

March- 2026



STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY

DATES

w/b 2nd—Nursery
explore and create
week

w/b 2nd—parent
teacher meetings

6th—Beech cake
sale

12th—Reception trip
to Greendale

13th—Ladybird cake
sale

16/18/19 Y1 Clip N
Climb trip

17th—Beech class
assembly 9am

19th—National Child
Measurement
Programme
(Reception children)

19th—PTFA meeting
10.30am

20th—Red Nose Day

20th—Dragonfly
Cake sale

24th—Oak class
assembly 9am

25th—Rocksteady
concert 2.30pm

27th—Bee cake sale

31st—Willow class
assembly 9am

SPRING TERM

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring made a glorious appearance last week and we've been spotting signs of spring all over the grounds—daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses to name a few!

It's been a very busy month at SHINS, even with half term in the middle: the Valentine's disco, Olympian visit, Really Wild Learning and Year 2's trip to Tiverton Museum have all happened since the last newsletter.

On Thursday we celebrate one of my favourite days in the school calendar: World Book Day. A reminder that children can come dressed as a book character and you should have received a £1 token which can be exchanged for one of the specially published World Book Day books in most supermarkets or book shops.

We're looking forward to talking to you about your child's learning at parent teacher meetings this week. Please let us know if you can't make your appointment and respect the allocated time slot. As we did last time, year teams will meet in a central classroom (Bee (YR), Beech (Y1), Willow (Y2) and Nursery meetings will take place in the Pod or SEND office.

Later this month we also look forward to welcoming parents to Year 1's class assemblies and this term's Rocksteady concert!

Best wishes,

Claire McKimm, Head of School

Stars of the week



The following children have been their class's reader, role model or learner of the week during the last month:

Readers of the week: Ptolemy, Kacper, Zoe (Bee), Jack A, Hannan, Edward (Dragonfly), Leah, Reece, Kit (Ladybird), Emily, Imogen, Arthur (Beech), Erin, Alannah, Phoebe (Oak), Lara, Reuben, Abi (Willow), Mira, Frankie, Percy (Chaffinch), Jacob, Alex, Evie T (Swift), Henrik, Olive, Theo (Woodpecker)

Role models of the week: Jasmine, Aria, Immy (Bee), Elinor, Marnie, Jack A (Dragonfly), Marcus, Ahla, Martha (Ladybird), Avah, Elijah, Samuel (Beech), Lyla, Viola, Gabriel (Oak), Aathan, Mae, Muaz (Willow), Arwin, Elham, Erin (Chaffinch), Ollie, Rithira, Ben (Swift), Ruben, Ryan, Gabi (Woodpecker)

Learners of the week: Seth, Lilyana, Iris (Bee), Euan, Alissa, Maddie (Dragonfly), Dylan, Nim, Ruby (Ladybird), Elijah, Harrison, Tommy (Beech), Harry, Seb, Emma (Oak), Joel, Theo, Sylvie (Willow), Caitriona, Alex, Evie (Chaffinch), Aaron, Maya, Damon (Swift), Doris, Daisy, Julia (Woodpecker)

Really Wild Learning

Reception and Nursery were very excited to meet the Really Wild animals who visited last week. We discussed what we thought we might see, how we should behave and thought about any questions we could ask Kim about the animals:

"Are they poisonous?"; "Will they all be little?"; we should be "quiet and gentle because we don't want to frighten them"; maybe there'll be a Chameleon like in our book"; "some animals might be nocturnal."

During our visit we met Mr Mango the corn snake, a baby corn snake, Waffle the Bearded Dragon, Pepper the Crested Gecko, Sam the Tenrec, a Tarantula and 2 millipedes and two stick insects.



Olympian Visit

Before half term we were thrilled to welcome Commonwealth gold medallist and Olympian, Wesley McGuinness to our school! The children enthusiastically took part in a high-energy fitness challenge, involving spotty dogs, press ups, star jumps and leg drives. Everyone (including the teachers!) showed great determination, hard work and smiles throughout. After working up a sweat, we had a special Q&A with Wesley where we discussed how to keep healthy and train like an athlete. Thanks to everyone's incredible effort and the generosity of our school community we have raised an amazing £2738! These donations are shared between the school and to support Wesley's sporting career. Our money will fund brand new playground equipment that the School Council have been carefully thinking about and planning for! A huge thank you again to everyone who got involved.



PTFA & Community

The Valentine's Disco was a great success—a big thank you to all the volunteers and particularly to DJ Jurassic who kept the dance floor full of smiling children.

Thank you also to **St Bridget Nurseries** have kindly donated 12 sets of garden tools for the children in EYFS—the children love digging and growing things!



School Office Notices and quick reminders

Please be reminded that mobile phones should not be used on school premises and that no photographs or videos should be taken without school's permission, this includes at after school clubs.

If you don't already, please make sure you have the School Gateway App downloaded to order lunches, receive messages and make payments.

Finally an important reminder that we are a NO NUT school.



Devon Wildlife Trust's Spring Challenge

From 30th March to 30th April, little legs across the country will be taking big steps for wildlife in The Hedgehog Walk – a fun and family-friendly fundraising challenge. We're on a mission to create more safe spaces for hedgehogs like Apricot and badgers like Stripey to thrive. That's why we're inviting families, schools, clubs and learning groups to walk 3km and raise vital funds for nature!

The Wildlife Trusts are a grassroots movement of 46 charities working together to make the UK wilder and ensure nature is part of everyone's lives. With over 910,000 members and 35,000 volunteers, we inspire people and protect wildlife across the country.



1. Sign up

Sign up as a family, school, or group and get your downloadable Timmy Time activity pack.



2. Walk 3km

Complete your Hedgehog Walk anytime between 30th March and 30th April. In the park, playground, or wherever you like!



3. Fundraise for wildlife

Every step helps protect nature and supports our mission to help make more places for hedgehogs like Apricot and badgers like Stripey to live.

By taking part in The Hedgehog Walk, you're helping us inspire the next generation of nature lovers – and protect wildlife for years to come.

You can sign up from the website or by clicking on this link:-

<https://the-hedgehog-walk-2026.raiselysite.com/signup>

Mental Health

In February we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week, following this year's official theme from Place2Be — '**This is My Place**', which encourages children to feel a sense of belonging in school, with friends, at home and in the wider community.

(place2be.org.uk) The children enjoyed circle time chats about feelings, active breaks and mindfulness games to support their emotional wellbeing.

You can support your child at home by encouraging open conversations about their day, listening without judgement and helping them name their feelings. Simple routines, quality time together and showing positive ways to cope with emotions can make a big difference. Useful resources include

YoungMinds (<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent>), **NHS children's mental health guidance** (<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/>) and **Place2Be's parenting advice** (<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>).

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe. Programme*** next week. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of an age appropriate virtual assembly (Reception, Year 1 and 2) and supporting classroom activities for Year 1 and 2. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

Parents and carers are asked to let their child's teacher know if their child may have experienced anything (in the past or happening now) which may mean they need extra support before, during or after taking part in this programme.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Additional NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe

Parent/Carer support

Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers.

www.nspcc.org.uk/parents

Activities to extend learning at home

Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/activities

Online Safety Hub

For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

Childline – under 12's

Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities.

Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content.

www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7)

www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)

Talk PANTS with your children

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

Autism and Us—Parent Support course

Support for parents or carers of primary or secondary aged children (5-16) who are either on the neurodiversity assessment waiting list, or who have received a diagnosis of autism. Attending the Autism and Us parent programme helps you develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs, whilst also connecting with other parents and carers. Access to the programme will be offered to parents and carers of children and young people who are currently on the neurodiversity assessment pathway, as well as to families of those who have received an autism diagnosis. Sessions take place each Wednesday in March, 10-12—you can apply direct by email

educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk to secure a place or to express your interest for forthcoming programmes.