



THE STOPSLEY NEWS

ALL ABOUT STOPSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

17th July 2026

Dear Parents,

I can't believe we are here at the end of the year. It has been an amazing year and I cannot thank yourselves enough for the support that you give to the school. I can not thank the staff enough for all they do and there is not a day that goes by when I don't know how lucky I am to be able to lead this great school.

The biggest thank you of all goes to your amazing children. To see how they have grown, how hard they have worked and how much they have smiled all year is a privilege. I want to say well done to every child who is here – we are incredibly proud of the progress they are making.

It has been a fantastic last week of term with our youngest children (Reception) putting on a lovely end of year assembly on Tuesday. We've had a great Rock Steady concert, class trips to Woburn and to Hertfordshire Zoo, a brilliant Sports Award evening at LTFC and all of our fun (and tearful) leavers events for year 6. We look forward to seeing everyone back in September for more of the same!

I do want to say a huge goodbye and good luck to our fabulous year 6 children. We know they are fully ready for High School and that they leave us with happy memories and a solid foundation. Undoubtedly, we will miss them greatly. The children's SATs scores came back yesterday and we are above National figures in every subject area, achieving this school's highest ever scores... Stopsley is going from strength to strength.

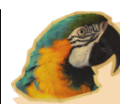
Enjoy a wonderful summer break and thank you again for working with us. Keep safe, make memories and we will see you all again on Wednesday 2nd September.

Mr Fordham
Headteacher



YEAR 5 camping

Year 5 had an unforgettable adventure camp at school, packed with exciting activities and new experiences. The children worked brilliantly together to put up their own tents before enjoying a range of fun challenges, including archery, a silent disco, and roasting marshmallows around the campfire. The following morning, some of our brave pupils took part in a bushtucker trial at breakfast, where they sampled mealworms! It was fantastic to see so many children stepping out of their comfort zones, showing resilience, teamwork, and a real sense of adventure. Well done, Year 5!



Reception - Hertfordshire Zoo Trip



Our Reception children had a fantastic day exploring Hertfordshire Zoo! They loved seeing a variety of amazing animals up close and learning more about their habitats and how they are cared for. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring their learning to life, and the children represented our school beautifully with their enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour.





On Wednesday, we hosted our first sports awards evening at Kenilworth Stadium. This was an opportunity for us to celebrate the sporting achievements over this academic year. It was a fantastic night with over 100 people attending. Thank you to all the children and parents for attending and making it an unforgettable evening. Special thanks also to Bert, Daniel and everyone at LTFC for hosting, for their lovely words about our growing partnership with the club and for the stadium tour at the end!

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS



Last Friday, three of our Year 5 pupils Luke, Miles, and Reece performed at the Music for Youth National Festival at Birmingham's iconic Symphony Hall as members of the Luton Music Service Junior Percussion group. The group was selected to take part in the prestigious festival, where they performed 'The Bucket Bash' using instruments made from recycled materials. The festival celebrates the incredible diversity and talent of young musicians from across the UK and we are delighted that they had the opportunity to be part of this wonderful experience.

Our talented Year 6 pupils wowed friends and family with their fantastic performance of Aladdin Jr. From the memorable songs to the confident acting and colourful costumes, every child played their part brilliantly. Their hard work, dedication and teamwork shone through, making the show a huge success. Well done to everyone involved for putting on such a spectacular performance!



Our Rocksteady bands treated parents, carers and staff to a fantastic end-of-year concert, showcasing all they have learned over the past year. It has been wonderful to see—and hear—just how much confidence, musical talent and teamwork the children have developed. Their performances were full of energy and enthusiasm, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. Well done to all of our talented musicians!

CONGRATULATIONS

A huge congratulations to our children who achieved their Platinum House Point Awards last week! This fantastic achievement reflects their continued hard work, positive attitude and commitment to our school values. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished.



MAKING A SPLASH!

Reception had the best time cooling down with some water play this week. We could hear the laughter from the office!



Hitchin Road, Luton LU2 7UG • Tel: 01582 611035

Email: schooloffice@stopsley.primaryluton.co.uk

f: Stopsley Community Primary School • i: StopsleyPrimary

Website: www.stopsleyprimary.co.uk

THANK YOU SO MUCH

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support. Whether you've attended events, volunteered your time, donated or simply cheered the children on, your support makes a real difference to our school community. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £116.00 through our ice pop sale and £304.55 during our Children in Charge Day. We are delighted to share that this money will go towards painting exciting new playground games for the children to enjoy.

Thank you for helping us create even more opportunities for fun, learning and play. We wish you all a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer break!

WALKING HOME PERMISSION

If you would like your child to walk home independently during the 2026/2027 academic year, please complete the Google Form below. This form must be submitted for all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who have permission to leave the school site without an adult at the end of the school day. Thank you for your support.

<https://forms.gle/VV7RgZE15dBAZj2cA>



Summer Reading Challenge – Read to the Beat!

Have you started this year's Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat? Visit your local library to discover a fantastic selection of music-themed books. With your library card, you can even borrow a musical instrument, such as a hand drum or ukulele, to bring your reading adventure to life! Luton Music Service would love to see your musical performances. You can send your videos to lutonmusicservice@luton.gov.uk or tag them on social media for a chance to be entered into a prize draw.

So, pick up a book, grab an instrument, and get ready to Read to the Beat! To find out more, watch the short video here: <https://youtu.be/ai7WlQM7mR8>



BACK TO SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER
SEE YOU THEN!

BEST WISHES YEAR 6!

It's that time where we say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils.

Watching you grow over the years has been a privilege. From your first days at primary school to becoming confident, kind and resilient young people, you have made us incredibly proud. You have embraced challenges, celebrated successes, supported one another and created memories that will stay with you for years to come.

As you begin your next adventure at high school, remember to believe in yourselves, be proud of who you are and never be afraid to try something new. There will be exciting opportunities ahead, new friendships to make and so much to discover. We know each and every one of you has the potential to achieve amazing things.

Thank you for the laughter, the determination, the kindness and the unique personalities you have brought to our school. You will always be an important part of our school family, and although we will miss seeing you every day, we can't wait to hear about all that you accomplish in the future.

To our Year 6 class of 2026, we wish you every happiness and success as you take this exciting next step. Dream big, work hard, be kind and always remember—you'll always have a place here. Good luck, Year 6. The future is yours!

PTA NEWS

Get Involved!

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL USE YOUR SKILLS
IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE BE BETTER CONNECTED
IT'S FUN AND REWARDING CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

FOR MORE INFO: PTA@STOPSLEY.PRIMARYLUTON.CO.UK
OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: [STOPSLEYPRIMARYPTA](https://www.facebook.com/STOPSLEYPRIMARYPTA)

SUMMER DISCO

Great to see 272 children enjoying the summer discos. We took in £1,030.35 as part of fundraising for the school children. THANK YOU!!!!



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STOPSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Your Support Counts. Choose Us As Your Local Co-op Cause and Help Us Secure A Share of £5 Million Funding. Spread The Word!!

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Governor Awards

Each term, we are proud to celebrate a group of children with our Governor Awards. These awards recognise personal achievements that are unique to each individual child. Whether they have shown resilience in overcoming a challenge, demonstrated consistent effort, grown in confidence and independence, or made exceptional progress, every award celebrates something truly special.

A huge thank you to our school governors, Mr Tetteh and Mrs Dearman, for joining us to present the awards. Congratulations to all of our deserving recipients—we are incredibly proud of you!



**ZACKARIYA
HEDGEHOGS**



**LOVE
RABBITS**



**AVIANNA
SQUIRRELS**



**DIORA
BADGERS**



**ELLA-MAI
DONALDSON**



**VINNIE
FREEDMAN**



**OLIVIA
KANDINSKY**



**ABDUL-AZEEM
MATISSE**



**ZAKARIYA
EARHART**



**KIARA
SHARMAN**



**AVA-LOUISE
BEN NEVIS**



**IZABELLA
SNOWDON**



**ERJONA
JEFFREYS**



**OLIVIA
CURIE**



**AARUJAN
BOLT**



**YANAY
MURRAY**



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Mr Dymock

Assistant Headteacher

Our children recently had the chance to put Mr Dymock in the hot seat and ask all the questions they've always wanted answered! From golf, guinea pigs and favourite books to funny pranks and embarrassing moments, nothing was off limits. Here's what he had to say...

How many days a week do you play golf?

During term time, I usually play once a week. During the school holidays, I play four or five times a week if I can. Even if I'm not playing a full round, I'll often go to the driving range or the putting green to practise. I try to play as much golf as possible whenever I get the chance.

What's your favourite place you've ever been on holiday?

Greece is definitely my favourite place. I've been there several times and I love the food. The weather is always lovely, and I've never had a bad experience there. I'm usually quite nervous about trying food abroad, but Greece has always been fantastic.

Do you think you're funny?

I think I'm very funny! I think I'm funnier than Mr Chart personally.

What's the best prank you've ever played?

That's a difficult one! I've played quite a few pranks on different members of staff over the years, but I'll come back to that question later because I need to make sure it's school appropriate!

Do you listen to podcasts? If so, what's your favourite?

Yes, I do. I enjoy listening to football podcasts, especially ones hosted by retired footballers that I watched when I was younger. Peter Crouch has a great podcast, and I also like the John Obi Mikel podcast where he interviews different sports stars. I usually listen on the way to work, although I live quite close to school, so I often finish listening in the evening.

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Yes. I'm the oldest of six children, so I have two brothers and three sisters. We all get on really well, although we don't see each other as often now because we live in different parts of the country. One of my brothers lives in Norfolk and one of my sisters lives in Australia. Growing up, our house was always busy. We were always outside playing football, winding each other up and having lots of fun together.

What's the most embarrassing thing that's happened to you in this school?

Sometimes I find it quite embarrassing when I'm leading assembly. Reading in front of lots of people can still make me nervous, and occasionally I might pronounce somebody's name incorrectly. When that happens, with everyone looking at me, I do find it quite embarrassing!

If you could ban one thing from school forever, what would it be?

I would probably ban mobile phones. I think they can create lots of unnecessary problems and distractions in school. I'm pleased that there's more discussion now about children's use of social media too. Technology can be brilliant when it's used to support learning, but I don't think children need mobile phones in school.

What was your most embarrassing moment when you were at school?

When I was in secondary school, one of my friends sent me a message saying it was a non-uniform day. I'd already got dressed in my school uniform, so I rushed home, got changed into my Chelsea football shirt and jeans, and cycled back to school...

...only to discover that everyone else was wearing their normal school uniform!

I'd been completely tricked by my friends. I was late for school, I was the only person in non-uniform, and I had to spend the whole day dressed differently from everyone else. That was definitely one of my most embarrassing moments!

Which cartoon character are you most like?

That's a tricky one! At first I thought about the Tasmanian Devil, but I'm not sure that's quite right. I'd probably say Bugs Bunny because he enjoys playing harmless pranks and having a laugh, and I think that's probably a little bit like me.

Do you have any hobbies?

Yes. Golf is definitely my biggest hobby, although I didn't start playing until I was about 21 or 22. Before that, I played football all the time. I also really enjoy walking my dogs. We go out most evenings for a walk across the fields, and it's something I really look forward to.

When did you start working here?

I started my career as a teaching assistant when I was 18, straight after college. I joined this school when I was about 27, so I've been here for around eight years.

If you were trapped in a lift with a celebrity, who would you choose?

I'd choose José Mourinho. As a Chelsea supporter, I've always found him really inspirational. He was the first manager to win the Premier League with Chelsea, and I've always enjoyed listening to his interviews. I'd have lots of questions to ask him!

Do you have any pets?

Yes! We have two dogs—a Beagle called Daisy and a Chihuahua called Audrey, who we rehomed.

We also have three guinea pigs. They're really my wife's pets, but I help to look after them. One is called Birdie, which is a golf term, another is called Nana, and the third is called Pickles because she's always getting herself into little pickles!

I have to admit though... I feed the guinea pigs, but I don't really like picking them up!

If your pets could tell us one secret about you, what would it be?

I probably eat far too many sweets! At home, if I open a packet of sweets, my dogs always come running because they think they're getting a treat. Unfortunately for them, they're usually disappointed! I think everyone at school probably knows I have a bit of a sweet tooth already.

Which character from Nativity! do you think you're most like?

Before I met Mr Chart, I would probably have said Mr Poppy because I enjoy having a laugh and playing the odd prank. These days, though, I'd say I'm more like Mr Maddens. I still enjoy a joke, but I also know when it's time to be serious!

What's your worst habit?

I spend far too much time scrolling on my phone in the evenings. Sometimes I'm not even looking at anything important—I just pick it up out of habit. It's definitely something I'd like to do less of.

What's your favourite subject to teach?

I love being a primary school teacher because I get to teach lots of different subjects.

Maths has always been one of my favourites because I've always enjoyed the challenge of finding the right answer. I also love teaching reading because, when I was younger, I wasn't the strongest reader myself. I want children to leave primary school as confident readers because it's such an important life skill.

What's the best thing about being a teacher?

The best part is knowing that I can make a positive difference to children's lives.

I've been teaching for quite a few years now, and one of my favourite things is bumping into former pupils and hearing what they're doing now. It's lovely to see how successful they've become and hear what they remember about their time at school.

I also enjoy knowing that the children we teach today will grow up to become the people who shape our future.

...And, of course, the school holidays mean I get to play a lot more golf!

What's the hardest thing about being a teacher?

Probably managing my time.

Planning lessons, marking work and giving meaningful feedback all take a lot of time, especially in Year 5 and Year 6 when the children produce lots of writing. Making sure every child receives the feedback they deserve is really important, so staying on top of everything can sometimes be challenging.

Would you rather never use the internet again or never watch TV again?

I'd give up watching TV.

The internet helps with so many parts of everyday life, and I probably use it much more than I watch television anyway, so that would be the easier choice.

Tell us something that not many people know about you.

One thing people might not know is that I'm terrified of snakes—and spiders! When I was growing up, my brother had two pet snakes, and we shared a bedroom. One evening he got one of the snakes out to feed it, but he accidentally fell asleep before putting it back. The snake escaped somewhere in the house!

I was so frightened that I stayed at my nan's house until it was finally found a couple of weeks later. Ever since then, I've hated snakes, and they're one of the reasons I don't think I could ever visit Australia!

Continued on the next page...

Who's the better golfer—you or Mr Chart?

At the moment, Mr Chart has the lower handicap, which technically makes him the better golfer.

However... I'm very confident that I'd still beat him in a match!

If you could meet anyone from history, who would it be?

I'd choose Emmeline Pankhurst.

Teaching about the changing role of women has always been one of my favourite history topics, and I think what she achieved was incredibly inspiring. She helped shape the Britain we know today, and I'd love the chance to meet her.

If you won £1 million, what's the first thing you'd buy?

I'd buy a golf course!

If £1 million wasn't quite enough for an 18-hole course, I'd happily settle for a 9-hole course instead!

What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

Years ago, I went to Thailand, where I had the chance to see tigers up close.

Meeting the tiger cubs was amazing, but later I was sitting just a few feet away from some huge adult tigers. I was really nervous, but it was also an incredible experience. Looking back, that's probably one of the bravest things I've ever done.

What's your happiest memory?

Without a doubt, my wedding day. Marrying my wife was a really special moment, and it's my happiest memory.

What advice would you give to your 10-year-old self?

I'd tell myself to believe in myself more and not be afraid to take on new challenges.

When I was younger, I sometimes held myself back because I didn't think I was good enough. I'd tell my younger self to be more confident and give everything a go.

Do you prefer tea or coffee?

Definitely coffee! I probably drink three or four cups a day, although I know that's probably a bit too much. I'm trying to cut down, especially in the afternoons.

If you could only eat one dessert for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Hot chocolate fudge brownie with ice cream!

It has to be served properly though—the brownie needs to be warm and gooey, and the ice cream has to go on top just before it's served so it doesn't melt too quickly. I'm quite fussy about it!

What's your favourite film?

My favourite film is The Lion King. I absolutely love it, and I also loved seeing the stage show in the theatre.

In fact, after watching The Lion King, I proposed to my wife, so it will always be a really special film for me.

What was your favourite TV programme when you were a child?

I used to watch Nickelodeon all the time! My favourites were Saved by the Bell and Kenan & Kel. I'd often wake up really early on a Saturday morning just so I could watch them.

When I was younger I also collected football magazines every week. If there was anything about Chelsea, I'd put the posters all over my bedroom wall. I remember having one huge Chelsea team photo that covered a big part of my wall.

What games did you play in the playground when you were younger?

We played football every chance we got, but one of my favourite games was One Touch, One Bounce.

I've actually noticed children starting to play it again in the playground, which is lovely to see. It was one of my favourite games growing up.

What book are you reading at the moment?

At the moment I'm reading a golf coaching book called The Three Releases by Dan Grieve.

I've read it before, but I'm reading it again to help improve my golf game. I like reading a chapter every now and then and trying out some of the ideas.

Have you ever had any funny nicknames?

Yes!

Before I worked in a school, I worked at Matalan while I was at college. Everyone there used to call me Jadalán because my nickname was Jad. I was also called Munchkin quite a lot!

What kind of music do you like?

I like a bit of everything.

When I was younger I listened to a lot of indie music, and that's probably still my favourite. But my playlists include all sorts of music—from rock and rap to pop. It really depends on my mood.

If I'm driving to play golf, I usually like listening to something upbeat to get me ready.

What's the best concert you've ever been to?

That's a difficult one!

I've seen Ed Sheeran twice. One of the concerts was before he became really famous, in a very small venue in London. It was amazing because he played lots of his older songs, and it felt much more personal.

I've also seen Blink-182 headline at Reading Festival, and they were fantastic too.

Which book do you think every child should read?

I'd choose Wonder.

I think it's such an important book because it teaches kindness, inclusion and understanding. It reminds us that everyone faces different challenges, and it's important to make everyone feel welcome and valued.

What's your favourite school event?

It depends which year group I'm teaching.

When I taught Year 6, I always looked forward to the residential because it was wonderful seeing children overcome their fears and create memories with their friends.

This year really looked forward to the camping trip.

I also love World Book Day because reading is so important, and it's a great opportunity to make books exciting and encourage everyone to enjoy reading.

Who's your favourite colleague?

That's a dangerous question!

I'd probably say Mr Chart because we spend quite a lot of time together outside school. We both love golf, so we often play together at weekends.

If you were Prime Minister for a day, what's the first law you'd make?

I'd introduce a three-day weekend!

School would run Monday to Thursday, with Friday, Saturday and Sunday off every week.

I'd make that change straight away!

Why do you support Chelsea?

Because my grandad supported Chelsea, and then my dad did too. I grew up supporting them, so I've always been a Chelsea fan.

A funny fact is that if I'd been a girl, my dad wanted to call me Chelsea!

Instead, my older sister was given the name.

Who has been the most inspirational person in your life?

I'd have to say my grandad.

When I applied for my first job in a school after college, he helped me with my application and gave me lots of encouragement. Whenever I doubted myself, he always believed in me and told me I'd do well.

I've never forgotten that.

Earlier you said you'd come back to your answer... What's the best prank you've ever played?

Right... I suppose I should finally admit this!

Last year, every day, I secretly placed a tiny rubber duck on Mr Fordham's desk. Before long, there were ducks everywhere! Sometimes there would be ten or more sitting on his desk.

We even cut out blue paper so it looked like the ducks were floating on little ponds!

I wasn't working alone, but I'm not naming my partner in crime—they're staying anonymous!

I was accused of it all year, but nobody ever officially knew it was me... until now!

What's the last prank you played?

I haven't played many recently, but one of my favourites involved Mr Brewis.

Whenever the office staff had a meeting, Mr Brewis would cover reception. One day, I rang the school from my mobile phone pretending to be a member of the public. He had no idea it was me!

I can't tell you much more than that... but it was very funny at the time!

If Chelsea didn't exist, which football team would you support?

I'd support Luton Town because they're my local club.

I do already support Luton, just not quite as much as Chelsea!

Who would you most like to play a prank on next?

I can't tell you!

If I say who it is now, they'll read this newsletter and they'll know it's coming!

Let's just say... watch this space!

Does Mr Chart ever play pranks on you?

Oh yes!

Mr Chart has moved things around in my classroom before and even swapped my Chelsea badge for a Harry Potter badge!

So I definitely need to get him back at some point...

Any final words?

I'd just like to say thank you to everyone for all of your brilliant questions. I really enjoyed being interviewed!

Quick fire questions...

- **Chocolate or sweets?** Sweets
- **Summer or winter?** Summer
- **Dogs or cats?** Dogs
- **Football or golf?** Golf
- **Books or films?** Films
- **Morning or evening?** Evening
- **Pineapple on pizza?** Absolutely not!
There's no place for pineapple on pizza!

A huge thank you to the children for asking such fantastic questions—and to Mr Dymock for being such a great sport!