

BE READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE and KIND

HEADTEACHER

We have had a wonderful start to the spring term and in particular Mrs Earle's forest school sessions have been a real success. The children are taking ownership of the space and discussing with Mrs Earle their ideas and what they would like to do. They are keeping warm by having a fire each week and coming together to do activities and play games. A huge thank you to Erika Finch for spending time updating our stage doors. Over the past couple of weeks Erika has sanded, prepped and painted to give them a new lease of life. This is really appreciated.

ADVANCED NOTICE:

FAMILY CONSULTATIONS THIS TERM ARE ON TUESDAY 18TH MARCH AND WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH. FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

As spring approaches if you are having a garden clear up and have anything you think may be of use to us it would be really appreciated!

We are on the lookout for new sand toys for our giant sandpit. Thank you in advance.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Are you interested in training to teach? If so please speak to Mrs Heys about a new route into teaching and apply to train in one of our local schools!

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SPORT

Clubs are back under way and we are looking forward to a busy half term of sport which was kicked off this afternoon with the Dunmow family swimming gala. Keep an eye out on Class Dojo to see how our swimming squad got on.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday 23rd January - KS1 Active Maths Festival
- Friday 30th January - KS2 Hockey Tournament
- Friday 7th February - LKS2 Tag Rugby Tournament
- Wednesday 12th February - KS2 Sports Hall Athletics

AFSS

Welcome back to school from the AFSS! We hope everyone had time to rest and recharge batteries for this term. We are very excited to be hosting our ever popular quiz night on January 31st. The tables sold out in record time! We are sorry for everyone who would have wanted to join but weren't able to get a place. Better luck next time!

February will see us hosting another disco for the children on Thursday 13th February. We are busy making plans regarding this event. More will be revealed in close future! But as usual, we will need some parent volunteers to help with the event. If you think you're able to help, please pencil the date in and we'll let everyone know how to sign up for volunteering. We'd also like to take this opportunity to remind that we have lots of pre-loved uniform for sale through our PTA account <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/afssstebbing/>.

Also please don't forget to follow us on Facebook by searching for 'Association of Friends of Stebbing School' or on Instagram @afss.stebbing. We aim to update our social profiles frequently!



HEADTEACHER AWARDS

| | Friday 10th January | Friday 17th January |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Wrens | Ralphie & Mia | Arlo & Ocean |
| Robins | Brodie & Eli | Willow H & Saffron |
| Kingfishers | Millie and Stanley | Evelyn & Michael |
| Woodpeckers | Louie & Jasmina | Archie & Christopher |
| Kestrels | Mia & Albie | Sienna & Raf |
| Ospreys | Lottie & Remi | Alexander & Tilly |
| Owls | Mila & Maya | Mila, Ava & Sophia |



HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE HEADTEACHER











| | Friday 10th January | Friday 17th January |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Wrens | Teddy | Brooke |
| Robins | Teddy | Luna |
| Kingfishers | Teddy | Ira |
| Woodpeckers | Fifi | Frankie |
| Kestrels | Albert | Bella |
| Ospreys | Oliver | Isla |
| Owls | Kayden | Mia |

READING CHAMPIONS & PRESENTATION AWARDS

| | Friday 10th January | Friday 17th January |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wrens | Izzy | Stebbing Reading Champion: |
| Robins | Alex | |
| Kingfishers | Henley | |
| Woodpeckers | Stebbing Reading Champion: | Olivia |
| Kestrels | | Isabelle |
| Ospreys | | Lottie |
| Owls | | Kody |

| DATE | YEAR 6 AWARD | ATTENDANCE AWARD | LUNCHTIME AWARD | KEEP IT CLEAN AWARD |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| 10.01.25 | Johnny, Carter & Ralphie | Owls | Daisy | Kingfishers for helping to tidy forest school |
| 17.01.25 | Arlo | Owls | Reggie | |

| |  | | |  | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.01.25 | Woodpeckers | Robins | Kestrels | Woodpeckers | Kingfishers | Owls |
| 17.01.25 | Kingfishers | Woodpeckers | Owls | Owls | Ospreys | Woodpeckers |



WRENS



ROBINS



The Wrens have all settled in well after their lovely break and we have hit the ground running with a strong focus on our writing. Together we discovered all the wonderful birds that visit our Forest School space and the Wrens let their imagination run wild with stick play after listening to the story Stanley Stick. The weather played beautifully in our favor and Miss Summers had a lovely sensory walk in the icy weather to inspire our Wren writers. In our PE lesson we have been on a trip to outer space! We learned different poses and felt our core muscles supporting us when we balance. This week we looked at bending our knees when landing. We tried a rocket jump and a star jump and will continue our outer space adventure next week. The Wrens have been working hard on their letter formation and keeping our writing on a line. Our new Topic Book had us acting out a story and inspired us to do some descriptive writing. We are using our knowledge of tricky words to write simple sentences. The Wrens know that a sentence starts with a capital letter, has finger spaces and ends with a full stop. We have been applying this in our new Phonics workbooks too. We have been deepening our understanding in numbers with games. Our next focus will be to confidently write each number to enable us to start number sentences. Home challenge: can your Wren draw the amount of objects when you say a number name a number under 10? Thank you for coming down to the woods to play in our new topic. We are excited to show you more.

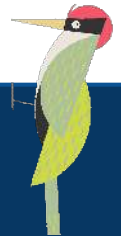
WELCOME BACK! Robins have had a fantastic couple of weeks, settling back into the routine of school and our new class timetable. The children have worked exceptionally hard! We have completed hot maths as we have come to the end of our addition and subtraction unit of work. We are now moving on to place value to 20 and are beginning to look at the value of each digit in teen numbers. During the first week back we completed a whole school writing task based on a picture. Robins used their imaginations beautifully to think about what they would be able to see, feel, hear and smell inside a very special snow globe. This week the children had the opportunity to edit their writing and practise some of the non-negotiables they might have missed. They were excited to use our editing pens. We also enjoyed doing some writing about superheroes to consolidate our understanding of capital letters. I have been amazed at the improvement of the children's letter formations. This is something they are working very hard on. We have begun our topic - What a Wonderful World! The children have been learning about continents and oceans. This week they took a closer look at the continent of Europe and what animals live there.



KINGFISHERS



WOODPECKERS

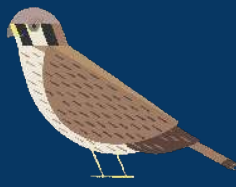


We've had a productive couple of weeks in Kingfishers! First and foremost, all of the children have been raving about their Forest School sessions with Mrs Earle! They have thoroughly enjoyed their time in Forest School thus far and some of Kingfishers' children have been visiting the area regularly to care for a tree that they planted and we are keen to see how much it grows over the Spring and Summer. In Science we have been exploring materials and their properties, incorporating lots of hands-on exploration and recording observations. In History we have begun our topic 'The Great Fire of London'. Kingfishers have been very enthusiastic and keen to share their views and theories within our lessons. We have been focusing on learning what London was like in the 17th century and comparing this to the present day. In Music we have been listening to the Beatles. It's wonderful to witness so many children recognise their songs from films, adverts or from hearing them when they've been with their parents/grandparents. In English we have started our author study. Kingfishers have enjoyed reading and listening to a variety of Quentin Blake's books, describing them as being funny, exciting and positive.

It has been lovely to return to school after Christmas, even though a few of us have had the leaving-home blues in the mornings - isn't it hard after having the most fun and fabulous two weeks at home with the family during such a dark & cold season! We are pleased to finally have ended our addition & subtraction of three digit numbers unit - our 'Hot' maths went really well reading through our paper together, much like we do in Guided Readings sessions, to ensure we all understand the text. It will be good to put this aside and try a different area of maths for a few weeks; revisiting adding/subtracting 3 digits in our Magical Maths sessions to further consolidate and embed this meaty maths area. Our trip to Braintree Museum this was AMAZING! Miss Andrews was a fabulous teacher of WW2, we enjoyed the role play and had great fun exploring artefacts and seeing the displays in the museum. A new display was being prepared for half term - so if you can make it then do go back and visit, it really is a fabulous place with very child-centred adults and activities. Our class book (An Eagle in the Snow by Michael Morpurgo - based on a true WW2 story) had us on the edge of our seats on Thursday; provoking a big sigh from Woodpeckers as the chapter ended on a cliffhanger! Safe to say - we are enjoying this topic!



KESTRELS



I cannot believe we have finished our first 2 weeks back already. Kestrels have been busy little bees over the past 2 weeks. We have started our new topic on The Maya, where we have been researching the different skills that they were advanced in. In particular, we enjoyed learning about them being expert star gazers and even had a go at stargazing ourselves.. In science, we have started to look at our bodies and were very excited by our digestive system experiment where Mrs Hammond used chocolate cake, tights and a plastic bag to demonstrate how food passes through our bodies! In English, we have been working really hard on our language and produced some lovely ideas for our new book focus 'Journey'. Thank you so much for all of your kind donations before Christmas as this has been able to buy a copy of the book for all children to be able to use within lessons. Finally, in maths we have started to look at multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. A great start to our Spring term!



OSPREYS



Another few weeks have flown passed in our Year 5 journey together, time really is running away with us! The children have continued to work incredibly hard to be the very best versions of themselves. We have had so many discussions about presentation and expectations and I am really starting to see some super individual points of progress, particularly when marking and assessing their latest piece of writing. We started the half term off with a whole school writing project. We all had the same image and the children had to generate their own ideas for a story based on that image. I was blown away by their application of our recent grammar focus which was all around using parenthesis. In maths, we have been learning all about the formal written methods for multiplication and division and the importance of slowing down ensuring that all of the steps have been followed correctly. In science, we have started our birth to old age unit of work and have looked at the human timeline and yesterday we learnt all about the prenatal stage of life. The children could not believe how tiny they all were when they started their journeys!



OWLS



We have had a lovely first few weeks of Spring term after the Christmas break. The children have been working hard to get back into the swing of things after the Christmas break and the fun festivities before breaking up.



In English, we enjoyed taking part in a whole school winter creative writing project where all children had the opportunity to develop their own piece of writing based on an image. We had wonderful winter themed poems, emotive narratives and intriguing portal short stories. This week, we have moved on to our new topic where the children are learning how to be journalists. As they entered the class on Thursday morning, they were greeted by a crime scene. Overnight, Stebbing Primary School was victim to a crime - a dog napping! Woody had gone missing, evidence was left behind, police officers, the dog owner and local residents were interviewed ready to learn how to utilise this information to construct a newspaper article.

In maths, the children have smashed the week long ratio unit of work with all children achieving 16 or above out of 20 on the end of unit hot assessment and now have started our two week decimals journey that will entail rounding, adding =, subtracting, multiplying, dividing and solving problems all involving decimals.

We have also been busy elsewhere as we learn how we see and light is reflected in science; develop an understanding of the ancient civilisation of the Indus Valley; work on the ABCs of sport in our indoor PE lessons; develop our fielding and bowling skills in cricket; and have engaged in wonderfully deep and meaningful conversations in PSHE and RE discussing money safety and the true meaning of happiness. It's been a busy few weeks!

GUEST SPOT

SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

With the incredible fundraising efforts from the AFSS ongoing and grant applications pending for the new swimming pool, we edge closer and closer to our final target - but there is still some work to be done. We need one final push from the whole school community to get us over the finish line to get our children swimming again as soon as possible.

Progress is being made behind the scenes: drawings have been drawn up; costs have been calculated; and builders have been instructed whilst we continue to raise funds to get the project underway.

With that in mind, we would like to arrange a meeting with all those who have experience in fields that may be useful and are able to offer support in some way or another. Whether that be to support with grant applications and fundraising; in the procurement of materials; or expertise in swimming pool construction - any and all help will be welcome and gratefully received.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday 23rd January 2025 from 19:00** in Mrs Heys' office. If you are able to attend the meeting, please just let me know by emailing mr.lemasurier@stebbingprimary.co.uk. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend but would like to support in some way moving forwards, please let me know.

EVENTS CALENDAR

| DATE | EVENT |
|----------|--|
| 22.01.25 | SEND family consultations 3.15-6.15pm |
| 30.01.25 | Little Monsters SEND session 2.30pm |
| 31.01.25 | AFSS Quiz night 6pm |
| 06.02.25 | Owls & Ospreys to Harry Potter Studios |
| 07.02.25 | NSPCC Number Day |
| 11.02.25 | Safer Internet Day |
| 13.02.25 | AFSS School Disco |
| March | Community Month (A letter and calendar will be sent out soon!) |
| 18.03.25 | Family consultations 3-7pm |
| 19.03.25 | Family consultations 3-5pm |