

News from Stower Provost Primary School

It's difficult to believe we are now more than half way through the school year! It seems no time ago that we were welcoming our new children into Reception, teaming them up with their 'Big Buddies' from the older classes so they always have someone looking after them. It is amazing to see how quickly their confidence grows and how they happily play football or join in skipping games with children from all year groups across the school.

Their progress in the classroom is impressive, too. Hearing them developing their reading skills, seeing their handwriting move from 'mark-making' into real words and watching their social skills mature through self-directed learning is fascinating, and our motto, 'Together We Grow,' seems particularly evident in the Early Years.

Applications for next year's Reception places have now been made, so we will soon be visiting our next cohort in their pre-schools and inviting them and their parents into 'big school' for assembly, a range of lessons and playtimes as part of their induction. Many of them will be coming across from Stower Vale Pre-School, and these children are already developing good links with their next school. Regular visits to the school library and trips down to our Forest School take place throughout the year, while some come to Breakfast Club or Wednesdays' increasingly successful Toddler Group, making the transition to the next stage of their education an easy one.

The school continues to develop as we constantly review our teaching to make sure we are providing the best opportunities for the children. Work on our new curriculum has begun in earnest, ready for launch in the Summer Term. A skills-based approach will see the children spending more time consolidating the basics, helping them make links in their learning and enabling them to apply this understanding to new situations. This will also be seen in PE, where we will be building on Fundamental Movement Skills to improve the children's core strength and motor skills, which will make them more agile and accurate in a wide range of sports. Importantly, this approach also places great emphasis on teamwork, encouraging the children to support each other as they learn. Our children are already hugely supportive of each other, and they have many opportunities to play a wide range of sports with other local schools. Still to come this term is the hockey tournament, a swimming gala, a football festival and a number of inter-house games within school.

As a result of my newsletters in the Octavo and requests for help hearing the children read, we are delighted to welcome a number you into school on a regular basis – thank you! If you would like to join our growing band of volunteers, we'd love to hear from you.

James Stanford
Headteacher