



# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

## March Newsletter



Hello everyone and welcome back!

It is so lovely to have to have the children back on site. Without them the school is just a shell but now it has come alive again. Thank you for having the confidence to send your children back to school. We enjoy sharing them with you and will continue to do all that we can to keep everyone safe.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our parents, carers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and anyone else that helped to support your children, with their home learning, during our latest COVID-19 lockdown. Without all of the support that you all provided, and I apologise if I have missed any categories out, your children would not have engaged with our remote learning as well as they did.

Attendance in Google Classroom meetings alongside the registers for children attending school throughout the lockdown accounted for almost all of our pupils which was a fantastic effort from everyone. As a working parent I have experienced home schooling from both sides and can fully appreciate that we all have good days and bad ones. Thank you for persevering and I hope you are taking some time for yourselves now the children are back in school.

Huge thanks also goes to the entire school team. I was totally blown away by the commitment they all showed to making the remote teaching work, whilst also teaching the pupils that were coming into school each day. All of the different jobs that they do were vital and came together to create something that worked for the pupils.

I loved the fact that the children were not afraid to ask when they didn't quite understand something and that nearly everyone embraced the new technology. The children's completed work just kept arriving like an unstoppable lava flow. Together we have all helped the children to achieve a far better coverage of the curriculum than we expected and this will enable the children to build on their learning over the coming weeks.

It is not long now until the Easter holidays and I am already looking forward to spending the time again with my family albeit without the intrusion of Google Classroom. I hope you are all well and looking forward to the spring sunshine as much as I am.



# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

I cannot claim this to be my own but I thought the following may be good to share with your children.

## **CHANGE THE NARRATIVE**

In twenty years time...

People will not ask the children of 2020 if they caught up with their studies.

They will not ask them what grades they made, despite the year off school.

They will ask them with wonder 'What was it like?'

They will ask them 'How did you cope?'

'How did you feel?'

'What do you remember of those days?'

They will listen in awe to the tales of clapping on doorsteps for the medical workers.

They will sit open-mouthed to hear of daily walks being the only life we saw and how much we missed human contact and gatherings.

They will be amazed to know about empty supermarkets, online concerts, birthdays spent on a screen and a life lived inside.

They will listen, then sit back with amazement and say, 'Wow. You went through so much.'

So, think about what you would like your children to take away from this whole year.

Tell them they are not behind.

Tell them they are not missing out.

Tell them they are extremely special indeed and they will be forever made stronger by this unique time.

Tell them catching up is not even a thing because they have grown so much in so many other ways.

Remind them too of the fun things, the family jigsaws, the window rainbows, the zoom bingo.

The feeling of safety and togetherness amidst chaos.

Let them take that thought with them through life.

Change the narrative now and it will travel far.

Tell the children they are not behind.

They are special.



## **YEAR 6 - Bikeability Level 2 Course Confirmation**

**Your five-day course is booked with a start date of:**  
**Monday 28 June 2021**

The Year 6 Bikeability training course has been booked. It will take place during the mornings of the W/c 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 ☺

A letter will be sent to Year 6 families with further details.

### **Top tips to support your child's reading at home**

**By Tara Parker, Senior Early Years Programme Manager at the National Literacy Trust**

Do you remember your favourite books as a child – you know, the ones you read time and time again and knew practically every word of? Maybe you were lucky enough to regularly read stories with your family and had someone to read you a bedtime story before you drifted off to sleep? You won't have known at the time, but those experiences were building vital building blocks for your future.

Reading, being read to, and sharing books in the home helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world. Research shows children who start school with good vocabulary and communication skills make friends more easily, have fewer behavioural issues and are more likely to do well academically. A strong, early foundation in language has even been linked to better mental health as children get older.

**Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference.** Here are some tips to help children of all ages to enjoy reading and to get reading more often.

#### **1. Take breaks while reading**

Your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go! Any time spent sharing or talking about a book is beneficial, even if it's just a couple of minutes at a time. If they have to close the book early because it's time for tea, or they're just losing interest, that's okay. Reading can take a lot of mental energy and taking breaks gives children a chance to slowly build the mental stamina they need, so that soon they will be able to read for longer stretches of time.

#### **2. Build reading into your child's daily routine**

Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bed, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast, when they have more energy. You can encourage your child to track their reading using a weekly reading chart. This will help them celebrate their progress.



# Stapleford Primary School

## (Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB

Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

Also, create a cosy place in your home that you can call the 'reading corner', which can be any size you like. Let your child decorate it with their favourite books and soft toys, so they look forward to going there to read. **When you can, try to make sure they see you reading, or read with them, so they know adults read too!**

### 3. Encourage your child to follow their interests

Let your young children choose the books they read. You can do this by keeping books on a shelf they have regular access to, or presenting them with two to three books and letting them choose. Let them read the same book, or same genre of reading material (such as football magazines!), over and over again. Repetition will help younger children learn words and understand how language is structured. Following their interests is also the best way to keep them engaged and make reading fun, which will make them more likely to want to read more widely going forward.

Finally, if you are reading the book to them, let them turn the pages, skip pages, return to pages and let them interrupt you – even if it feels like they are getting off track. Talking about the book helps them makes sense of what they are reading.

### 4. Use technology together

National Literacy Trust research has found that, when used appropriately and with an adult, technology can provide an important route into reading for many children, including those in the early years, and boys. Feel free, at times, to use your mobile phones, tablets, computers, laptops and other devices to engage your child in reading and activities that can help them build their vocabulary. This can include a multitude of activities, such as:

- Telling a story using pictures on your phone
- Video calling friends and relatives to engage children in conversation
- Using YouTube to find the lyrics to nursery rhymes
- Using apps to read e-books or listen to audiobooks (many organisations are providing them for free during school closures)

These activities, or similar ones, can be used with children of all ages. Young children will learn best when doing these activities alongside you, and you can help your older child by showing them how to use the technology appropriately. All children benefit from seeing and hearing their parents and carers do things. This helps them understand how to do it themselves. Technology is also most effective when it is linked to other things your child is learning, and when it is balanced with other learning activities.

### 5. Encourage your child to be the author

Build writing and drawing into your routine at home by helping your child tell a story. When telling stories, children are practising important language skills, such as past and future tense and transition words. You can model this behaviour, by telling them stories. Children love to hear stories about your childhood or other experiences, and it gives them inspiration for telling their own stories.

Then, you can show them how to write or draw their story. They can draw it through pictures, or type it on a computer, depending on their age. For some children, becoming the author is the best way to activate their imagination and their interest in stories. Through their writing, you can learn about some of their interests and find books to match!

### 6. Have a chat

Research shows that children who engage regularly in conversational turn-taking with an adult learn faster when they're older. Taking every opportunity to chat with your child will help them build the language and vocabulary skills they need for school. Let your child pick the topic they want to talk about, listen to them, ask questions and share your ideas. You can use daily activities to spark conversation with your child, such as getting dressed or making a meal. You'll learn a lot about your child's interests!



# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

## 7. Share stories using the pictures in the book instead of the words

Pictures are a great support for young and struggling readers. They are enjoyable to look at, capture children's attention and help them make sense of what they are reading. If your child is unsure about reading all the words in the book, they can start by telling a story using the pictures. Ask your child to describe the pictures they see, ask questions about what the characters are doing and why they might be doing it, and see if they can guess what might happen next. By the end of the book, you may find they have created a whole new and exciting tale!

## 8. Play with letters, sounds and words

Engage children in games and activities that help them learn new words. For older children, these could be crossword puzzles, word searches or word hunts. They can cut out words in magazines related to a particular theme to create a word map. For younger children, focus on playing with letters and sounds. You can use Play-Doh or alphabet magnets.

You can make sound soup by finding items around the house that begin with a particular sound and mixing them in a bowl together. All of these activities build your child's vocabulary and understanding of how words work. This will help them understand words when reading books, making reading easier and more enjoyable!

*Tara Parker is Senior Programme Manager for Early Years at the National Literacy Trust, where she supports families to engage in their young child's communication and language development.*

**Please help our whole community to stay safe by following the Government COVID-19 guidance.**

If anyone at school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and be advised to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. This sets out that they must:

- self-isolate
- arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

**Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of the symptoms above.**



### Link to buy your tickets

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/stapleford-church-of-england-va-primary-school>

Ticket cost £1 - Remember that 40p from every ticket sold comes directly to the school.

Each week there is a monetary prize for one of our ticket holders. People that buy tickets are also entered into the weekly National £25,000 draw!!

### PLEASE LABEL ALL UNIFORM

You would be amazed how much uniform we find each day that has no name on it.

### ALL FAMILIES ARE NOW ABLE TO OBTAIN COVID-19 LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTS.

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)



# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

## Attendance:

**Excellent attendance = more learning!**

**Aim for 96% attendance or more**

Since school reopened on the 8<sup>th</sup> March attendance has been excellent.

**This is helping your children learn!**

**Thank you**

### News From

#### The Stapleford School Friends Association (SSFA)



If anyone else is interested in joining the friendly SSFA team or just wants to offer a helping hand at any events, please do get in touch by emailing [ssfacommittee@outlook.co.uk](mailto:ssfacommittee@outlook.co.uk)

**Thank you. You really can make a difference.**



### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Monday – Friday 7:45am – 8:40am

IMPORTANT: Please make bookings by 3pm the day before so we can ensure that we have the correct number of staff on site.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Fun activities every day of the week

Monday – Friday 3:00pm – 5:00pm

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Please do not block the school entrance whilst waiting to collect your child.





# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

## eSafety

# Stay Safe Online

Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the Internet and mobile phones.

- S SAFE** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.
- M MEET** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE** Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.
- T TELL** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Find out more at Childnet's website ...  
[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

Childnet International © 2002-2010 Registered Charity no. 1080173 [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) Childnet International KidSMART

### Philosophy 4 Children

Dear Class 2 and Year 5

Thank you to the children who attended P4C on Thursday after school, some of your discussion points were very mature and thoughtful. Well Done. I look forward to seeing you on Google Classroom at our next session.

Mrs Wilson

### ROADWORKS

We have been informed that there will be some roadworks in Clusterbolts between 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Parked cars that are preventing the works being completed will be towed.

Please park safely. We will hold the registers open at the start of the day so that children do not receive a late mark due to difficulties parking.



# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

## HAVE YOU CLAIMED THE EXTRA FUNDING FOR YOUR CHILD?

### **Pupil Premium Funding - IMPORTANT**

Pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to help raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. **This means that YOUR child may be entitled to a quite considerable amount of funding that can be used within school to support their learning.**

Your child could be eligible for extra funding if you receive any of the following:

#### **Income Support**

#### **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**

#### **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**

#### **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**

#### **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**

**Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)

#### **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)


#### **Universal Credit.**

This extra funding can really make a difference to your child's achievements and for that reason we are asking that all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents and any parents of older children whose circumstances may have changed register online at [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals).

Please note that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free meals. **However, this does not mean that you are already registered for the additional funding which is called Pupil Premium. To gain the extra Pupil Premium funding for your child you must register by using the above URL or link.** Thank you.

### **Communication:**

The school office is open between 8.30am – 3pm and there is also a great deal of information on the school website [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk).

Don't forget that we are on  - follow us @staplefordPS

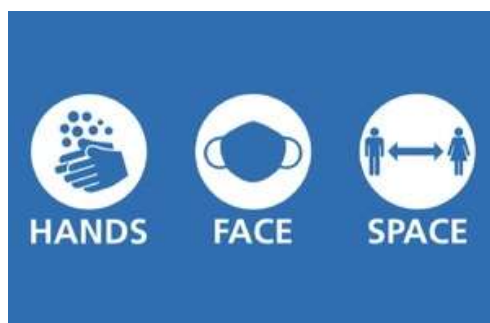
We will aim to send out your newsletter in the first half of each month.

### **TIMES TABLES**

Knowing your Times Tables by heart makes maths a great deal easier. With regular practise your children will learn their tables in no time at all. This will lead to them being far more confident mathematicians.

Hit the button is a great online games that can be used to improve your times tables skills.

Click here to play: [HIT THE BUTTON](#)



### **Lost jogging bottoms**

A KS1 pupil has lost a pair of jogging bottoms. They are named. Children often take the wrong PE Kit home by accident. Please return them to the school office if you find them at home. Thank you.





# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

## For the academic year September 2020 to July 2021

We would like to remind parents and carers to ensure that holidays are booked **outside of term time** – Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### AUTUMN TERM 2020

Term starts – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Half term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Term ends - 2:00pm Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### SPRING TERM 2021

Term starts - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Half term - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Term ends - 2:00pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

### SUMMER TERM 2021

Term starts - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April

*May Day Bank Holiday* - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Half term Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Term ends – 2:00pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July

### INSET Days and Occasional Day (School closed)

*INSET Day 1* – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

*INSET Day 2* – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*INSET Day 3* - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*INSET Day 4* – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*INSET Day 5* – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

*Occasional Day* – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

**READING**

**30 mins. a day**

- 210 mins a week
- 840 mins a week
- 10,800 mins. a year

**The Difference is Clear**

**5 mins. a day**

- 35 mins. a week
- 140 mins. a month
- 1680 mins. a year

No one gets better at anything by not doing it.

## Stapleford Primary School Term Dates



# Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertfordshire, SG14 3NB  
Telephone: 01992583341 Fax: 01992 901811 Email: [admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stapleford.herts.sch.uk) @staplefordps [www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stapleford.herts.sch.uk)

## For the academic year September 2021 to July 2022

We would like to remind parents and carers to ensure that holidays are booked **outside of term time** – Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### AUTUMN TERM 2021

Term starts – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Term ends - 2:00pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

### SPRING TERM 2022

Term starts – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Half term - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Term ends - 2:00pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

### SUMMER TERM 2022

Term starts – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April

*May Day Bank Holiday* - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Half term Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Term ends – 2:00pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### INSET Days and Occasional Day (School closed)

*INSET Day 1* – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

*INSET Day 2* – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*INSET Day 3* – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

*INSET Day 4* – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

*INSET Day 5* – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

*Occasional Day* – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**READING**

**30 mins. a day**

- 210 mins a week
- 840 mins a month
- 10,800 mins. a year

**The Difference is Clear**

**5 mins. a day**

- 35 mins. a week
- 140 mins. a month
- 1680 mins. a year

No one gets better at anything by not doing it.