

October - 2025

STOKE HILL INFANT AND NURSERY



DATES

3rd—Chaffinch
cake sale

8th @2:30—Year 1
Parent workshop—
Little Wandle

10th—Wear Yellow
for World Mental
Health Day

10th—Willow cake
sale

14th and 16th—
Parent Teacher
Interviews

16th—Year 2
Dental Visit

17th—Oak cake
sale

22nd @2:30
Reception Parent
Workshop—Little
Wandle

23rd—Year 2 trip to
the Titanic
exhibition

24th—Break up for
half term

Return to school
Tuesday 4th
November

AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new school year. It has been lovely to see new and returning children and families settling in. At the start of the year we always have a big focus on our school rules of being **Ready, Respectful and Safe**. We teach and remind children to use Kelso's choices to help them solve small problems and who the adults are in school that they can go to if they have a big problem.

Throughout the year, you will receive a newsletter each month, where we celebrate all things Stoke Hill, share key events, snippets of the children's learning, advice and signposting. This month there are lots of messages and pointers—we're hoping for your support for our Harvest Appeal, collecting food donations for local foodbanks (details on p4), and for World Mental Health Day, where we show our support by wearing yellow. You will also see our stars, who are celebrated in assembly each week, listed below.

As we move into the colder months, please make sure your child has a coat in school with them at all times and that this, along with the rest of their belongings, is clearly labelled with their name so that lost property doesn't stay lost for long!

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: Grace, Zach (Beech), Bella, Lyla (Oak), Aathan, Skylar (Willow), Alfie, Amelia (Chaffinch), Evie, Jonah (Swift), Talula, Doris (Woodpecker)

Role models of the week: Elizabeth, Elodie (Beech), Jerry, Ava (Oak), Joel, Theo (Willow), Lucy, George (Chaffinch), Emery, Joulán (Swift), Jacob, Rufus (Woodpecker)

Learners of the week: Max, Avah (Beech), Alannah, Joseph (Oak), Lara, Abi (Willow), Zen, Oscar (Chaffinch), Ben, Rory (Swift), Rona, Leena (Woodpecker)

Parent Teacher Interviews

There are two parents' evenings each year—one in the Autumn and one in the Spring. The first opportunity for parents to hear from their child's teacher about how they have started the year is coming up this month. Each appointment is 10 minutes and if it appears the conversation needs to be longer, the teachers will arrange a separate time. It's our way of sticking to time for other parents, so they are not kept waiting. You will receive information about booking appointments via SchoolGateway.

10th October 2025 is World Mental Health Day

Every year, thousands of schools, companies, and communities come together to make World Mental Health Day that little bit brighter by wearing something yellow and donating to Young Minds. In my role as Mental Health lead for the Federation, I'm asking for your support. We'd love for as many staff and pupils to wear something yellow on this day and show their support for positive mental health. If you'd like to also donate to Young Minds, then that's your choice and you can do so by following the link <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/donate/>



Right now, the world is a tough place for children and young people to grow up in. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone. Things can get better. Within our mission to make Stoke Hill a great place to learn, work and play we ensure inclusivity for all. It is our commitment and determination that all individuals will succeed and excel in all aspects of their learning. As senior mental health lead I strive to ensure the whole team embed positive mental health and wellbeing across our school culture to create an environment where pupils can thrive.

This World Mental Health Day, wear yellow with thousands of others across the UK and raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. Because we stand brighter, together.

Sarah Padbury



Train to Teach in Devon

As a partner school with Exeter Consortium Schools' Alliance, we are proud to support their Primary Teacher Training programme. If you've ever thought about becoming a primary school teacher, this school-based training offers classroom placements across Devon, expert guidance, and hands-on experience from day one.

Applications open on **7th October 2025** for training starting September 2026. Find out more here: www.exeterconsortium.com/train-to-teach



School Office Notices and quick reminders

Timings: School starts for Reception, Year 1 and 2 at 8.50am each day. Please do your best to get your child to class on time. If you arrive after this time your child will be marked late (before 9am) or unauthorized if they arrive after 9am. We start shutting gates just after 8.50am to secure the site for our children.

Nursery absence: Nursery parents new guidance means that we must now keep track of any nursery absence. Please let the office know if your child will not be attending.

Lunches: It is very helpful for you to pre order lunches on the Gateway App (before 8am each day).

After school play: As per the email last week, please remember that only the playgrounds are available after school (not the astro or field) and there is no access to first aid or toilets.

Nits: the start of the year has brought nits in a few classes. Please check your child's hair regularly and consider keeping long hair tied up to help prevent the spread.

Parking: as always, please support our community by making sure you are parking and driving considerately around the school at pick up and drop off. There have already been a number of incidents reported to us as being unsafe.

Many thanks for your support.



Fundraising Champions!

We were so proud to hear that Eleni from Year 5 had been nominated for her fundraising efforts along with her friends. Eleni made the finals of the BBC Radio Devon Make a Difference Awards after raising £3000 for YMCA Exeter.

Younger brother, Ruben, who is in Year 2 has also got the fundraising bug and has supported Eleni recently at Heavitree Park's Fun Day, raising £700, and also got to attend the award ceremony—we're so proud of him!

There are so many amazing things children and their families do away from school and we always love to hear about them.



StoryFest

Libraries Unlimited are collaborating with Aardman to bring StoryFest to Devon & Torbay in October half term

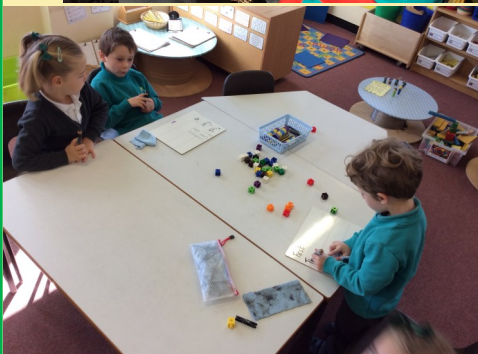
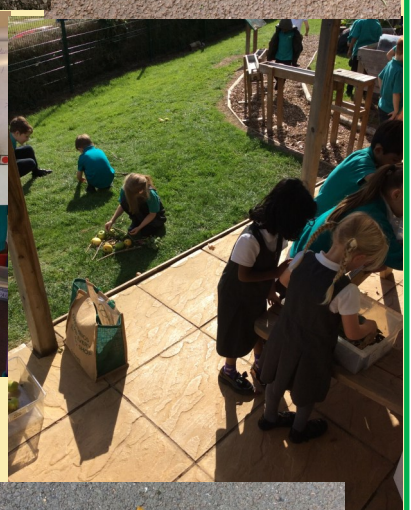
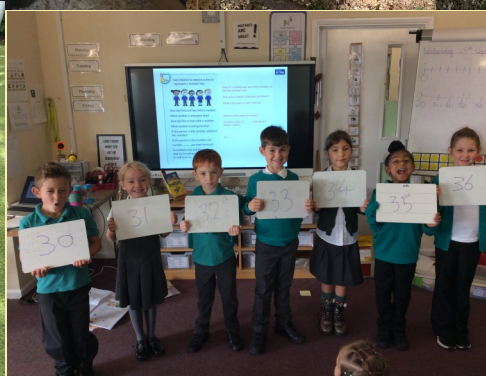
StoryFest kicks off at Exeter Library on 25th October for a full day of exciting live events including the Vegetable Orchestra, Shaun

Dares Ewe, and special guest appearances from Shaun the Sheep himself! It's set to be a *Grand Day Out*!

This is followed by model making and animation workshops at Barnstaple, Paignton and Exeter Libraries. Aardman's expert model makers will be leading three days of hands-on workshops where children can learn clay modelling and animation techniques. A fantastic opportunity for young creators!

There will also be other activities at a variety of libraries, with further details announced nearer the time. This includes libraries screening classic Aardman films, along with Aardman's brand-new interactive AR trail, Wallace & Gromit: All Systems Go available in Exeter, Barnstaple, and Paignton.

Around the school in September



Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 250 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Tinned meat

Tinned fish

Tinned vegetables

Vegetarian meals

Tinned potatoes

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned fruit

Small jars of coffee

Biscuits

Shampoo

07818 226 524

exeterfoodbank.co.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1128795)



**Donations can be brought to the main office
from 2nd-10th October**