



THE STOPSLEY NEWS

ALL ABOUT STOPSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

11th Sept 2026

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to have the children in school for the full week. We are proud to see how well they have settled into their new year groups, getting to know the routines and staff. There has been a lovely atmosphere around school, with children showing enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement about the year ahead. We are particularly proud of our EYFS children, many of whom have started school for the very first time. We have seen lots of happy faces, brave goodbyes and growing confidence as they have begun to find their feet.

For those who may not know, alongside my role I do work with Ofsted, which means I have the opportunity to visit a number of different schools. This gives me a valuable insight into education across a range of settings. However, it is always a real privilege to return to Stopsley. There is something very special about seeing our children learning, playing and growing together, and I feel lucky to be part of our school community.

We have introduced our new whole-school learning behaviour: Independence. We want our children to develop the confidence to have a go, make choices, solve problems and take responsibility for themselves and their learning. Independence can look different depending on a child's age. Please look out for your child showing independence at home and praise them.

We are looking forward to our clubs starting soon. There is lots happening behind the scenes at the moment as teachers plan exciting opportunities for their classes, including trips and visitors to school. We will be sharing this information with parents soon, including any payment schedules, so you all know what is ahead this year for your children. This helps us all best prepare.

Please remember that our school office is always here to help. If you have a question, are unsure about something or simply need some help, please do speak to the office team or any staff that you see outside at drop off or pick up.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a fantastic first full week.

Mr Fordham
Headteacher



AUTUMN 1 TERM <i>Dates to remember</i>			
Monday 14 th September	Before and after school clubs start	Monday 12 th October	Pupil Leadership Team visiting the Houses of Parliament
Thursday 17 th September	Whole school flu vaccination	Tuesday 13 th October	Parent's Evening 3.00 - 6.15pm
Monday 28 th September - Wednesday 30 th September	Year 6 PGL trip	Friday 23 rd October	Last day of school for half term
Wednesday 7 th October	Parent's Evening 3.00 - 6.15pm	Monday 2 nd November	Back to school

FOOD NEWS

01. PRICE INCREASE:

We would like to let you know that, from Thursday 1st October 2026, the cost of a school meal will increase from £2.70 to £2.75.

School meals are provided by our catering company, ABM Catering, and this small increase is necessary to help meet the rising costs associated with providing school meals. We appreciate that any increase in costs can have an impact on families. We have therefore worked to keep this increase as low as possible, while ensuring that our pupils can continue to enjoy nutritious, balanced and high-quality meals.

02. HALAL OPTIONS:

Halal Meal Option from Monday 2nd November 2026
Following feedback from families, we are pleased to announce that, from Monday 2 November 2026, we will be introducing a Halal meat option as an additional choice within our school lunch provision.

This means that pupils will have the choice of Halal meat or non-Halal meat, alongside the other meal options already available. Our existing provision will continue, and the introduction of a Halal option will not replace the non-Halal meat options currently served.

We hope that offering this additional choice will help us to better meet the needs and preferences of our school community.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their feedback with us. We really value your views and will continue to listen to the needs of our families and pupils.

We have chosen to work with the Halal Monitoring Committee (HMC) as the independent organisation responsible for certifying and monitoring our Halal meat. HMC ensures that the meat meets strict Islamic dietary standards and that the appropriate Halal requirements are followed throughout the process.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Stopsley Community Primary School and Nursery

STAY AND PLAY
WEDNESDAY 9AM - 10.15AM

23RD SEPTEMBER
30TH SEPTEMBER
7TH OCTOBER
14TH OCTOBER
21ST OCTOBER
18TH NOVEMBER
25TH NOVEMBER

JUST POP ALONG TO THE FAMILY HUT
FOR PARENTS AND CARERS WITH
THEIR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Encouraging Positive Behaviour in Children
Luton Adult Learning in partnership with Stopsley Primary School

A series of 4 free* workshops which gives you the opportunity to share ideas about positive parenting strategies and to find out what works best for you and your family, helping to create a calmer household.

**Enrolment is Monday 21st September in the Family Hut.
Course runs from 5th October, 9am - 11am.**

COFFEE MORNING
JOIN US

If you are an older carer or grandparent, pop along for a cuppa and a chat

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER
8.45AM - 10AM

FAMILY HUT - BY THE RUNWAY ENTRANCE

Baby Weigh in
9.15AM - 10.30AM

Monday 28th September
Monday 19th October
Monday 30th November
Monday 14th December
Monday 25th January
Monday 22nd February
Monday 22nd March
Monday 26th April
Monday 24th May
Monday 28th June

COME ALONG TO THE RUNWAY
(CO-OP) ENTRANCE AND PRESS THE BUZZER

PTA NEWS

Choose us as your Co-op local cause

Thanks to the 452 people who have selected us so far to receive a share of £5 million funding towards the dining hall project!

Could YOU be one of the 8 who take us to 460?

Your Support Counts.

Choose Us As Your Local Co-op Cause **by Saturday 17th Oct**
Spread The Word!!

Visit <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/99942>



PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

COME ALONG AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR OUR SCHOOL. WE'LL ALSO BE VOTING FOR THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING/FINDING OUT MORE, PLEASE EMAIL: pta@stopsley.primaryluton.co.uk

**Friday 9th October
11.30am to 1pm**

In the Meeting Room at School - sign in at the Office

Everyone is welcome!



LOST GLASSES

We have some glasses and sunglasses in lost property that need reuniting with their owners.

If any belong to your child please ask them to come to the office and collect them.

Attendance MATTERS

Well done to our class attendance award winners this week!

KS1: Squirrels & Matisse - 99.2%

Prize: Dressing up time and iPad time

KS2: Snowdon & Curie - 99.3%

Prize: A crafternoon and time in the common room

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Mrs O'Connor

HR and Medical Administrator

This week, we're getting to know Mrs O'Connor, our HR and Medical Administrator, a little better!

When she's not helping to keep the school office running smoothly, Mrs O'Connor enjoys getting out for a long countryside walk. She tries to do a 90-minute walk every weekend and loves discovering new places – Willen Lake was a recent favourite.

She's also a big football fan and supports both Luton Town and Manchester City. When it comes to music, Mrs O'Connor is just as varied: her Spotify might feature anything from a chilled Sunday playlist to dance and garage!

A few of Mrs O'Connor's favourite things...

Favourite holiday destination: Canada. Mrs O'Connor visited Kelowna for a wedding and describes it as absolutely stunning.

Favourite food: Italian and Thai, although if she's eating out Italian-style, she'd choose arancini followed by a really good carbonara.

Favourite film: Practical Magic – and she was very excited about the upcoming sequel!

Favourite song: Don't Stop Me Now by Queen.

Favourite colour: Duck egg blue.

Favourite perfume: Chanel Mademoiselle.

Favourite board game: Monopoly – despite admitting that it goes on forever!

Favourite animal: Ducks.

Favourite restaurant: The Ivy.

And if Mrs O'Connor won the lottery? She'd treat herself to a Porsche!

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We discovered a few things we didn't know...

Mrs O'Connor is the youngest of five children, with three sisters and one brother. She also taught herself to play the drums after starting out by, in her words, "just banging on the saucepans". Her mum eventually bought her a drum kit – although apparently she later regretted that decision!

One of Mrs O'Connor's stories is that she once moved to Manchester for two years, starting afresh. She was transferred there through her job at Luton Airport becoming a customer services manager. She turned the department around and even won a trip to Paris for her efforts!

And then there's the story of 'Debbie Duck'...

When she was younger, Mrs O'Connor wrote a note to her now husband and accidentally put it through the wrong door. When the recipient realised the mistake, she sent it on to Mrs O'Connor's address – but addressed the envelope to "Debbie Duck". Mrs O'Connor had signed the original note that way as this was her nickname because there were several Debbies in her friendship group!

What is Mrs O'Connor like at work?

Mrs O'Connor's typical day is a mixture of checking school office emails, answering phone calls, dealing with parents' medical queries, supporting staff and generally keeping on top of the endless stream of admin that comes through the school office.

But when we asked what the best thing about her job is, her answer was simple: her colleagues in the office. She also loves watching the children grow and develop over the years, saying that she particularly enjoys seeing them blossom.

Mrs O'Connor's hidden talent...

Sadly, Mrs O'Connor claims she doesn't have one anymore – although she used to be able to do Donald Duck impressions! Her worst habits? Making weird noises and talking to herself.

Her most embarrassing school moments involve being somewhat accident-prone, including falling off chairs, putting her feet in bins and once falling down some steps. On that occasion, when a colleague came to help her, they ended up laughing so much that the colleague tripped over Mrs O'Connor and fell on top of her!

And finally...

If Mrs O'Connor could meet anyone from history, she'd choose Winston Churchill, as she'd love to learn more about the decisions he made during World War II. If she became Prime Minister tomorrow, her first law would be: "No social media for anyone under the age of 18!" And the advice she'd give her 10-year-old self? "Don't doubt yourself, and don't listen to other people's opinions of you. Just be yourself and go out and do what you want to do." Wise words, Mrs O'Connor!