

Stock Church of England Primary School

Newsletter: Friday 25th September 2026



“Let their light shine” (Matthew 5:16)
Affinity - Aspire - Achieve

The week's news:

Gospel Values Celebration Certificates

Well done to the following children who have received certificates today for demonstrating our Gospel Values this week.

Perseverance:

Year 1:

Lucia O for always being helpful and trying her best in all subjects.

Year 2:

Isaac C and **Annie T** for trying hard to improve their handwriting.

Year 3:

Charles D, **Hudson L**, **Harry H** for working hard on their independent write this week.

Year 4:

Albie A for showing fantastic effort in his independent writing in English, with a special focus on improving his handwriting.

Zara L for working hard on her independent writing and using different writing techniques to make her work interesting and engaging to read.

Year 6:

Bonnie H for working hard in writing lessons.

Dylan C for using lovely vocabulary in his independent writing.

Trust:

Year 3:

Amelia R for always having a smile on her face and being ready to learn.

Year 6:

Jack S for always being attentive and working hard.

Compassion:

Year 4:

Adaline M for showing compassion and helpfulness by helping to set up the classroom for the day.

Year 5:

Lexi for being a helpful member of the class even when she hasn't been asked.

Thea W for being a supportive member of the class.

Year 6:

Lenny B for being kind and supportive towards classmates.

Forgiveness

Reception:

Hadley L for showing kindness, understanding and forgiveness towards others.

Koinonia

Reception:

To the whole class for becoming a class who have learnt to support each other when learning, exploring and playing.

Year 1:

Buddie H for excellent behaviour on the carpet and being a role model to his peers.

Year 6:

Isaac H, **Teddy R**, **Harley T**, **Lochlan H**, **Archie P**, **Jack S**, **Ollie T**, **Freddie H** for great teamwork and perseverance in the year 6 football tournament.

Class Attendance



This week the award for highest attendance goes to Year 5 with 97.98%.

Every Day Matters. Attend today, achieve tomorrow.

Pupil numbers, low birth rate and Reception Tours 2027/28

Message from Mr Roberts

Parents and carers, I am reaching out to ask for your invaluable support in helping us spread the word about our upcoming Reception tour dates. Our school community has always thrived on the close knit, supportive relationships we build with our families, and your personal recommendations are the school's greatest strength. Today, I am asking you to share your positive experiences with other families you know who are currently looking for the perfect school for their children.

You may have seen in the news that there is currently a significant decline in the national birth rate. This demographic shift is impacting primary schools across the country. Historically, our school has been heavily oversubscribed, with waiting lists for entry. However, due to these wider national trends, we currently have rare and valuable spaces available not only for our upcoming 27/28 Reception intake but also within our current Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I need to be open with you about why maintaining a full school is so vital. School funding is allocated by the government on a per pupil basis. Every child who joins our school family secures the vital funding necessary to maintain our high standards of education, resource our classrooms, and provide the rich extracurricular opportunities that make Stock the great school it is. Ensuring our classes are full, directly protects and enhances the educational experience of the children who are already here.

If you have friends, family members, neighbours, or colleagues with school aged children, particularly those looking for a Reception place for September, or those who may have recently moved to the area and need a place in our current Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, please encourage them to visit us and see our school in action.

Our upcoming tour dates are:

Monday 28th September 2026

Thursday 1st October 2026

Thursday 15th October 2026

Friday 6th November 2026

Friday 27th November 2026

Prospective families can book a place on a tour by contacting the school office at 01277 840265 or emailing admin@stock.essex.sch.uk.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Year 5 Viking Day – 24th September

On Thursday, Year 5 had a fantastic day with Jonathan from History off the Page. The morning was filled with a range of different activities, from weaving/braiding to clay sculpting. It was great. Jonathan shared with us so much information about King Guthrum and King Aelfred!

Just before lunch, the children learnt how the Viking warriors organised themselves in battle, placing their shields carefully to charge at their enemy! Mr Seccombe was definitely scared as a horde of screaming Otter Vikings ran towards him!

The afternoon was spent being archaeologists, uncovering artefacts and finding out which job was being represented in each box. We really had to use our history skills and our knowledge about what we did in the morning to figure it all out!

It was an absolutely brilliant day and we all really enjoyed it!



Year 6 Football Tournament

On Thursday morning eight Year 6 boys went to Mayflower to take part in the Year 6 boys football competition. We only took a squad of eight boys which meant a lot of minutes were played by each of them, and wow, did they play! They left everything on the pitch with no player left out or unsupported. They played as a team and they won and lost as a team. The team were drawn to play eight games straight without a break which was a tough task, but they did it. The boys played 8, won 3, drew 3 and lost 2 with Ollie and Lochie scoring which left us 4th out of 9 in the competition. A big thank you to Mr Traveller and Mr Thomas for training the team and to Mr Thomas for running the team on the day and a huge well done to the boys who played.

Harvest Celebrations

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Harvest Celebrations which will be held in school on Monday 28th September at 2.30am for KS1 and Tuesday 29th September at 9.00 am for KS2.

Once again, our harvest charity will be The Billericay Foodbank which was established by the Anglican Team Ministry in Billericay to offer a service to the whole town. They need long-life items as follows:

Tins- meat, fish, beans, soups, potatoes, spaghetti, tomatoes, vegetables (not pulse or lentils), rice pudding, fruit, custard.

Cupboard items - tea, coffee, cereal, long grain rice, cooking sauces, UHT semi-skimmed or full fat milk, squash, fruit juice cartons, biscuits, crisps.

Toiletries and Household Items - cleaning products, toilet rolls, nappies and baby wipes.

Please can your child bring any donations into school with them and there will be a table outside of the hall for the collection.

We look forward to seeing you at the services.

Year 5 Road Safety Talk and Walk – 28th September

On Monday, Year 5 will have a practical, interactive, thought-provoking session on road safety to prepare them for the move towards independent travel. This will include a classroom talk covering pedestrian safety, distractions, risk awareness, responsible behaviour and the green cross code. They will then have a short roadside training session on road safety practice by the closest, safest road.

House Captains and Sports Captains

Congratulations to the following students who achieved House Captain and Sports Captain for this year:

Badger

House Captain – Fraser and Sophia

Sports Captain – Megan and Harley

Deer

House Captain – Alex and Erik

Sports Captain – Edward and Amy

Fox

House Captain – Lochlan and Bonnie

Sports Captain – Ollie and Jack

Squirrel

House Captain – Ruby and Archie

Sports Captain – Edith and Isaac

Year 6 to 7 Secondary School Admissions

The new secondary school admission round opened recently, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

Attendance

We have had a large number of leave of absence requests for term time holidays. Term time holidays are disruptive to the education of your child and will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised leave may lead to penalty notice fines from Essex County Council, please see the guidance overleaf on understanding fines for school attendance. If you believe to have exceptional circumstances then Mr Roberts would be happy to discuss this with you.



Essex County Council

Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by ALL schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years

Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days**
- If **not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22nd and 28th day

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrate's Court**

- **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500**
- Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**

Themed Lunch – 1st October

On Thursday 1st October, we will be having a themed lunch at the school, in place of the usual menu for that day. Please see the poster for details of the menu. Please note that children will be able to order this lunch in class on the morning of 1st October, as usual.

Winnie the Pooh Themed Lunch on Thursday 1st October 2026

"It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like, 'What about lunch?'"



"The things that make me different are the things that make me."

**Christopher Robin's beloved
chicken strips**

**Everyone's favourite sausage in a bun
(vegetarian and gluten free option
available)**

"My spelling is wobbly. It's good spelling but it wobbles, and the letters get in the wrong places."

Poohstick French fries

**Piglet's choice of
baked beans or sweetcorn**

Rabbit's delightful salad bar



*"A bear, however hard he tries,
grows tubby without exercise."*

"what tiggers do best"

**Tigger's choice of
ice-cream tubs or smoothies**

Roo's fresh fruit selection

"I did know once, only I've sort of forgotten."



PTA News

Little Recyclers Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the collection this week. We will have another collection in 2027. The total collected this week was an amazing 236kg which raised us £106.20!

Monthly Lottery Draw - 2nd October

Our first draw of the year will be held on 2nd October with future draws held on the last Friday assembly of each month. There will be 2 draws each July to cover both July and August. For those who were unable to purchase lottery balls in the playground this week, or if you wish to buy more lottery balls, we have added the sale to PTA Events. The sale will end on Sunday at 8pm. Once all orders have been placed those purchasing on line will have numbers chosen at random from the remaining numbers. Everyone who has purchased a lottery ball will receive confirmation of their number(s) by letter early next week. If you wish to join the Lottery for future draws please contact your class rep.

Winners will be notified in the PTA section of the school's weekly newsletter and contacted by the PTA regarding payment. Good Luck to everyone taking part.

Break the Rules Day - 9th October

Our first Break the Rules Day of this school year will be held on Friday 9th October. The children will have up to 10 rules to break with a 'fine' of 50p per rule. Please see the poster for rules to be broken, this will also be sent out via the class reps. As this is a cashless event it will go live on PTA Events from 2nd October. Just add how many rules each child will be breaking and pay the 'fine'. Please note that school uniform, apart from items mentioned on the poster, must be worn and all other rules apply.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 21st November - PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

We are busy preparing for the fayre in November so before everyone's diaries get full can you please save the date. More details to follow over the next few weeks including plans to obtain sponsorship for the event. We will keep you posted.

Stock Church of England Primary School

SCHOOL LOTTERY

Play Today, Support Tomorrow!

A chance to win cash prizes while raising funds for our school!

- £12 per ball**
Enter for just £12 per ball.
- 12 months**
of lottery draws starting September 2026.
- 50%**
Half to the school
50% of the money raised each month goes to the school.
- 50%**
Half to the prize pot
50% goes into the prize pot for 3 balls pulled each month.

Support our school and you could be a winner!

TICKETS ON SALE IN THE PLAYGROUND
Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th September at 3.10pm

Stock School PTA

STOCK C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

BREAK THE RULES DAY

For one day only your child can break some school rules

FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER '26

All funds will help support the purchase of air conditioning units and new iPads.

ALL BROKEN RULES: ONLY 50p PER RULE!

1. WEAR TRAINERS
2. BRING SQUASH IN A BOTTLE
3. WEAR A CAP OR HAT
4. NO TIE OR NON-SCHOOL TIE
5. WEAR NAIL VARNISH
6. WEAR A TEMPORARY TATTOO
7. WACKY HAIR
8. WEAR BRIGHT COLOURED SOCKS
9. WEAR YOUR OWN JUMPER FOR PE
10. BRING CHOCOLATE FOR A SNACK (NO NUTS)

This is a cashless event - Please log on to our PTA Events website from 2nd Oct, using the QR code, to pay your 'fine'

PTA EVENTS STOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

All other school uniform must be worn and all other rules apply!

Dates for Your Diary

September

28th – New Intake for Reception 2027 Tour 9.30am
 28th – Year 5 Road Safety Talk and Walk 9.30am
 28th – Harvest Service to KS1 Parents, 2.30pm (Parents Invited)
 29th – Harvest Service to KS2 Parents, 9am (Parents Invited)
 29th – Harvest Service to Over 60s Club, 2pm

October

1st - New Intake for Reception 2027 Tour 9.30am
 1st – Year 4 School Trip to West Stow
 4th – Harvest Service at All Saint's Church – Rota Club Cake Sale (Parents Invited)
 7th – Year 2 School Trip to Braintree Museum
 8th – New Intake for Reception 2027 Tour 9.30am
 8th – Year 6 School Trip to Braintree Museum
 9th – PTA -Break the Rules
 12th – Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6.30pm (Parents Invited)
 13th - Bikeability Group 3, Year 6
 14th - Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6.30pm (Parents Invited)
 16th – Flu Vaccination Programme
 16th - New Intake for Reception 2027 Tour 9.30am
 19th – 30th Half Term

November

2nd – Pupils Return to School
 2nd - Bikeability Group 4, Year 6
 5th – Reception Road Safety Talk 2.15pm (Parents Invited)
 6th - New Intake for Reception 2027 Tour 9.30am
 10th – Individual School Photographs
 11th – Year 6 War Memorial Service 11am
 24th - Bikeability Group 5, Year 6
 21st – PTA Christmas Fayre
 27th - New Intake for Reception 2027 Tour 9.30am

December

1st – Choir Performance to Over 60s Club
 3rd – Year 2 Dress Rehearsal, 9.15am
 3rd - Year 2 Nativity Performance, 2.30pm (Parents Invited)
 3rd and 4th – PTA Christmas Wrap
 8th – Pantomime Years 1-6
 9th – KS2 Dress Rehearsal
 10th – KS2 Christmas Performance (Parents Invited)
 11th – Decoration Day (Parents Invited)
 11th – Carols at the Bakers Arms
 14th – RockSteady Concert, 9.15am KS2 and 10.30am KS1 (Parents Invited)
 14th – Reception/Year 1 Dress Rehearsal
 16th – Reception/Year 1 Christmas Performance, 9.15am (Parents Invited)

18th – Last Day of Term
 21st – Christmas School Holidays

February

10th – PTA School Disco
 15th – 19th February Half Term
 22nd – Pupils Return to School

March

1st – Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6.30pm (Parents Invited)
 3rd - Bikeability Group 1, Year 5
 3rd - Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6.30pm (Parents Invited)
 4th and 5th - Bikeability Group 2, Year 5
 4th and 5th – PTA Mother's Day Wrap
 11th and 12th - Bikeability Group 3, Year 5
 18th – PTA Wonka Ticket
 22nd – RockSteady Concert, 9.15am KS2 and 10.30am KS1 (Parents Invited)
 26th March – 9th April Easter School Holidays

April

12th – Pupils Return to School

May

10th – 14th SATS week
 21st – 24th - Year 6 Residential Trip
 31st May – 4th June – May Half Term

June

17th and 18th – PTA Father's Day Wrap
 21st – Residential Trip Meeting for Current Year 5 Parents, 2.30pm (Parents Invited)

July

2nd – Sports Day (Parents Invited)
 10th July – Flower Festival
 16th – Reserve Sports Day (Parents Invited)
 19th - RockSteady Concert, 9.15am KS2 and 10.30am KS1 (Parents Invited)
 22nd – PTA Summer Party
 23rd – Last Day of Summer Term