

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

BE KIND | BE SAFE | BE YOUR BEST SELF



WE 16.01.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The week started with a fantastic trip out for 40 pupils from Stanhope who went to the **Young Voices 2026** concert and it sounds like they had a great time! Thank you to staff and parent volunteers who accompanied the children and those parents who made your way to Birmingham to be part of the audience. We hope you enjoyed the experience as much as the children despite the late night back!



It has been great to get into classrooms this week and see children enthused by their Spring term **Enquiry** question. Year 3 and 4 set off with their passports on Thursday to “experience” several countries in Europe and Year 5 enjoyed exploring varying climate zones across the Earth earlier in the week. Reception have been thinking about maps and how places of interest are shown by symbols. Each year group will be sending a copy of their termly **Knowledge Mat** home on Monday via Dojo and in paper form and we hope this is useful for parents to know what key knowledge, vocabulary and enquiry question their children are thinking about in school.

Year 3 and 4	
Does where we live shape the way we live?	
<b>Geography Key Knowledge</b>	
1. Europe is a continent made up of countries including England, Italy, France, Germany, Russia and Poland.	2. There are 8 points on a compass. Europe is a continent in the northern hemisphere, located centrally on a map.  Maps usually show the location of a capital city as a dot or square with the name.
3. Human characteristics describe population size, diversity and built features such as houses and roads.  Physical characteristics are natural features like elevations, climate and vegetation.	4. Italy has active volcanoes, olive groves and a mediterranean climate. Italy has regional cultures, historic architecture and rich cuisine.  The UK has valleys, woodlands and a temperate climate. The UK has a diverse, densely populated society.
5. Bar charts use labelled axes and a title to show data clearly, and you read the top of each bar to find the number. White tables also help us organise information neatly in rows and columns.	6. Italy has 6 different environmental regions, including mountains, valleys, volcano areas and islands.
<b>Geography Key Vocabulary</b>	
<b>Europe</b>	Europe is a continent. It is a large area of land made up of many different countries.
<b>Hemisphere</b>	A hemisphere is half of the Earth. The Earth can be divided into the Northern and Southern hemispheres, or the Eastern and Western hemispheres.
<b>Compass</b>	A compass is a tool that shows direction. It helps us know which way is north, south, east, and west.
<b>Locate</b>	To locate means to find where a place is on a map or globe.
<b>Physical characteristics</b>	Physical characteristics are natural features of a place, such as mountains, rivers, seas, forests, and weather.
<b>Human characteristics</b>	Human characteristics are features made by people, such as houses, roads, cities, farms, and schools.
<b>Temperature</b>	Temperature describes a climate that is not too hot and not too cold. It usually has warm summers and cool winters.
<b>Analysis</b>	Analysis means looking closely at information to understand it better and explain what it shows.
<b>Regional</b>	Regional means relating to a specific area or part of the world that shares similar features.
<b>Tectonic plate</b>	A tectonic plate is a large piece of the Earth's crust that slowly moves. These movements can cause earthquakes and volcanoes.

We have been talking to the children about their experience of lunchtime and will develop lunchtime provision in the upcoming weeks. Year 6 Sports Leaders have begun their training with our Sports Coach Miss Appleby and we look forward to them supporting games in Year 1 and 2 over lunchtimes starting soon. We have also continued to embed our Stanhope expectations of **Fantastic Walking** around school and **Fantastic Listening** and will continue talking to the children during the remainder of this half term about what it means to **Be Kind: Be Safe and Be your Best Self!**

Have a great weekend and I will look forward to continuing to meet parents and getting to know the school community as we start the third week back this Spring Term. Best Wishes, Mrs Bridges.



Year 3 4 PE—“Circuits!”



Class Cedar setting off for Europe!



Class Pine exploring France!

Creating a “love of learning for LIFE!”

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Flying High Partnership

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE:

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%**. Each week, we will share class attendance during our Stanhope Stars assembly and when a class reaches 9 weeks of achieving 97% attendance, they will be rewarded.

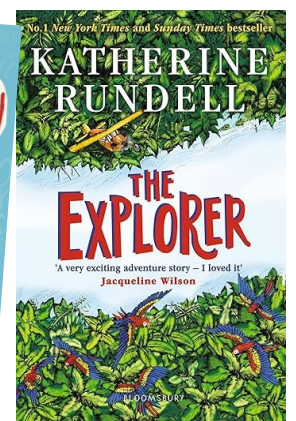
Class	This Week	This Year
Reception (Acorns)	88%	93%
Year 1 (Elm)	99%	97%
Year 2 (Chestnut)	93%	95%
Year 3 and 4 (Pine)	100%	97%
Year 3 and 4 (Maple)	98%	97%
Year 3 and 4 (Cedar)	97%	96%
Year 5 (Willow)	93%	97%
Year 5 (Sycamore)	90%	94%
Year 6 (Hazel)	91%	94%
Year 6 (Oak)	91%	92%

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

Whole School Target	97%
Actual Whole School Weekly Attendance	95%

## Developing our love of reading!

There are some fantastic books in our school and children at Stanhope evidently enjoy reading. I was pleased to reflect on the poem "The British" by Benjamin Zephaniah on Tuesday during a daily reading session with Year 6 and we will continue to develop a **positive culture of reading** in the school through sharing book recommendations with children, exploring high quality texts during learning time and inspiring children to read a range of texts; trying new genres, titles and authors which they may enjoy.



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## KEY DATES:

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Stanhope Partnership Afternoon – 1.30pm (Arts and Crafts)	Year 6
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Valentines Disco – FOSS	Whole School
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term	Whole School including Nursery
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	<b>INSET DAY</b>	Whole School including Nursery
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Return to School</b>	<b>Whole School including Nursery</b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	World Book Day 	Whole School including Nursery
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Stanhope Partnership Afternoon – 1.30pm (Arts and Crafts)	Year 3 & 4
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Parent and Carer Consultations	Whole School including Nursery
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Parents and Carer Consultations	Whole School including Nursery
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays	Whole School including Nursery

## [2025-26 Term Dates](#)

### Safeguarding Updates at Stanhope Primary School:

Ensuring children are safe and feel well supported is vital at our school and each week we will share with parents resources which may be useful to you as you too support your children. We are aware that many children in school—certainly in KS2—have access to a phone or tablet and are aware of several children using social media such as SnapChat.

[Our school website](#) has some great links and resources to support parents safeguard their children and uploaded this week is a specific poster with advice and guidance for parents about monitoring their child online starting with [Snapchat](#). Click the link for full access to the poster.

