

Darling Class NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a good half-term break. There is much to look forward to this term, including our very own Winter production of Ralph the Reindeer!

Monday & Tuesday: Mrs Hunter

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: Mrs Breen

Topic – Winter Wonderland

Always a magical time of year, we will be capturing the essence of winter in the activities and stories that we share this half term.

SAVE THE DATE – Darling Class performance of Ralph the Reindeer will take place, in school, at 9.30 am on Wednesday 10th December. Children will come into school at the normal time of 8.45 am.

Autumn Term 2	
PSED / PSHE	Our focus in term 2 will be on valuing differences and thinking about how we are all similar yet different. We will be thinking about what it means to be unkind, tease or bully and revisiting our school rules now we have all settled in. We will give some thought to the special people in our lives and what makes them special.
Maths	Reception children will begin the term by sequencing events, including day and night, events of the day and days of the week. We will be exploring different representations of 5, including the different ways these numbers can be constructed and deconstructed and applying this knowledge to solve problems. The final few weeks will consolidate recognition of 2D shapes and their properties and locating 2D shapes within 3D shapes. Year 1: Number and Place Value, including counting, writing, comparing, ordering and number patterns. Geometry – Properties of Shapes: Shapes and Patterns, including recognising 3D shapes, recognising 2D shapes, grouping 2D shapes, making patterns. Measurement: Height & Length - comparing and measuring.
English	The first of our key texts this half term The Storm Whale by Benji Davies. This is a beautiful story that will engage all of the children in discussion to develop oracy skills. We will also focus on recognising and punctuating different sentence types, collecting and retrieving information and writing non-fiction. We will support the Reception children in their early writing by providing opportunities for writing in play, including recipe cards, labelling, writing in a Post Office role play area and secret messages to Santa or friends.
Phonics	Reception: We will continue word building, reading and writing and we will be introducing the following sounds - /c/g/h/d/e/f/v/k/l/r/u/j/w/z/. Year 1: Same sound different spellings of /oa/er/e and same spelling, different sound /o/.
Science / Understanding the World	This term we will continue our topic of 'Animals including Humans'. We will be grouping animals according to whether they are an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore. We will also be grouping animals and observing their characteristics as well as labelling parts of the body and exploring our senses.
Computing	In Computing we will be exploring the Paint programme by using shape and line, choosing the correct tools for a purpose and trying to improve our digital art.
Geography/ Understanding the World	This term we will be looking at Hot and Cold Places – where these are located on a map and how this relates to them being hot or cold. We will then look in more detail at Antarctica. We will find out about animals that live in hot and cold places and how they have adapted to survive in these conditions.
Physical Development / PE	For Reception, PE will be Dance and Throwing and Catching. For Year 1, PE will be Dance and Basketball.
DT / Expressive Art and Design	Reception children will have the opportunity to engage in numerous Art and DT activities, including fireworks pictures, snowflake salt paintings, building ice castles and snowmen collages. The DT focus for Year 1 will be designing and sewing a Christmas bauble. The whole class will also be doing some baking!
RE / Understanding the World	This half term we are going to look at Special Times and in particular the tradition of gifts and giving at Eid-Al-Fitr and Christmas. Children will learn about the festival of Eid-Al-Fitr, what happens during Ramadan and why fasting during Ramadan is important to many Muslims. The children will look at how Eid-Al-Fitr is celebrated and look at similarities with how Christmas is celebrated. The children will look at the first gifts given to Jesus and their significance then and now.
Music	This unit is about exploring movement through the music of Marching Band and Piccolo March. We will create and perform patterns and actions to help communicate the message of the songs. We will also be preparing to dazzle you with our Winter production!

P.E

PE days will be **Wednesdays and Thursdays**. On PE days we ask that all children come to school wearing PE clothing (joggers or shorts, school t-shirt) and footwear (trainers, no lace ups) for PE to ensure that they can fully take part. Please help your child to practise taking off and putting on their socks and shoes independently.

Reading

Reception:

Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times each week and record this in your child's Reading Record Book and help your child to practice their weekly sounds and high frequency words. All Reception children will be read with once a week and all reading books will be changed once a week.

Year 1: Please continue to read with your child each day and help them to practise their spellings and recognition and spelling of high frequency words. Spelling tests will take place each Friday (unless no spelling have been given for that week).

Whilst your child is learning to read, we ask that you encourage your child to re-read their phonics book until they are able to read this book fluently. Re-reading the same book for fluency supports young readers to become more confident and engaged in reading. Please briefly record when your child reads by writing your initials on their reading bookmark. Your child shall be supported to change their book once to twice a week, if they are able to read their book fluently. This will be judged by your child's class teacher or teaching assistant.

For support with correctly pronounced sounds, please watch our helpful video on the school website:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dVG6QoS_9iw&feature=youtu.be

Forest School

Forest School will continue to be on **Friday** afternoons, with the first session on **Friday 7th November**. Being able to explore the natural world, take risks and learn new skills is hugely beneficial for children's confidence and holistic development. Forest School will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds or thunderstorms. On Forest School days children should come dressed in layers of clothes suitable for being outdoors (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) and appropriate for the weather. These must include long sleeves and trousers (no skirts, shorts or dresses), to protect from scratches and bites, including ticks. Extra socks, hat and gloves are recommended in cold weather. Children are asked to leave NAMED waterproof trousers and wellington boots in school.

We rely on parent helpers to make Forest School possible, without parent helpers Forest School cannot take place. So if you are able to volunteer (even if it is only once a term) please email admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk or speak to Mrs Breen.

Items to bring to school

Children ONLY need to bring in a named water bottle, named book bag with book folder inside, coat and hat. If your child requires items for toileting, these can be brought in a bag and left on their peg.

Show and Tell

Children often like to bring in items from home to show to the class, which is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's confidence speaking to the class and oracy skills. To ensure that this is fair and each child gets a turn, a 'Show and Tell' box will be sent home with one child each day, for them to put something into the box to show to the class the next day.

How you can support your child & contacting us:

Your child's education is a partnership and we look forward to developing a close relationship with you.

We ask that you:

- Support your child in his/her learning through practice at home and promoting positive attitudes
- Encourage personal independence by making sure your child has the correct clothing, reading books and water bottles each day and practising taking off and put on their own socks, shoes, coats, hats and gloves
- Support the school's policies, including home learning
- Make sure your child is in school and on time
- Make sure that you have given us the updated permissions and contact information

The best way to contact us is to use the class email: admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk

For urgent messages please call the school office on 01666 837602.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries. The beginning of the day is a very busy time, so if you do have a longer message or enquiry, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment.

We look forward to a very exciting term together and wish to thank you for your support.

The Darling Class Team