

## BE READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE and KIND

### HEADTEACHER

We are pleased to announce the further work we have been carrying out with our partnership of 10 schools. The schools included within our partnership are:

Stebbing  
Great Easton  
Great Dunmow Primary  
Dunmow St Mary's  
Flitch Green  
Great Bardfield  
HRS  
Thaxted  
Felsted  
Rodings



Our group of schools called DEEP, Dunmow Excellence in Education Partnership have already had a number of events this term. Mr Le Masurier hosted a Spelling Bee at our school for small teams of year 5 pupils to attend; Stebbing has hosted over 50 teachers after school for a Writing Moderation sessions enabling us to benchmark our children's writing against other cohorts of pupils from across DEEP and we have also taken part in staff training and development opportunities.

### IMPORTANT NOTICES



We are really pleased to be included in the Advent Window trail for Stebbing village this year. Please look out for further details on Dojo for when our will be ready to display.

If you would like to follow the trail then head to the facebook link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/21746992800/permalink/10161780198097801/>

### SPORT

It's been a little quieter than normal the past few weeks as we edge closer towards the Christmas break. It is, however, finals season which has seen/will see lots of our teams represent the school at finals in a range of sports.

Last week was the turn of our year 5/6 tag rugby team who, coached and managed superbly by Mr Haddad, represented the school at the USSP finals at Carver Barracks in incredibly cold and blustery conditions with pride, passion and skill earning themselves a commendable 4th place finish.

The final two events of 2024 will see our amazing year 3/4 and year 5/6 dodgeball squad battle it out against the best schools in Uttlesford for a place in the Essex finals.

### AFSS

Yikes, the most wondrous time of the year is among us yet again! The little elves of the AFSS have been busy drinking tea, eating biscuits and making some amazing plans for the December. It all starts with selling hot chocolates at pick up time on most Fridays. Also the school will be transformed ready to host all of the Christmas festivities! Next Thursday we are hosting our annual movie night and hopefully your child/ren are coming! It's not too late to buy the tickets which are £5 per person: the cut off is Monday 2nd as we will need to make sure we purchase right amount of pizza and chips for the children. For those with busy hands, please sign up to help to organise the Children's Christmas Market ready for the big day on Friday 6th. The day will also see a very special visitor coming to the school - we wonder who it could be?? The following week the AFSS is serving the usual hot drinks and snacks during Christmas Productions with a bonus drink of Mulled Wine ready for those who really indulge themselves. So in short, the elves of the AFSS will be extremely busy in bringing all of Stebbing School community the joy of Christmas!



## HEADTEACHER AWARDS

	Friday 22nd November	Friday 29th November
Wrens	Gabriel & Johnny	Oliver & Izzy
Robins	Alex & Ellie	Oscar & Maisie
Kingfishers	Isla & Ephraim	Grace & Millie
Woodpeckers	Lois & Axel	Alfie & Fifi
Kestrels	Bella & Tereza	Sienna & Nellie
Ospreys	Nicolle & Julia	Alex & Tilly
Owls	Henry & Ava B	Florence, Rory & Hayden



## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE HEADTEACHER



	Friday 22nd November	Friday 29th November
Wrens	Izzy	Johnny
Robins	Joseph	Luna
Kingfishers	Rainbow	Amelie
Woodpeckers	Holly	Jenna
Kestrels	Elijah	Raf
Ospreys	Freddie	Amelie
Owls	Elly	Isabelle

## READING CHAMPIONS & PRESENTATION AWARDS

	Friday 22nd November	Friday 29th November
Wrens	Arlo	Stebbing Reading Champion: <b>Mia (Ospreys)</b>
Robins	Luna	
Kingfishers	Amelie	
Woodpeckers	Stebbing Reading Champion: <b>Mrs Capon</b>	Harvey
Kestrels		James
Ospreys		Violet
Owls		Mia

DATE	YEAR 6 AWARD	ATTENDANCE AWARD	LUNCHTIME AWARD	KEEP IT CLEAN AWARD
22.11.24	Carter	Owls	Bonnie-Blue	
29.11.24	Matilda	Owls	Luna & Cassia	Rose, Amelia, Julia, Elias, Albie, Nicolle & Lottie

						
Date						
22.11.24	Kingfishers	Owls	Woodpeckers	Ospreys	Owls	Kingfishers
29.11.24	Kingfishers	Owls	Ospreys	Kingfishers	Woodpeckers	Kestrels



# WRENS



# ROBINS



Thank you so much to our Wrens parents for getting involved with school life. We have welcomed some parents as Forest school volunteers and also had some helpers on our school trip. Please keep an eye on the School ClassDojo for more opportunities to help the AFSS and Parent Volunteers. Our Wrens have been given their roles for the Nativity and we would like to ask for costumes and clothes to be in by Monday for rehearsals. Wrens had a fantastic time on their very first school trip to Colchester zoo. We have been listening to all of their recollections of the day and hope they can treasure their little keepsake for years to come. In Literacy we have been exploring a variety of 'That's not my...' - books. Spotting similarities and differences. Wrens identified the repeating words and enjoyed thinking of and writing adjectives. Together we explored different textures and had a go at writing them. In Maths we have been focussing on 'one more' and 'one less'. Looking at number lines and concrete objects to move as we count. Singing songs like 'Five little speckled frogs' and 'Five currant buns in a baker shop'. We received a parcel in our post office today. Would you believe it! Wrens classroom has their very own elf. Together we decorated our Christmas tree with our handmade ornaments we will sell at our Class Craft market. Thank you for continuing to read with your Wren at home. We are looking forward to celebrating their first Stebbing Christmas with you all.

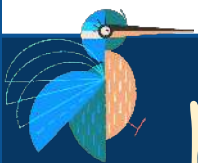
Well done for another fantastic couple of weeks, Robins. We have been very proud of how hard you have been working.

We had a brilliant start to Christmas festivities with our school trip to Audley End. Robins loved meeting the elves, playing on the adventure playground and meeting Santa. Lots of children were told by Mother Claus they had made it onto the 'good list' and were very excited to receive a lovely gift.

The day after, at school, each child received a letter from Snowfall the Elf asking them to take part in our very own Elf Academy. Robins were very excited and have enjoyed writing back to Snowfall. They were very careful and remembered our non-negotiables that we are working very hard on.

Play week is getting closer and Robins have been working very hard in play rehearsals with Mrs Smith. Please check your child's bag for their costume letters.

To continue our Terrific Toys topic, Robins have been comparing Paddington Bear. They were lucky to see a 50 year old Paddington and a brand new Paddington. Their writing about this has been fabulous.



# KINGFISHERS



# WOODPECKERS



We have been super busy in Kingfishers these past couple of weeks and it's starting to get very Christmassy here at Stebbing school.

Our class Christmas play rehearsals are well and truly underway and it has been wonderful to witness the children's confidence and excitement grow for this festive event!

In Maths we have been focusing on adding and subtracting with exchange, exploring Maths stories and creating our own. We also continue to practise X2's and number bonds to 10 and 100.

In English we are planning our story, focusing on writing a captivating beginning, a problem, a solution and an engaging ending. We have also been hyper vigilant and focused on ensuring we are always including our non-negotiables in every single sentence that we write across all areas of learning.

In grammar we have been exploring different conjunctions and how/when we use them accurately. We have been incorporating them into our writing in other areas, which is supporting Kingfishers with writing longer and more detailed sentences.

Kingfishers have enjoyed getting creative and have begun making festive items to sell at our Christmas market on the last Thursday of the term.

Today the children are telling you all about our character Mary...

Alasdair - She lived in the Georgian times.

Freddy - She lived on the Jurassic Coast in Lyme Regis.

Jenna - She has lots of siblings but most of them died and now it's just her, her dad, her mum and her brother called Joseph. She is 11.

Skylla - When she was little, lightning struck a tree and her neighbour and others who were under there died, but she didn't.

Nicole - Mary's parents put her in the bath and she was revived.

Olivia - They weren't allowed to buy a house, because they were Catholic.

Lois - The whole family was poor but then selling curiosities helped.

Fletcher - Her dad made cupboards.

Alfie - Her dad died. He fell on a rock and got an illness.

Fifi - He got Tuberculosis.

Charlie - She found a snake stone.

Holly - She sold an ammonite to get half a crown and that helped her feed her family for a whole week.

Frankie - Mary was selling fossils.

Her name is Mary Annina.



Another two weeks has flown by! We have been really busy with our Christmas play and are really looking forward to sharing it with you all soon! In English, we have started our writing unit on our focus book, 'Pugs of the Frozen North'. We have explored the characters and in particular looked at the language the author has used to describe the different characters. We will be using this to create our own characters next week.

In maths, we have focused on finding the area of different shapes. We have ten completed some assessments in class, which we will use to inform the rest of our maths teaching this term.

We have enjoyed our first geography sessions of the year and have really enjoyed looking through atlases so find different continents and countries. In science, we loved our lesson with Mrs Harrison where we learnt all about measuring sound in decibels and how we can use soundproofing to protect our ears. Of course, we have also been completing lots of wonderful Christmas crafts for you to purchase at our Christmas Craft Market!

The weeks in this half term are flying passed way too quickly! This week in Ospreys we have been completing some assessments in grammar, reading and maths. The purpose of these assessments are for us to see if there are any misconceptions or gaps in learning that need to be consolidated before moving on to new content in the Spring Term. These will be worked on in the time running up to Christmas. We have also been talking to the children an awful lot about non-negotiables and what an expected piece of writing looks like in Year 5. We are enforcing these every minute of every day to ensure that as many children as possible can be where they need to be. Our focus has been joined up handwriting, capital letters and full stops which haven't been consistent since starting back in September. We have explained to the children that they can not be expected by the end of the year if these basics are not in place all of the time! It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm to want to better themselves and everyone has been giving it their all and you can't ask for more than that! Well done everybody!



What a wonderful couple of weeks we have had in Owls class. After two weeks away from the class, it was lovely to be back having fun with Owls.

These past two weeks have been a true reflection of life as a year 6 at Stebbing Primary schools. Not only are the children working incredibly hard in class, but they are also giving so much to the whole school community. Starting with our reception open mornings which saw our children take small groups of parents on a tour around our wonderful school, sharing their experiences, journeys and the ins and outs of life as a pupils at Stebbing. The feedback we received from all of the parents was incredibly positive - fantastic spokespeople and advocates for their school.

We are also 2 weeks into our Matilda rehearsals and my word are they all doing well. With one week to go to put the finishing touches together, we are so excited to share it with you all.

All of this alongside our regular classroom work where we have started the process of constructing a personalised Christmas story for our buddies in Wrens. The children are so excited to start writing, illustrating and eventually, sharing their stories with their buddies.

Christmas in Owls officially starts next week and we cannot wait to make their final Christmas at Stebbing a magical one.

*"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."*

*John Muir*

We were so lucky that the beginning of our school year was soaked in glorious sunshine and balmy weather. Autumn - this inspirational season of glorious colours and textures that now leads us gently into winter, a time for reflection and to hopefully slow down.

Our Forest School area was thickly carpeted in leaves of many varieties, some weeks there were mainly yellow leaves, where the next week perhaps it was the red oaks turn and the Grandmother tree to add their leaves to the mix. Some of these differences were noted by the children, the whys and hows and the science behind the colour changes and leaf fall provoked some enquiring child led conversations.

But the fun and play was evident too - the joy of kicking them around, constructing leaf trampolines, constructing hedgehog homes, cutting them up using scissors to make patterns, leaf mandalas, leaf posies and then discovering where they all go as the season moves forward. All wonderful examples of creative learning through play.

So much learning is achieved with play and this is why it is so important for children to have these opportunities to think for themselves, own their creativity and try things out at their own pace and know it's ok to make mistakes - building resilience and understanding and to just be in the moment.

Natures 'smorgasbord' of loose parts and bounty can ignite the imagination on so many levels and it makes my day when a child comes running up to me to show me a 'really cool leaf' or shows empathy for something that has died. Just some of the things why Forest School and access to nature beyond the school gates has been proven to be so beneficial to everyone.

The past 14 years have been an amazing journey to have shared with the hundreds of children who have come to play and it's been a pleasure to have walked alongside them during their Forest School sessions.

I will be leaving Stebbing this Christmas, not an easy decision but the time has come for a change and to move into a different sector of Nature Connection/education and wellbeing.

I would like to personally thank all my colleagues at Stebbing who have joined me in all weathers and supported me, you are all amazing. A huge thank you also goes to the wonderful parent volunteers who have, week in week out, given up their own time to come and play in the woods with us.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT
21.11.24	Reception 2025 open evening 5.30pm
05.12.24	Reception 2025 open morning 09.45 & 10.45am
05.12.24	AFSS movie night 3.10-5pm
06.12.24	AFSS Children's Christmas Market
09.12.24	Christmas play week
18.12.24	Christmas lunch day
19.12.24	Christmas craft market 9-9.30am (children to sell their crafts to parents)
20.12.24	End of term