

Stower Provost School Newsletter

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Gardening Equipment

My sincere thanks to all at Orchard Park Garden Centre, which is part of the Blue Diamond Group, for the amazing collection of freebies that were delivered today alongside two vegetable planting trugs, purchased with grant money from the Dorset Gardens Trust.

The trugs will be assembled next week and will be placed outside the patio, extending Beech classes outdoor area, and enabling them to develop their gardening skills. With the mass of seeds, trowels and forks with in the goodies donated by Orchard Park Garden Centre, we are hoping a bumper crop will be forthcoming!

Gardening club and other classes will also benefit from the additional tools and seeds, as we develop their outdoor learning spaces in the coming months.



After School Club

Parents and Carers, both current and future, have requested the possibility of extending our After School Club provision hours. I am please to inform you that from **after half term** our After School Club hours will be 15.30 – 17.00, with hourly costings being pro rata for the additional half hour. I do hope this helps parents and carers, and my thanks to staff who are willing to care for children for the extra half hour.

TEP Feedback

My thanks to the those who took part in The Engagement Platform (TEP) survey. Headline results are as follows:

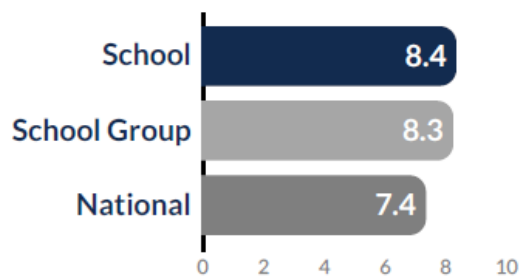
Number of responses: 38

This engagement was above the national benchmark.

8.4 /10

average headline engagement

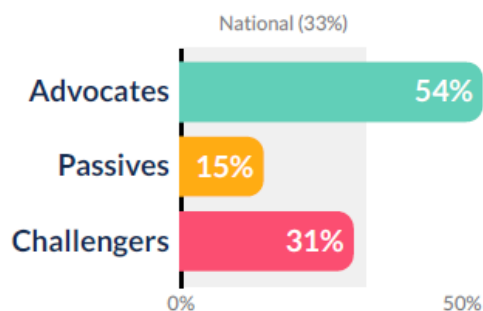
1.0 higher than national benchmark this census



22 NetAPC

Advocate % - Challenger %

22 higher than national benchmark this census



Highest scoring drivers (vs National)

School Leadership

1.3 above national benchmark

Teacher relationships

1.1 above national benchmark

Lowest scoring drivers (vs National)

Home-School Connection

0.0 below national benchmark

Agency

0.2 above national benchmark

Agency driver examines individuals' perceptions of their ability to influence their child with regards to school, including their attendance, behaviour and home-learning. It focuses on a sense of control, responsibility and confidence in achieving meaningful results.

We will continue to work on our home-school connections, and with this in mind I would invite all parents and carers to a **Parent Forum on Friday 6th February at 14.20**. This is an opportunity for parents to voice ideas and constructive feedback to the school, and help us to build stronger home/school links.

When looking at the TEP data linked to similar schools of our size, it would appear the key focus area would be linked to safety and behaviour. In response to this, the school is in the process of changing its approach, moving to a Therapeutic Thinking school, which will be embedded within the curriculum and behaviour policy. All staff had training linked to Therapeutic Thinking during our December INSET day. Training linked to creating a Therapeutic Thinking curriculum will take place on the 13th Feb, which is another INSET day. A new behaviour policy is being written and we are excited to share this with you and explain what the Therapeutic Thinking approach means with parents during a **Parent Information Forum on Thursday 5th March at 14.45**.

Parental/Carer support for pupil's learning

We are noticing at school that many children are not reading at home, or completing their homework. We would respectfully ask all parents and carers to support their children at home with any school work sent home. There are direct links to pupil progress and the amount of support children receive at home, be this hearing a child read, practicing letter recognition and formation, playing games (noticing the patterns on a dice) and learning turn taking.

We will be emailing out our home/school agreement on Monday, which we will be encouraging all pupils and parents/carers to sign.

Coats and boots

With the inclement weather seeming endless at the moment, please would all parents/carers ensure that children have a coat (with a hood) and boots in school on a daily basis.

Sports

A reminder that all children should be wearing school PE t-shirt and school jumper, along with dark leggings or tracksuit bottoms for PE lessons. I have noticed a number of brightly coloured, non uniform tops and t-shirts being worn of late by some.

PE days are:

Oak	Thursday	Friday
Chestnuts	Monday	Thursday
Beech	Monday	Tuesday
Hazel	Monday	Tuesday

NEWS

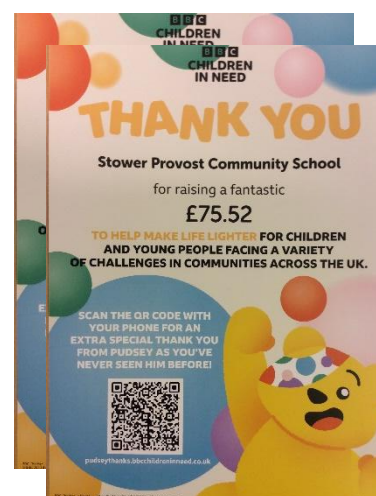
THIS WEEK

Children in Need

I am pleased to share that the school has received a certificate and letter from Children in Need this week, for the £75.52 fund raising contribution, raised through wearing something spotty, back in November.

Moderation

Teaching staff took part in an English moderation event at Stower Provost, along with five other local schools. Staff shared work from each year group, moderated (levelled) pieces of written work against National Curriculum expectations, as well as sharing ideas for writing development.



CLUBS

Please book slots using the links provided or via the school office

Clubs	Day & Time	Year Group	Led by	Cost
Lego Club	Mondays 15.30 – 16.30		Miss Buxton	Cost per half term (see link for cost) https://kwclubs.ecwid.com/Stower-Provost-Community-School-Monday-Dorset-Spring-Term-1-2026-Monday-p624603022
SPAG & Reading SATs Club	Mondays 15.30 – 16.30	Year 6	Mrs Clasby	Free
Tennis Club	Tuesdays 15.30 – 16.30	Chestnut & Oak KS2 children	Prime Sports	Free - school supported Booking will be taken w/b 6 th Jan, with a link sent to parents.
Maths SATs Club	Wednesdays 15.30 – 16.30	Year 6	Mrs Clasby	Free
Basketball Club	Fridays 15.30 – 16.30	Chestnut and Oak KS2 children	Prime Sports	Free - school supported Booking will be taken w/b 6 th Jan with a link sent to parents.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Usborne Book Sale

Our lovely friend Hayley will be visiting from Usborne books on parents evening, please help support our school library as for every purchase you make, the school gets a percentage of the sales back as free books.

School holiday arts and sports activities for Dorset children who need additional support

Artz+ Sportz+ is funded and organised by Dorset Council

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz

Booking - Places must be booked in advance. If demand is high, we will allocate places. We can supply details of how we do this fairly on request. Unless otherwise stated, activities cost **£7.65** per child for 2-3 hours, **£10.20** for 4 hours and **£12.85** for 5 hours or more. There is a 20% subsidy for those on income-based benefits.

To book email leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk stating your name, address, telephone number, chosen workshop(s), number of spaces and child name(s).

Bookings close on Wednesday 28 January and allocation will take place on Thursday 29 January. After allocation, any remaining places will be advertised on www.facebook.com/ArtzSportz
Please see the attached for further information.

Half term events for families

I have been asked to share information on behalf of Dorset's rural arts charity, Artsreach, about the events that are taking place in partnership with rural community volunteers across Dorset this February half term.

With the support of Dorset Council and Arts Council England, Artsreach provides opportunities for children to experience professional live performances and creative workshop activities in their local communities. Tickets are available from as little as £6, and events this half term are taking place in:

North Dorset: East Stour, Child Okeford and Sturminster Newton

West and Central Dorset: Cerne Abbas, Litton Cheney and Broadwindsor

East Dorset: Hinton Martell and Sixpenny Handley

You can see all of the events here: <https://artsreach.co.uk/whats-on/category/young-people>

Half term activity clubs with 15% discount currently!

Please find attached flyers to advertise Prime Sports February Half-Term Camps, where they will be running a plethora of new activities. Please see the attached flyers.

PTFA FUNDRAISING

The PTFA held a meeting last Tuesday, with a view to discussing fundraising ideas for the forthcoming months and to the end of the academic year, and to agree how raised funds should be spent.

The PTFA are keen to gather parental views regarding these two elements, so please do expect a questionnaire to be circulated in due course.

Money raised from PTFA events is integral to the school, and is annually spent on facilitating the continued upkeep, use and heating of our swimming, with an annual heating bill of £1500. £1000 is also spent on supporting transport costs, with each class receiving £250, cutting the cost for all. With just these two expenditures a total of £2500 is required to maintain both the use of the pool and support for trips.

Your help and support of the PTFA is therefore of paramount importance in enabling the school to offer the opportunities it currently does to pupils.

If you are interested in helping in any way, do please let the school office know, and we will happily share your details with current PTFA members.

CLASS NEWS

OAK

Well, we have done it! We have written and polished our persuasive letter from Oliver Twist and a very good job year 5 and 6 made of a difficult task. Next week, we are delving into the world of the poet Charles

Causley, with his poem Colonel Fazackerly Butterworth - Toast, which is a name Dickens would be proud of. In maths, we have been multiplying and dividing fractions - both with excellent results. In geography, we looked at sexual reproduction in plants, and in science we were making solutions using water as a solvent! Next week, we are looking forward to finding about thermal insulators using our log boxes - should be good!

Remember SATs club year 6:

Monday 3.30 to 4.30 (SPAG/reading)

Wednesday 3.30 to 4.30 (maths)

The club is open to any year 6s who wish to widen their knowledge in an informal environment - but there is a lot of hard work to be done.

CHESTNUTS

In Chestnut class, the students have shown great curiosity, specially in Science and Geography.

In Science, we investigated the mechanics of friction and how it impacts the movement of objects when a pushing or pulling force is applied, while our Geography lessons took us back in time to explore the complex formation of fossils within the Earth's layers. Our mathematical journey continued as we deepened our understanding of fractions, specifically mastering the identification of equivalent fractions and learning how to accurately plot them on number lines. In English, we focused on enhancing our descriptive writing by exploring the use of onomatopoeia and practicing how to build narrative tension through the "power of three." It has been wonderful to see the students apply these new skills to create vivid stories.

BEECH

This week's book focus continued to be Spy Fox, which the children have used as a starting point for their own Spy Story Creations. I am busy typing these up to make them into little books for them as they are quite rightly very proud of themselves. In Maths this week, Year 1's have been looking at adding 2 or more numbers together and writing commutative sentences. Year 2's have been looking at the relationship between the 5 and 10 times tables as well as doubling and halving.

In other learning, the children have been continuing to look at the United Kingdom and how it is formed. The children have also been doing extended handwriting sessions in the afternoons to improve our letter formation.

HAZEL

This week has been an activity filled week, with lots of painting and story telling. The children have painted their favourite animal using mud for their paint, they have also explored creating different shades of blue. In Maths we have been looking at different ways of making 5 using the song 5 Little Speckled Frogs. In Literacy we have looked at the story Elmer in the Snow and created a story map and used speech bubbles to label the sounds we would make if we played in snow. We used our fingerprints to create penguins and then used water with Epsom salts in to create crystal penguins.

DIARY DATES

Dates in **red** have been added to the diary list this week.

Date	Time	Information
23 rd Jan	14.55	Praise and Celebrate Assembly
30 th Jan	14.55	Praise and Celebrate Assembly
3 rd Feb	15.30 – 17.30	Parent/Carer Meetings Parents with children on the SEN register will be invited to meetings on a separate date tbc.
5 th Feb	8.40 – 12.15	KS2 Dance Festival at Mere Primary School
5 th Feb	15.30 – 17.30	Parent/Carer Meetings

		Parents with children on the SEN register will be invited to meetings on a separate date tbc.
6 th Feb	08.30	Big Bap Friday – sausage and bacon rolls. Please order and pay in cash by 4 th Feb to the office.
6 th Feb	14.20	Parent Forum
6 th Feb	14.55	Praise and Celebrate Assembly
12 th Feb	15.20	Half Term starts
13 th Feb	All Day	INSET DAY (No school for children)
16 th Feb – 20 th Feb		HALF TERM
23 rd Feb	08.50	First day of second half of term
27 th Feb	14.55	Praise and Celebrate Assembly
5 th March	14.45	Parent information afternoon

Best wishes,

Ailsa B-Hirst

Mrs B