

Creating a love of learning for LIFE!

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WE 11.9.2026

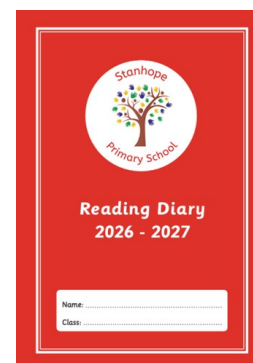
Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure your children (like I and the staff team!) are shattered at the end of our first full week back but what a super week 1 we have had at Stanhope! We have been thrilled to open our brand new **EYFS outdoor area** and the children in Reception have had a great week playing and learning. This morning, they have even discovered a time capsule in the sand pit!



Across the school, children have received their new **Stanhope Reading Diary** and again, it has been lovely to see children using these in class, taking them home and logging their reading. We hope these are useful to support the children (and you as parents!) in all sorts of ways this year which we will discuss further at our Parent Open Afternoon next Wednesday (16th). Children in KS2 were very keen to access the **refreshed library** in school and they will need this borrowed book and their reading diary in school every day. Thank you for your support in this.

Children have also been working very hard as we adopt a new handwriting scheme in school: we talk through if children are **"Ready to Write:"** with their feet flat on the floor, tummies to tables and holding their pencil with a tripod grip. The handwriting I have seen across the week and presentation in books has been fantastic!



Lots more coming next week with after school clubs starting back up for a 10 week Autumn term block and our first Parent Partnership Afternoon for Year 2 on Wednesday. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and will look forward to seeing children back in school on Monday next week!

Best Wishes, Mrs Bridges.

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Attendance Update:

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

As a school we will continue to focus on exceptional attendance as this is essential for children to make the best progress. As a whole school, we have a target for the year of **97%**.

Class	This Week	This Year
Reception (Acorns)	98%	
Year 1 (Elm)	97%	
Year 2 (Chestnut)	93%	
Year 3 (Maple)	94%	
Year 4 (Cedar)	96%	
Year 5 (Willow)	99%	
Year 5 (Sycamore)	99%	
Year 6 (Hazel)	98%	
Year 6 (Oak)	95%	

At and Above School Attendance Target	97% +
Below Target and Attendance causing concern	Below 95% -
Serious Attendance Concern: Persistent Absence	90%-
Whole School Target	97%
Actual Whole School Weekly Attendance	97%

2026—2027 Holiday and term dates [can be found here](#). Please do note that we **have no choice but to carry out fines for unauthorised holidays taken during term time**.

Please label your children's jumpers / cardigans etc!

A big plea to label your child's uniform. The weather is still warm and so you can imagine jumpers are flung off at break and lunchtime and a label or name written in the back helps us get items returned to the right pupils! There is a lost property box in Upper and Lower School. Unnamed items will go in here. This will be cleared at the end of each half term.

We also have a large stock of well sorted second hand uniform. This is kept in the "Green Room" in the Upper School and parents are very welcome to take what they need. Just speak to Mrs Vernon or Miss Evans in the Office.

Big thank you to one or two parents who have volunteered their time to support the running of an after school club at Stanhope this term. Do get in touch if this is something you could support with. nbridges@stanhope.notts.sch.uk

Also, please get in touch if you would have any time to support with a "site maintenance" open day on Saturday 26th September— weeding, tidying, painting etc! Direction given—just need some people power! Thanks all!

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Key Dates: Whole School Annual Dates for [2026—27 can be found here](#). Dates “coming up” are listed below.

Wednesday 16.9.2026	Year 2 Partnership Afternoon: from 2:15pm	Year 2
Wednesday 16.9.2026	Parent Open Afternoon: Collect your child as usual, then at 3:30pm you are welcome to come back into school and head to your child’s classroom. Teachers will be in classrooms from 3:30—4:30 and will share information with you about your child’s class. Then parents are welcome to go to other classrooms (if they have more than one child) or look around school alterations.	
Saturday 26.9.2026	Stanhope Community “Site Maintenance” Day!	Let Mrs Bridges know if you can offer any time!
Wednesday 30.09.2026	Year 3 Partnership Afternoon: from 2:15pm	Year 3
Thursday 1.10.2026	Black History Month	
Friday 2.10.2026	Parent Online Safety Workshop (Miss Downer) 9—10	Flyer to follow.
Thursday 8.10.2026	Year 1 Trip to Museum of Childhood	Year 1
Thursday 8.10.2026	Parents Evening 3:30 – 5:00pm	Letter etc to follow
Friday 9.10.2026	Parent Online Safety Workshop (Miss Downer) 9—10	Flyer to follow.
Wednesday 14.10.2026	Parents Evening 3:30—6:00pm	Letter etc to follow.
Friday 16.10.2026	Just One Tree Day—Dress in green and pledge a £1 to plant a tree for the future!	More information will follow.
Half Term WB 19.10.2026—WE 30.10.2026		
Monday 2.11.2026	Return to school	
Tuesday 3.11.2026	Flu Vaccinations (am)	
Thursday 5.11.2026	Year 1 Partnership Afternoon @ 2:15pm	Details to follow
Tuesday 10.11.2026	SEND and Gedling Family Hub Coffee Parent Coffee Morning 9—10	
WB 16.11.2026	Ant-Bullying Week “Break the Silence”	

Well done to all those children who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays! We were delighted to hear from Sam at Gedling Library that 52 children from Stanhope completed the challenge! Each class will be visiting the library this year.

It has been great welcoming in Inspire Music this week to start our Year 5 children on learning the ukelele as part of our Music curriculum!



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Hello from FOSS!

The first full week back has absolutely flown by! We hope everyone has had a lovely start to the new school year.

Behind the scenes at FOSS, we've been busy getting lots of ideas together for events and activities that we think the families, friends and children of Stanhope will love! We're all really excited to get these ideas confirmed and, most importantly, get the events and dates out to you all! Of course, we wouldn't be a PTA if we didn't ask for two things...

Firstly, volunteers!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, there have been some changes within FOSS, including who will be leading things going forward.

Emma and Abigail, both Year 3 parents, have taken over from Claire and are really looking forward to building a fantastic team of volunteers to help keep FOSS going. If you're interested in getting involved, or want some more information please get in touch via the email below.

Secondly, donations!

We're looking for school uniform donations, as we're hoping to set up a second hand uniform stall. If you have any good-quality uniform left over from previous years that your children have grown out of, please let us know. Every donation will help!

As always, if you have any questions, ideas, suggestions or feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Please drop us an email.

We're really looking forward to a fantastic year with you all and can't wait to share what we've planned!

FOSS

FOSS@STANHOPE.NOTTS.SCH.UK

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Free school meals are expanding

**From
September
2026**

What's changing?

Current eligibility

Most families receiving Universal Credit qualify for income-based free school meals (FSM) only if their annual earned income is £7,400 or less (excluding benefits).



From September 2026

All children in households receiving Universal Credit will become eligible for free school meals.

Free school meals categories

Targeted free school meals - Available to families who:

- Receive Universal Credit and earn **£7,400 or less per year** (excluding benefits), or
- Receive certain qualifying benefits, including:
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Expanded free school meals - Available to:

- All other families receiving Universal Credit, regardless of earnings.

This means all children in Universal Credit households will be eligible for free school meals from September 2026.

Important dates



Applications open:

1 August 2026



Expanded eligibility starts:

1 September 2026

Please note: Applications can be submitted from 1 August 2026, but meals under the expanded scheme cannot begin before 1 September 2026.

What does this mean?

Targeted free school meals children:

- ✓ Free school meals at school in term time
- ✓ Funded Holiday Activities (HAF)
- ✓ Pupil Premium for child's school

Expanded free school meals

- ✓ Free school meals at school during term time
- ✗ Funded Holiday Activities (HAF)

Who will benefit?



More families receiving Universal Credit



More students accessing a healthy meal during the school day



Reduced pressure on household budgets

Find out more or apply: nottinghamshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**