



Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see our school community reunited and ready for a new term of learning. January has provided a calm but purposeful start to the year, with pupils quickly settling back into routines and demonstrating resilience, responsibility and enthusiasm in all they do. Across the school, there has been a strong sense of focus and positivity as children embrace new learning opportunities and continue to live out our shared values. We look forward to building on this strong start as the term progresses and the promise of spring approaches.

'Together we are proud, together we are STOKE'

Successful, Trustworthy, Original, Kind, Equal



A message from our Head of School - Mrs Massey-Sturgess

January has brought many continued highlights for our wonderful school—many of which you will have seen on Dojo and will read about in this newsletter. From dance festivals to super science, incredible art and persuasive letters, the list of experiences and achievements is endless.

My personal highlight this month was having the pleasure of welcoming several colleagues from the Trust into school as part of a whole-school review. I am delighted to share that it was a very positive experience. They were able to see first-hand the many strengths of our school, including the strong relationships between staff and pupils, our high expectations for all children, our commitment to inclusion, and the clear learning journeys and progress being made across the school.

Our pupils were a credit to themselves and to our school community, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented Stoke.

Of course, there was some guidance on next steps, which will help us to ensure Stoke continues to go from strength to strength.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



A message from our Executive Head - Mr Chris Partridge

It has been a wonderfully busy and positive month in school, with each class embracing rich learning experiences that go far beyond the everyday routine. From Goldfinches exploring the magic of winter through hands-on investigation, to Woodpeckers diving into persuasive writing, science and geography with great enthusiasm, it has been a joy to see such curiosity and confidence growing across the school. Ravens, too, have impressed us with their thoughtful writing, their interest in Ancient Greece and space, and their developing artistic expression.

Beyond the classroom, Forest School has continued to offer muddy, memorable adventures, while After-school Club has been full of creativity, baking and imaginative play. Our Year 4 and 5 pupils represented the school brilliantly at the Whitstone dance festival, showing teamwork, pride and a real willingness to challenge themselves. These experiences reflect our belief that education is about nurturing the whole child—supporting them to become resilient, kind and enthusiastic learners.



As Safer Internet Day approaches, we encourage families to continue open conversations at home about online safety. Working together, we can help our children navigate the digital world with confidence and care.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated community, and we look forward to the learning and opportunities the coming weeks will bring.

Highlights from around the school

Winter Wonderland and Wonderful Learning in Goldfinches



Throughout the month, the children in Goldfinches have enjoyed a rich range of hands-on learning experiences linked to our *Winter Wonderland* theme. They have explored places in the world that are cold all year round, learning about the animals that live there and how they are specially adapted to survive in icy conditions. Sensory play with ice has encouraged curiosity and investigation, as the children observed how it feels, melts and changes over time, alongside discussions about the changing seasons and what makes winter special. In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of numbers to 20, focusing on number composition and place value by working with tens and ones, and using practical resources, games and discussion to explain their thinking. As part of learning about caring for wildlife in winter, the children also made bird feeders using pinecones, lard and bird seed, which were placed outside to

support local birds. They have also been exploring primary colours, laying the foundations for some exciting artwork to come. It has been a pleasure to see such enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork throughout the month as the children continue to learn, investigate and grow together.

A Month of Curious Minds and Creative Learning in Woodpeckers

Throughout the month, Woodpeckers have enjoyed a variety of engaging and creative learning experiences. A letter from the Hedgehog Society sparked lots of discussion and laughter, as children considered whether to donate their shoes to help keep hedgehogs warm – all safely returned once the fun was revealed! This provided a memorable introduction to persuasive writing, which continued as pupils wrote thoughtful letters to Mrs Massey-Sturgess requesting a school trip. We are delighted to share that their brilliant arguments were successful, and Woodpeckers will be visiting The American Museum on Tuesday, 24th February. Alongside this, the children have been exploring materials in science through hands-on investigations, launching





their geography topic on America with an exciting state hunt, practising the 10 times table in maths, and developing their creativity in art through animal line drawing. It has been a pleasure to see such enthusiasm, curiosity and effort throughout the month.

Exploring Ancient Greece, Space, and Artistic Expression in Ravens

In Ravens Class, we have been exploring how the Ancient Greeks have helped to shape the world we live in today, alongside an exciting unit on space in science. The children have recently completed some fantastic diary entries, writing in role as Nico from *The Mark of the Cyclops* by Saviour Pirotta, and showing great empathy and creativity in their work. In art, we have been learning about expressionism, exploring the style and developing the skills and techniques inspired by this powerful movement.

Forest School & After-school Club



Over the past month, Forest School has been especially wet, but the children have embraced the mud with enthusiasm and have enjoyed starting to make their own bird feeders. In Afterschool Club, the kitchen has been busy with the children creating cornflake cakes and banana muffins, and they're looking forward to trying rock cakes next. Craft sessions have been wonderfully creative, with spoon people, cardboard roll animals and characters, and some brilliant animal pegs taking shape. Computer night has continued to be a popular choice, and we've also seen some fantastic Lego builds throughout the month, including multi-level constructions and even a few imaginative pizza restaurants.

Parents and carers are reminded that bookings for after-school club should be made via MCAS by 3:20pm on the day before attendance. Breakfast club bookings must also be completed via MCAS by 8:00am the day before.

Dance Festival

Our Yr 4&5 pupils enjoyed a fantastic dance festival at Whitstone school earlier this month. Led brilliantly by their year 11 BTEC dance students, the workshops were fun, engaging and a truly valuable experience for everyone involved. Our pupils behaved impeccably throughout the day and embraced every activity with enthusiasm and big smiles. The festival concluded with a concert with a wonderful performance for parents and carers, celebrating the children's achievements and the progress they had made in such a short time. As a school, we are incredibly proud of their efforts and the unwavering pride they showed while representing their school- what a memorable day of dance!





Safer Internet Day

As Safer Internet Day approaches (Tuesday, 10th February), we are encouraging open communication between you and your child regarding their online activity.

Some tips have been included (below) for supporting a joined-up approach between pupils, parents and teachers. In school we regularly focus on Internet Safety as part of our curriculum and if you don't already have <https://families.google/familylink/> you may wish to install this or similar on your devices, so that you can monitor and support your child's safe use of internet content.

Monitoring and Awareness: As parents, it is crucial to be aware of the platforms your child uses, who they are connected with, and the content they are sharing. Regularly check their devices and have open conversations about their online behaviour.

Age Appropriateness: Ensure your child is using platforms that are age-appropriate and adhere to the terms of service regarding minimum age requirements.

Cyberbullying Concerns: Cyberbullying can have serious consequences, and we encourage you to talk to your child about the importance of respectful online conduct, reporting any instances of bullying they encounter.

Privacy Settings: Review privacy settings on accounts to limit who can see your child's personal information and posts.

Digital Footprint: Remind your child that anything posted online can be seen by others, including potential employers, and should be considered carefully.

Screen Time Management: Set healthy boundaries regarding screen time and encourage other activities that do not involve technology.

We know that by working together, we can create a safe and positive online environment for our pupils and teach them the skills they need to navigate the virtual world.



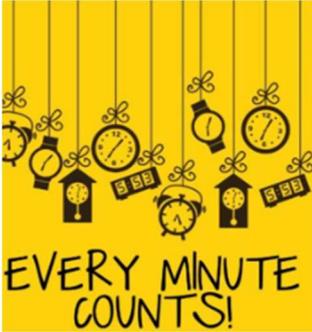
SAVE THE DATE

**Safer
Internet
Day 2026** | Tuesday
10 February

[better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/
saferinternetday](https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday)



Attendance and Punctuality reminder



Our attendance for this month is 93.46%. We would like to remind families of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Arriving on time helps children settle calmly into the school day and ensures they don't miss valuable learning time. If your child is absent due to illness, please remember that parents and carers must contact the school office every day their child is off – not just on the first day. You can do this by phone or email.

Tel: 01749 343114

E-mail: office@croscombeprimary.co.uk

Regular updates help us keep accurate records and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils.

School Office



Don't forget that our school has an official Instagram page! This provides another great way to stay up to date with the latest school news, events, and updates. To keep in touch and see what's happening, simply follow us on both Facebook and/or Instagram.

We encourage you to **like, share, and spread the word** by sharing our posts on your own social media pages and groups. Your support helps us reach even more families and keep our community engaged!

- <https://www.facebook.com/croscombecofprimary/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/croscombecofprimary>



Stoke St. Michael Primary School

Together We Are Proud, Together We Are STOKE

The weekly Newsletter from Stoke St Michael

Friday 30th January 2026

Term Dates

February

Monday 9 th – Friday 15 th	Children’s Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10 th	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 12 th	Last Day of Term 3
Friday 13 th	Inset Day
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th	Half term
Monday 23 rd	First Day of Term 4
Tuesday 24 th	Supporting Your Child’s Big Feelings Workshop

March

Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
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April

Wednesday 1 st	Parents’ Evening
Thursday 2 nd	Last Day of Term 4
Friday 3 rd	Easter Holidays Begin
Monday 20 th	First Day of Term 5

May

Monday 4 th	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22 nd	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th	Half Term

June

Monday 1 st	First Day of Term 6
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