

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1
2025/2026

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR HEADTEACHER - MR J. STOKES...

It has been absolutely delightful welcoming our children back to school this term. All staff have commented on how well the children have already settled, how calm and productive they are and how they are becoming increasingly familiar with the routines in school, which is fantastic to hear and reassuring for you, I'm sure. I remain committed to working in partnership with you to ensure our children receive the best possible start to their education. So if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's time at our school, as always, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or key person in the first instance, or if you would like to arrange an appointment please feel free to contact school in the usual ways.

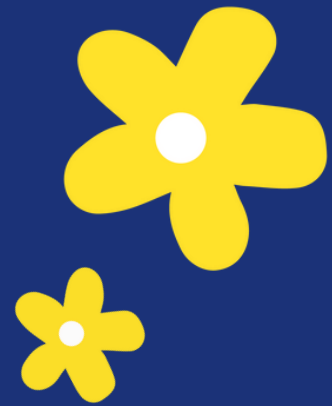
Thankyou for being such an important part of our school community. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



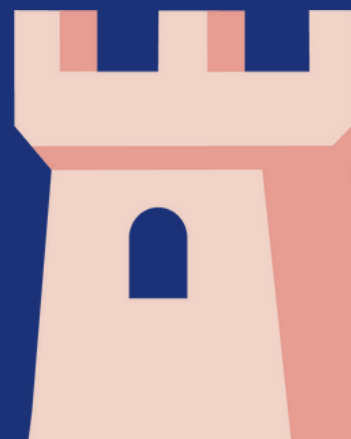
OUR NEW LOOK: PLAY, LEARN, GROW - FROM OUR HERITAGE TO OUR FUTURE

We are excited to share our new school logo, a symbol that both reflects our community and the values we live by each day. The design brings together elements that connect us to our local area and its rich history: a castle representing strength and heritage, a tree adorned with scotch broom to honour our historically natural surroundings, and three children to celebrate the diversity and unity of our pupils. At its heart, the logo embodies our school motto - play, learn, grow - reminding us that through play we spark curiosity, through learning we build knowledge and through growth we nurture confident caring individuals ready to embrace the future.

As part of this change our All Stars Childcare branding and logo will no longer appear on letterheads or other school documentation, as the new logo and motto now represent our whole school community including All Stars. This brings everything together under one clear identity, showing that all aspects of our school work hand in hand to support every child. We hope that parents and carers will enjoy our new logo and motto as much as we do and that you will feel part of this journey with us as we continue to grow together as a school community.



PLAY.
LEARN.
GROW.



HELLO TO NEW STAFF IN SCHOOL

We have welcomed some excellent new Early Years Practitioners and a Learning Support Assistant this year. Mrs Hughes, Mrs Barnes, Miss Munir, Miss Daly and Miss Chatham will join our ever busy full and part time Nursery and Miss Allcock will be supporting a small number of children across school.

OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 25/26

This year's school improvement plan will outline our whole-school improvement priorities for 2025/26. These have been informed by an evaluation of last year's plan, last year's pupil performance data analysis, in-school reviews and monitoring, and the outcomes of Ofsted inspection, which took place back in January 2022.

We aim to:

- Continue to adapt our wider curriculum with a focus on reducing cognitive overload for children
- Maintain good pupil outcomes and narrow attainment gaps between key pupil groups
- Continue to improve pupil attendance and reduce persistent absenteeism
- Raise aspirations and foster a life-long love of learning through engagement with the school's new Flourishing Futures programme.



DAILY READING

Please encourage your child to read at home. Sharing a book with a child is fun - its time for closeness, enjoyment and talking together. It can also give children a flying start in life and help them become lifelong readers. Reading with your children makes a huge difference to their vocabulary and learning potential.

We also recommend visiting the library next door to the school. It offers a wide range of books for children of all ages and is a great way to keep them engaged with reading beyond the classroom.



OUR SCHOOL DAY



Start time reminder: Our playground gates are opened at 8.40am and will close again 8.55am. Classrooms open at 8.40am. This allows for a 'soft start' to the school day and provides a window of time for parents to drop at classrooms and go. Parents do not need to queue before this time, however, if they choose to arrive at the school gates early, they should be mindful of local residents and road users to ensure children's safety. Gates open in the afternoon around 3pm. The full time nursery gates open at around 8.55am in the mornings and close again around 9.10am. Full time Nursery gates will open again at the end of the day around 2.55pm. Part time nursery open at 12.30pm and children are welcome to be collected from 3.10pm to 3.30pm for a soft finish to the day.

REMINDERS



Parking: I'd like to remind parents to park considerably and legally when dropping children off at school and when collecting them at the end of the day. Our local library has also been in touch, concerned about parking and the risk of an accident. It is vital that we keep our children as safe as possible, and you play a huge role in this. Thanks for your understanding.



Named Clothing: Can I remind families to ensure that all children's clothing is named to avoid confusion or mix-ups with uniform. We already have a growing collection of red jumpers and cardigans without names in school.



Water Bottles: To prevent accidental damage to books, we kindly request that water bottles not be placed in the children's book bags. There have been a number of accidents where books have been damaged. Thank you for your understanding.



Dogs: Please can I remind parents that dogs are not allowed on school premises (even if the dogs are carried), for the safety of our pupils, unless the dog is a service dog and under the supervision of its owner. I appreciate your cooperation on this.



Pupil Absence:

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please ensure that you telephone the school office before 9.15am. It is possible to call at any time and choose option '1' to leave a short message, including your child's name, class and reason for absence. If you do not call you will receive a call from school as part of our first day calling system. Please do not send Dojo messages to the class teacher to report absences. All absences are monitored by the Local Authority and fixed penalty fines are enforced where necessary.

Healthy Lunch Boxes and how to keep your child healthy at school:

Please can all parents/carers who are providing packed lunches ensure that their child's lunch box is filled with a range of healthier choices. For lots of easy-to-prepare ideas your children will love, as well as other healthy options for their lunchbox, please see web page: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthierlunchboxes>.

Alternatively, we offer the children a healthy warm or cold meal provided by Prosper Eats. At the start of the school day options are shared with the children via the teacher. Please use the link below to view our menus, if you choose to, discuss the options with your child before school.

[Lunch Menus | Castle Bromwich Infant and Nursery School \(cbins.solihull.sch.uk\)](https://www.prosper-eats.co.uk/)



HYGIENE

At school, we will do everything possible to ensure that children are taught basic hygiene, thereby keeping the school community healthy and safe.

This will include:

- Helping them to wash their hands for at least **20 seconds** using soap and water after toileting and before entering the dining hall.
- Using tissues for coughs and sneezes and disposing of them safely afterwards.
- Avoiding touching their face, particularly their eyes, nose and mouth.
- We would appreciate your support in promoting these practices at home. Families should also ensure that children are up to date with vaccinations, such as measles.



THINGS TO CELEBRATE AT CASTLE BROMWICH INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL



Flourishing Futures:

This academic year we are excited to be launching our new Flourishing Futures programme, designed to raise aspirations and nurture a life long love of learning in all our children. The programme will celebrate and acknowledge pupils achievements both in school and through their extra curricular activities, recognising the many ways they grow and flourish beyond the classroom. As part of this children will have opportunities to take part in a range of fun, engaging and inspiring special days in school, helping them to discover new interests and broaden their horizons.



Expansion to the two year olds funded offer:

We have made a really positive start in developing our early years provision as part of the Government funded offer for 30 hour places for two year olds. This means that from September this year, we are welcoming 15 full time two year olds into our Nursery provision, giving them the very best start to their education journey. Building on our strong foundations, we are creating a nurturing, suitably stimulating environment where children are already beginning to thrive, grow in confidence, and develop a love of learning from the very beginning.



Writing Focus:

As a school we are looking forward to consolidating our approach to the teaching of writing across all year groups this year. Our aim is to ensure that children continue to develop strong skills, confidence and creativity in their writing. This work will be carefully aligned with the Government's new Writing Framework, published in summer 2025, so that our teaching reflects the latest guidance and best practice.



MacMillan Cake Sale:

WOW! Our cake sale was a sweet success! Thanks to your incredible baking talents and generous hearts, we raised an amazing £384.79 for Macmillan Cancer Support! From chocolate delights to wonderful cupcakes, every treat sold made a difference. Your support is truly the icing on the cake! Every penny will help Macmillan continue their amazing work. Together, we proved that kindness is the best ingredient of all!

ACTIONS FOR PARENTS/CARERS...

DIARY DATES...



DATE: 8th October
Detail: Harvest Assembly

DATE: 9th & 10th October
Detail: Big Brum Theatre Group visit to Year 2

DATE: 13th- 17th October
Detail: Parents Evening

DATE: 23rd October
Detail: Year 1 Halloween Disco

DATE: 24th October
Detail: INSET DAY

DATE: 5th & 6th November
Detail: School Photographer

DATE: 20th November
Detail: Nasal Flu Programme

Reception & Year 3 Applications:

Applications for our Reception intake and Year 2 children moving up the Junior school will be live on the Solihull Council webpage from October. Please visit: www.solihull.sch.uk/admissions

Closing date for both applications is 15 January 2026.

Free School Meals: If your child is eligible for free school meals, we want to encourage you to register them. Children in reception, year 1 or year 2 get free school meals anyway through a different scheme, but if they are eligible for free school meals, we still really want you to register – see why below.

Why register for free school meals?

Children who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches. Please also note that during the half term holidays, supermarket vouchers are provided by the local authority to help cover the cost of food for packed lunches whilst your children are not in school.

But registering them is still important because for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets an extra £1,480 through 'pupil premium' funding. Every child registered for free school meals makes a big difference to the school. Please follow the below link to register your child:

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.



PRIORITIES AS WE COME INTO A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR - ATTENDANCE

Coming to school every day is very important for our youngest learners. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, children are building the foundations for reading, writing, number skills, and social development. Each day offers new opportunities to learn and grow, and regular attendance helps children feel settled, confident, and part of the class routine. Even small gaps in attendance can make it harder for little ones to keep up and may affect their progress. We kindly ask families to support good habits by ensuring children are in school on time each day, ready to enjoy learning with their friends.

HERE ARE THE CURRENT ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

RECEPTION		YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
Daffodils	97%	Hedgehogs	95%	Owls	96%
Snowdrops	95%	Foxes	97%	Swallows	96%
Tulips	98%	Squirrels	95%	Robins	93%
Bluebells	96%	Badgers	96%	Kingfishers	96%

THE CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE TO DATE IS
TULIPS



Children’s Safety:

In order to keep children safe at all times please can we ask parents/carers to keep a close eye on their children in the morning when dropping them at school. Can all bikes/scooters be ‘parked’ in the bays as soon as entering the playground to avoid accidents. Please also ensure children do not use their bikes/scooters on the school playground. There have been one or two near misses recently.



THANKYOU TO ALL OUR STAFF, PARENTS, CARERS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT. WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE WHAT AUTUMN TERM BRINGS!



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