THE STOPSLEY NEWS

ALL ABOUT STOPSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY *23rd Oct 2026*

Dear Parents,

I can't believe we're at the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and the valued feedback you have shared with us. Working in partnership with our families is such an important part of our school community. The children have all worked incredibly hard this half term and are doing very well. It is a real privilege to watch them learn and grow so much already.

Our PTA plays an invaluable role in school life and we would absolutely love to welcome more parents to get involved. We need you! Over the past year, our amazing PTA has raised an incredible £9,558 for your children, helping to provide wonderful opportunities, resources and memorable experiences for them all. From family social events to fun-filled events, the PTA makes such a positive difference to our school. To keep this going we urgently need more people to come on board and lend a hand. Please do take a look at the attached flyer about joining the PTA. Whether you can offer a little help now and again or would like to be more involved, everyone is needed so please get in touch.

As always, the safety of our children remains paramount. Please remember that scooters must not be ridden by children of any age anywhere within the school grounds. I also need to let everyone know that Meta smart glasses must not be worn or used inside the school grounds or school building (for any reason). This includes during visits, meetings and other school-related activities. We must respect this so that we maintain a safe environment and protect the privacy of our children, families and staff. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful half term break. I hope you enjoy some well-deserved time together and make some happy memories. Keep safe and well.

Mr Fordham
Headteacher

Autumn Term Dates to Remember

Monday 2nd November	Back to school	**Monday 14th December**	Year 4 Drumming concert 9.00-10.00am
Thursday 12th November	Individual and sibling school photos	**Wednesday 16th December**	Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day
Friday 13th November	Children In Need - Run with Pudsey Wear sportswear	**Thursday 17th December**	Nursery Christmas songs 9.30-10.30am Class Christmas parties
Friday 20th November	Inset day - school closed for children	**Friday 18th December**	Last day of school term No Rainbow or FLAG club
Monday 30th November	Little City Reception workshop visit	**Monday 4th January**	Inset day - school closed for children
Tuesday 8th December	KS1 Chritsmas Production 9.30-10.30am 2.15-3.15pm	**Tuesday 5th January**	Back to school
Thursday 10th December	Rock Steady Christmas concert PTA Christmas disco		



We are delighted to introduce our new team of School Play Leaders!
Our enthusiastic volunteers will be supporting our Key Stage 1 children during playtimes by leading fun, inclusive games and helping everyone to feel welcome and involved. Over the past few weeks, the Play Leaders have taken part in training to develop their teamwork, communication and activity-organising skills, preparing them for their exciting new roles.
The Play Leaders will help to make lunchtimes even more enjoyable by encouraging children to play together, build confidence and develop friendships. Through simple, structured games, they will promote cooperation, kindness and positive play across the playground.
We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to support our younger pupils. We look forward to seeing them in action and to the positive difference they will make to our school community. Well done to all our new Play Leaders!



PUPILS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD IN POWERFUL 'CAN I TALK' PERFORMANCE

We are so proud of Elizabeth in Murray class and some of our former pupils, who recently took part in the powerful 'Can I Talk' performance, organised by Luton Irish Forum.
The group performed in front of 18 headteachers from the St Thomas Trust, sharing their important message and demonstrating great confidence, courage and maturity. Following the performance, they took part in a panel discussion, answering questions from teachers and sharing their thoughts and experiences.
They were absolutely fantastic, speaking with confidence and making a real impression on everyone in the room. It was wonderful to see our pupils and former pupils using their voices to raise awareness, encourage conversations and make a difference.
Well done to everyone involved! We are so proud of you!

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award!
This is a fantastic achievement and recognises our commitment to promoting children's rights, respect and equality throughout our school community. We are proud of the way our pupils are learning about their rights and the importance of respecting the rights of others.
A huge well done to all our pupils, staff and families for helping us create a school where everyone feels valued, respected and included. We look forward to continuing our journey towards achieving gold in the future.

2026 – 2029
Rights Respecting Schools
UNITED KINGDOM
unicef
Silver Rights Aware

Proud supporter of UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Awards in Luton

Luton Rising · LUTON 2040



STOPSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL READS!

Reading opens doors to new worlds, builds vocabulary and inspires a lifelong love of learning. This year, our pupils have already read an amazing 1,455 books and 16,561,681 words!
A huge congratulations to Madeline in Year 5, who has read a phenomenal 2,000,000 words since September!
What an incredible achievement.
Keep reading, Stopsley!

PTA NEWS



FLAG Club Achieves Top Food Hygiene Rating!
We are delighted to announce that our before and after-school provision, FLAG Club, received the top food hygiene rating of 5 following its inspection this week!
A huge thank you to Ms Gallagher and her team for their hard work, dedication and commitment to maintaining such high standards. This fantastic result is a wonderful achievement and something we are very proud of.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday 13th November

As we are on an inset day for Children In Need, we will be supporting the cause on Friday 13th November instead.
We will be taking part in 'Run with Pudsey' so children can come to school in clothes and shoes suitable for sports activities on this day.
If you would like to donate to this amazing cause, please use this link:
https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/
We will not be accepting cash donations in school.
Thank you for your support.



CONGRATULATIONS

To our class attendance award winners this week!
KS1: Carle 97.6%
Prize: class party (date TBC)
KS2: Curie 99.0%
Prize: an afternoon of iPad time

Hitchin Road, Luton LU2 7UG • Tel: 01582 611035
Email: schooloffice@stopsley.primaryluton.co.uk
: Stopsley Community Primary School • : StopsleyPrimary
Website: www.stopsleyprimary.co.uk

Black History Month

Celebrating Black History, Inspiring Our Future

Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month at Stopsley Community Primary School, giving our children opportunities to learn about the achievements, experiences and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and in the world today.

Across the school, children have explored inspirational figures from history, music, literature, science, space exploration and the arts. Through our curriculum, reading lessons, class discussions and assemblies, pupils have been encouraged to reflect on the importance of equality, diversity, representation and the individuals who have helped shape our world.

Our Key Stage assemblies have introduced children to significant figures in Black British history, including Paul Stephenson, one of the leaders of the Bristol Bus Boycott, whose campaign helped bring about change in the fight against racial discrimination. In our Key Stage 2 library, a special display of books celebrating Black history has also encouraged children to discover new stories, voices and perspectives.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils engaging with these important topics, broadening their understanding of the world and celebrating the people whose courage, creativity and determination continue to inspire us.

Reception – Inspirational Individuals

Reception have been discovering the achievements of significant individuals, including Albert Cralle, inventor of the ice-cream scoop, nurse Mary Seacole and artist Althea McNish. The children have also enjoyed reading Hair Love and exploring Look Up!, which links to their learning about space and their literacy work. These stories and individuals have helped introduce the children to inspiring people and encourage them to celebrate differences.









Year 1 – The Power of Music

Year 1 have been exploring the life and music of Bob Marley as part of their Artist of the Week focus. They listened to and appraised his music, generating vocabulary to describe the emotions it made them feel. The children also coloured pictures of Bob Marley and discussed his influence on world music. Alongside this, they have been enjoying our diversity book boxes, discovering stories that celebrate different people, families and experiences.

Year 2 – Learning About Mary Seacole

Year 2 have been learning about the remarkable life of Mary Seacole through their history and reading lessons. They have explored her contributions as a nurse and her determination to help others during the Crimean War. This learning has also linked to PSHE, where the children have considered the qualities that make someone a positive role model and how we can be inspired by the people around us.



Year 3 – Exploring and Celebrating Black History

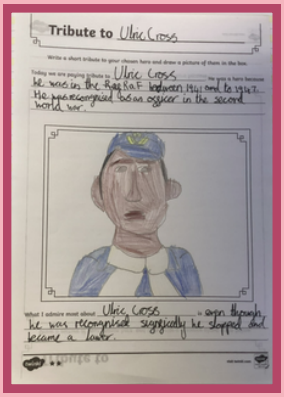
Year 3 have been using our special Black History Month Picture News resource to spark thoughtful class discussions and deepen their understanding of important issues and individuals. Their reading lessons have also focused on Black history, and the children are putting their learning into action by completing word searches and creating posters to celebrate Black History Month.





Year 4 – Heroes of Service

Year 4 have been learning about Heroes of Service, exploring the bravery and contributions of Black individuals who served during significant historical events. Their focus has included Arthur Roberts, John Simmonds and Ulric Cross, discovering their stories and the roles they played in history. Through this learning, the children have been reflecting on courage, service and the importance of recognising contributions that have not always received the attention they deserve.



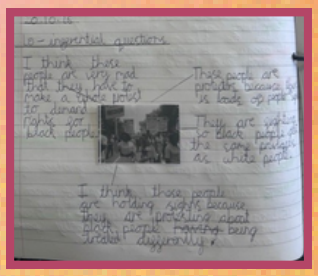
Year 5 – Reaching for the Stars

Year 5 have been exploring the life of Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel into space. Their reading lessons have introduced them to her achievements, and they are creating fact files to share what they have discovered. This links beautifully with their upcoming learning about space. The children have also been reading Coming to England by Floella Benjamin and No Problem by Benjamin Zephaniah, exploring different experiences, perspectives and powerful messages through literature.



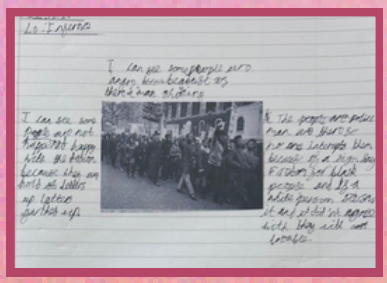
Year 6 – Changing the World Through Science and Leadership

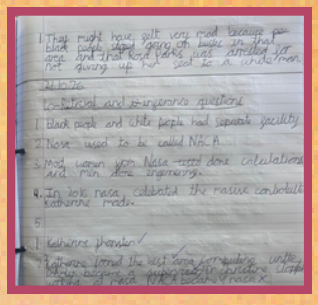
Year 6 have been using their reading lessons to learn about influential figures who have helped change the world. They have explored the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., alongside the remarkable achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, the pioneering Black women mathematicians whose work supported NASA's space programme. Their learning has highlighted the importance of perseverance, equality and challenging barriers to achieve extraordinary things.











Celebrating Every Voice

Black History Month provides an important opportunity to recognise achievements, learn from the past and celebrate the diversity that makes our world so rich. At Stopsley, we want every child to feel represented, valued and inspired, while developing an understanding of the people and events that have helped shape our society.

By learning about these remarkable individuals and their stories, we hope our children will be inspired to show courage, challenge injustice, celebrate differences and believe that they, too, can make a positive difference to the world.