Please help us to encourage healthy snacks for children at break times – for example, a piece of fruit. Unless otherwise agreed, children should only have water in their drinks bottles. At school, our policy is to encourage healthy options and we are grateful for your support with this.





# Stanton Drew Primary School

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## **Help Us Be More Environmentally Conscious: Donate or Recycle School Jumpers and Coats**

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility, we are asking for your support in donating or recycling any unwanted school jumpers and coats that are still in good, clean condition.

Many students outgrow their uniform items well before they wear out, and we would like to offer them a second life through reuse. Whether they are gently used jumpers, coats, or other school outerwear, we are collecting these items to either redistribute them to families in need or to recycle them responsibly.

### **How You Can Help:**

- **Donate:** If you have any clean, good-quality school jumpers or coats that your child no longer needs, please consider donating them to the school. Items should be in good condition, free from tears or stains. **Can all donations please be washed and folded.**

The items collected will be made available to other families at no cost, and any that cannot be reused will be responsibly recycled to reduce waste. This initiative is a great way to ensure that we're all contributing to a more sustainable future.

### **Drop-off Details**

Please bring any donations or items for recycling to the school office.

We greatly appreciate your support in helping us make a positive impact on both our school community and the environment.

Thank you for helping us work towards a greener, more sustainable future for our students!