



Stamford Green

Primary School and Nursery



INSPIRING

Welcome to our School Newsletter - Issue 7 - April 2026

Headteacher's Headlines

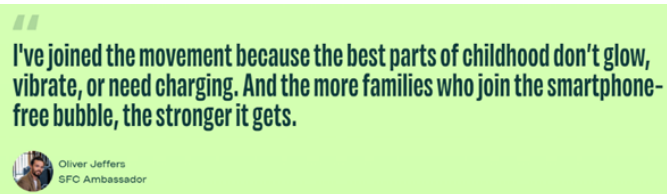
Dear Families,

You may have seen in the news this week that the government has said it will introduce a legal ban on smartphones in schools in England. BBC news reports that 'Education minister Baroness Jacqui Smith told the House of Lords on Monday that the Government would table an amendment to its landmark Children's and Wellbeing Schools Bill on the matter'. This is alongside the Mobile Phones in Schools guidance that was introduced in February by the Department for Education.

Earlier in the school year, we wrote about the Smartphone free childhood movement, who are committing to delaying giving children a smartphone and access to social media. At Stamford Green, only children in Year 6 are allowed to bring a phone to school, which is handed in at the beginning of the day and handed back at home time and is not to be used until they are off the school premises. Like other schools in Epsom and Ewell, we are pledging to become a smartphone free school from September 2026 as statistics show that use of smartphones and social media can mean that children are able to access harmful content, it can affect their attention and sleep and can affect mental health to name a few! The University of Birmingham found in 2025, that the average time UK teens spend on their smartphones was 35 hours a week – equivalent to a full time job!



The Smartphone Free Childhood continues to gather momentum with parents agreeing to delay giving the children a smartphone. Currently at time of writing, there are 185,399 families signed up nationally, with Surrey continuing to be at the top of the leaderboard. Many other household names are also signing up to the pact including Oliver Jeffers, Benedict Cumberbatch, Joe Wicks and Zack George (Steel from Gladiators) who continue to publicise the movement. If you have not



done so already, you can sign the parent pact on the Smartphone Free Childhood website.

If you are keen to delay the use of smartphones with your child, the website and their Instagram feed offers practical advice about how you can discuss this with your child. They also have several examples of phones that could be used in place of a smartphone, which is a useful guide for parents. Discussing the plan in advance is a practical strategy, so that children know that when they get their first phone, it won't be a smartphone.



Best wishes,
Miss Swann
Deputy Headteacher: Teaching and Learning

News In Brief

Staffing Update

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Gibb in the Office, who is leaving to work nearer to where she lives. Mrs Gibb will be known to many of you as she responds to the emails sent into parents@. I am sure you will join us in thanking her for all her help and support and wish her well for her next adventure.

A warm welcome to Mrs Capogreco who has been working with Mrs Gibb for the last two weeks to ensure a smooth handover. We anticipate that it will be business as usual but please get in touch if you need to.

HOW TO DELAY SMARTPHONES WITHOUT DAILY BATTLES

Decide your line early It's easier to hold a boundary you decided before the pressure started.	Tell them the plan in advance Children cope better when they've known the family rule for years.	Don't make smartphones a reward Turning it into a prize only makes it more powerful.
Don't debate it every week A calm, repeated answer works better than endless negotiation.	Blame the family rule, not the child Our family rule: No smartphones yet.	Offer independence in other ways Trust them to have real world experiences alone.
Find at least one other family It's much easier when they're not the only one.	Keep the boundary calm & boring Consistency works better than big arguments.	Remember the pressure passes Once the boundary is clear, the urgency often fades.

@smartphonefreechildhood



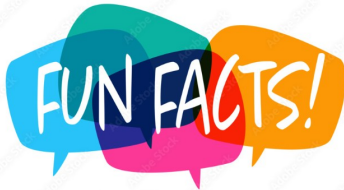
@stamford.green

We've been investigating electrical circuits in Year 6. What components did we need to complete a circuit?



PTA Post

Over 80 bottles of prosecco were drunk at the Quiz Night!



Thank you to Mark and the team for organising the event. We hope you all enjoyed the event.

Sports Afternoons

We are hoping to find a volunteer for each Sports Afternoon so that the ice poles the PTA give out to the children can happen.



The job involves snipping the top and putting 30 in a bag just before the end of each event.

Thank you to Rosie, a YR mum, who is helping at the Y2 event. In the past people have helped at a different event to the one their child is in so that they do not miss anything.

If you can help, please email Shelley: PTAChair@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk



I've always wondered...

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authorisation, for 5 or more days, (which do not have to be consecutive) then the following will apply:

If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Please see our [Attendance Policy](#) to understand the new National Regulations.



Community Corner

If you do need to drive your child to school please consider parking a short distance from the school. This is a good way for them to start the day and has the added benefit of reducing traffic in the local roads around the school.

Parking Etiquette

- Do** park safely and legally — even if you are running late.
- Do** follow the Highway Code and avoid stopping on white lines and yellow school zig zags.
- Do not** park illegally (this includes double and single yellow lines).
- Do not** park on our neighbours' grass verges.
- Do not** park across driveways or road entrances thus blocking them for other road users.



Online Safety

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients. Not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposed to require encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS
WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a 'parent emergency', or using a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to the real number. Most scammers use WhatsApp's 'Call or text to ask you to report this contact to us, giving them access'.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS
To start a chat, someone only needs the phone number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has a phone number that is shared with someone they don't know, that person could contact them via WhatsApp. It's important to be cautious (by one of their friends, for example) of someone else people that they don't know.

CHAT LOCK
In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a secure 'locked and hidden' folder on their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face-to-authentication. The feature is designed to protect sensitive information from being accessed by others. Unfortunately, this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they expect their contacts to be able to see (such as inappropriate material).

COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS
A community is a collection of related groups on WhatsApp. They can consist of thousands of users. Communities are often led by administrators to target large groups, helping someone else on their link or respond to their requests. In communities and groups, there are multiple ongoing conversations, which results in pressure to respond. Members may also be able to see each other's contacts – will be able to see any messages sent into the group.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT
The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate content or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't 'spin them back' or use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this content, but since the introduction of the 'view once' feature, this protection is more limited.

FAKE NEWS
WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use has led to the spread of fake news. Forwarded more than five times on the app, news stories, false information and other content are often shared. Fake news stories cause a lot of confusion. Make sure they know that it's OK to know a group, chat or message is a fake news story. It might not be entirely factual, either.

VISIBLE LOCATION
WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current location with others. This can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking on their children. However, anyone on their contacts list or in a 'public group' that is open to anyone can see their location. Make sure they know that it's OK to know a group, chat or message is a fake news story. It might not be entirely factual, either.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- EMPHASISE CAUTION**
Encourage children to treat unexpected WhatsApp messages with caution. If a child receives a message from a friend or relative who has not shared their WhatsApp number, or who has shared it with someone else, they should not respond. Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they receive such a message.
- ADJUST THE SETTINGS**
It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to control what their contacts can see. This includes turning off 'Share my location' and 'Share my contact info'. Additionally, if a child needs to use the app, encourage them to use the 'Share my location' feature only as long as they need – and then turn it off.
- DISCUSS GROUP CHATS**
Make a children aware that there could be members of a group that they aren't aware of. Encourage them to be cautious about sharing in conversations. Encourage them to be cautious about sharing in conversations. Encourage them to be cautious about sharing in conversations.
- THINK BEFORE SHARING**
Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that is shared to be shared again, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or spread a lie or false information to others in confidence.
- CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY**
Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a 'red flag' before you post, send to talk about the best of practices to protect their privacy. If you're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any 'view once' content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various evidence-based papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

OSCE WakeUp Wednesday

The National College



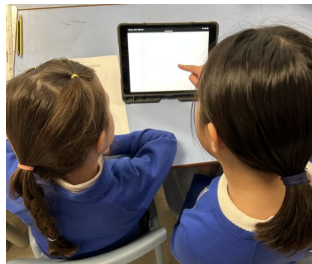
Pupil leadership Scoop

Kindness Ambassadors

We recognise that our children consistently demonstrate strong self-discipline and a commitment to their learning. They develop the skills to manage their emotions effectively and resolve conflicts in a positive and respectful way. As a result, they show high levels of respect for others and rarely need reminders about expectations for positive behaviour.

Our Kindness Ambassadors, a dedicated team of pupil leaders, play an important role in promoting and maintaining these high standards. They have developed a survey for pupils in Year 2 to Year 6 to gather views on behaviour across the school. The questions have been carefully designed to be clear, concise, and accessible, while still capturing meaningful pupil voice. The survey also asks children who they feel comfortable speaking to if they have any concerns or worries, enabling the school to better understand how supported children feel.

Today the Kindness Ambassadors were checking that the Google Form was working well before all the children are asked to complete it.



Above and Beyond



Over the Easter Break, budding writers in Year 5 took their English writing skills a step further. The students wrote:

- An in-depth fact-file about whales.
- Humorous poetry about all kinds of pets.
- A story about cheeky squirrels named Acorn and Chestnut.
- An account based on a true story: Pickles the dog who saved the world cup.
- The adventures of a young girl who is ready to explore beyond her daily life.
- A dramatic tale about 'What Sleeps in the Trench' (spoiler alert — it's The MEG!).
- A thrilling piece about the mystery of the shadow.
- A fantasy tale following the story of a dragon on a quest.

These stories were a testament to the incredible writing skills developed by the Year 5 students. Well done!

If your child has gone above and beyond, and would like to be featured in the school newsletter, please send us an email and we can include them in future editions.

parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk



Attendance

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19th August 2024 Penalty Notice fines increase to £160 for each parent, for each child.



You can be fined if your child has a total of 5 days of unauthorised absences in 10 school weeks, for things like:

- being late after the register has closed
- truancy
- taking a holiday without permission from the school
- or if a headteacher isn't satisfied for the reason for missing school

Over a rolling 3-year period the sanctions are:

- 1st offence – £160 reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days
- 2nd offence – £160
- 3rd offence – Court hearing and up to £2,500 fine, or up to 3 months in prison and a criminal record

For more information go to:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/missing-school



Challenge Corner



MathSphere Sudoku



Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 2 by 2 box contains the numbers 1 to 4.

Easier Puzzle 1

			3
			2
3			
4			

LEARNING

Save the date!

Our passionate pupils have come up with a fantastic way to commemorate Sir David Attenborough's 100th year: a Conservation Evening in his honour.

This will take place in the School Hall on Thursday 11 June between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, with a number of specially invited guests who will talk to us about the ways our community can take easy steps to protect and encourage local biodiversity.



We've started to receive some great photos of the wildlife our families have spotted, which will be used in a special film, which our Eco Warriors and pupils in Eco Club will be helping to make.

Please send any photos your family has taken of UK plants, trees, wild birds and wild animals (especially in and around Epsom and Ewell!) to us. parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk

Finally, if any parent/carer has a passionate or professional interest in environmental protection and would like to run a stand at our Conservation Evening, please get in touch with Mrs Hill. parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk



INSPIRING AND THRIVING



Our first Forest School session for nursery was a wonderful introduction to exploring the outdoors together. The children showed great cooperation and teamwork as they shared equipment like magnifying glasses and binoculars, taking turns to investigate their surroundings. They were excited to search for minibeasts, carefully looking under logs and leaves while learning how to handle nature respectfully. We also began to explore the basic parts of a plant, discussing roots, stems, leaves, and flowers, and what plants need to grow, such as sunlight, water, and soil. It was a lovely start to building curiosity, confidence, and a sense of working together in nature.

VALUES



Working together to be the best we can
Our value of the month is:



Sharing

NOUN
To give or receive part of something.
SYNONYMS:
Giving, offering, contributing



THE BEST
way to multiply your
HAPPINESS
is to share it
WITH OTHERS.

This is how you can show sharing:

- Miss Croucher suggests:**
Sharing with others is a way of showing kindness.
- Eden in IMV suggests:**
It makes others happy when you share your toys with them.
- Miss Marozza suggests:**
If is generous and kind to share with others.
- Mrs Williams suggests:**
Giving something to someone, it could be an object, a smile or a joke!

LEARNING



Diversity Equality, Inclusion and Belonging

This month in our belonging assemblies, children have been learning about how April is a special and meaningful time for people of many different faiths around the world. We have explored how different communities celebrate and reflect during this time, helping pupils to build understanding, respect, and curiosity about others.

Last week, our assembly focused on Vaisakhi, an important festival in the Sikh faith, which celebrates community, equality and the founding of the Khalsa.



Through these discussions, we are encouraging children to appreciate both similarities and differences between beliefs, and to recognise the importance of kindness, inclusion and respect in our diverse school community.

ACHIEVING - Celebrating Success

Congratulations!

A special mention to the children who have received either a Headteacher's Award and Stamford Bear or a Governors' Values Award and Buckingham Bear.



Leo Price	3L	Penny Cox	4B	Felix Galliver	5P	Sonny Marvell	RB
Rory Lewis	1S	Rocco Cardella	2MO	Elsie Balmford	6G	Brooklyn Trevisan	RH
George Pike	2W	David Webb	3WH	Ollie Cheeseman	6J	Imogen Bennett	1M
Joshua Wells	4V	Sofie Zhang	5T	Harriet Watson	2J	Sophia Hack	4C
Alice Passmore	6B	Maisie Tuck	3W	Sophie Damant	1MV	Arthur Harwood	2J
Finley Grenyer	RP						



Winners of Pepe the punctuality puppy were: 4C, 4B, 1M, 3WH,



Winners of Annabelle the Attendance Ape were: 6J, 5J, 2MO, 2J, 5P, 6G



- The winning House with the most values buttons were: Waterloo and Hookfield
- Golden Awards for good behaviour at lunchtime were awarded to lots of children, but these children won the Lucky Dip: Sofie Zhang (5T), Freddie Pethica (1M), Aariya Ladwa (1M), Maisie Nicolaou (2J), Andrei Markov (4C) and Emily Tillin (4V).



Congratulations to everyone who has received a Merit Award recently:

Sylvana Briggs	1MV	Otto Galliver	3L
Harrison Winnett	4C	Harley Abernethy	4B
Aariya Ladwa	1M	Coco Andrade-Clark	2W
Seth Sivakumaran	4V	Faith Wallace	2MO
Jude Day	2J	Florence Illingworth	3WH
Joey Merritt-Holmes	6B	Maddie Amiss	6J
Lydia Jones	5J	Alex Gery	6J
Leah Pitcher	6B	Lucy King	5P
Lola Thomson	5T	Wren McIntyre-Lally	3L
Bella McLaughlan	6G	Ava Devenney	1S
Pyper Burgess	5P	Ella Riseley	4B
Gwilym Pearce	3W	Eliza Laming	6J
Phoebe Sumner	2W	Amiyah Divungula	RP
Parker Royston	RP	Koa Patel	RB
Bonnie Ansell	RH	Raphael Peacock	4V
Kyla Mekhail	6G	Zac Fraser	3W
Joshua Callender	6B	Sofia Almario Venegas	5T
Thayer Rayneau	2J	April Groth	4C
Nirvaan Apte	5J	Alfie Phung	1MV
Aleksandr Tsisyk	1M	Bertie Seymour	1MV
Thomas Albuquerque	6B	Holly Dickson	6B
Henry Bourne	5J	Kai Beer	6G
Claire Power	4C	Emily Tillin	4V
Jamie Whitehead	5J	Annie Baer	3W
Sofia Stockbridge	1M	Jacob Rees	5T
Nico Filopei	2W	Emily Green	3WH
Isabella Tebbet	6J	Eliza Baggs	1S

Achiever of the Week - Well done to the following children who have worn our Golden Jumpers/t-shirts recently:

Yiu Huet Chow	1S	Willow Palmer	3L
Cole Fazakerley	5P	Mia Range	4B
Emily Frazer	6J	Ember Greenaway	3WH
Amelia Smith	2W	Marlo Stevenson	RP
Lola Parker Williamson	RP	Cadee Pham	RB
Theo Martyr	RH	Innis Wilson	3W
Olivia Malhotra	5J	Theo Yahiaoui	4C
Aaron Lulham	4V	Matilda Crawley	2J
Finley Parker	1MV	Freddie Pethica	1M
Rylee Anderson	3L	Leah Smith	2W
Poppy Adams	2MO	Fin Mathews	4B
Robert Luca	3WH	Evangeline Gallucci	1S
James Li	6J	Niamh Roberts	4C
Jacob Robins	1M	Hsuan-Yi Wu	5T
Covey Henderson-Thirlby	2J	Alessio Hassenally	5J
Charlie Young	4V	Beatrice Davey	6G
Everly Jones	1MV	Sam Farmer	6B
Shawn Chan	5P	Conor Shrimpton	3W
Mia Wentzel	6B	Penny McLean-Anderson	5T
Hunter Flatt	3WH	Teddy McKelvie	6J
Zachery Barton	2W	Zac Plummer	1S
Cali Pearson	1S	Crystal Price	4B
Buddy Rameshwar	3L	Megan Webb	5P
George Espley	2MO	Blake Savitt	RB
Aidan Ludbrook	RH	Indy McIntyre-Lally	6B
Evan Smith	5J	Lily Murray	6G
Sotiri Tsatsi	4C	Lottie Bye Harris	4V

