

# 7/3/25

## Headteacher Message





#### Dear Parents and Carers,

What a difference the weather makes to our wellbeing! The staff and children have been so happy this week, the sunshine really does help us all. I have seen several classes going out and about in the local community, and I have seen lots of wonderful outdoor learning activities around the school. Heron class have particularly enjoyed the extended play area off their classroom.

This week the staff and children dressed up for world book day and you will see from the photographs below it really was lots of fun! Even the kitchen team joined in with the fancy dress costumes. That is what makes our school so brilliant, we all work hard but we also all love coming together for a bit of fun.

#### Looking ahead to next week

- Don't forget on Tuesday we have the nurse coming in for an informal coffee morning and chat. She will be able to have 1-1 chats and offer help on managing your child's sleep, toileting, puberty and much more. Please do come along. It takes a lot of time to arrange additional events for parents and sadly at our last parent workshop not one parent turned up!
- Next Friday you are also warmly invited in to your child's class for some science fun.

Please see further down for details of both events.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend in the sunshine.

Best wishes, Jane

## **School Events Calendar**



## Weekly Attendance



This week our attendance was 90.7%

This week we had a meeting with our Kent attendance service (KPAS) attendance officer who is very impressed with our attendance, a big well done to everyone, pupils, parents/carers and staff for working together to keep it so high Apparently we are the best special school in the local area!



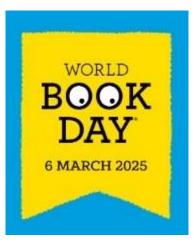


1 - The impact of smart phones on your child

There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children. In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health. If your child is using a smart phone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit. According to King's College London, "two new studies of smart phone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-downCompass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here: https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/

## Education Update (by DHT/ AHTS)





2 - Reading - World Book Day

Pupils this week have taken part in lots of lovely reading activities. At Stone Bay we work to find innovative and fun ways to do this to ensure that every pupil can access and enjoy books in some way. Staff have been trained in programmes such as Story Massage, Imagining Autism and the use of Bag Books to really bring reading materials to life. On Thursday we celebrated World Book Day with lots of pupils and staff dressing up and having fun as their favourite character and bringing in their favourite book to share with their class group.











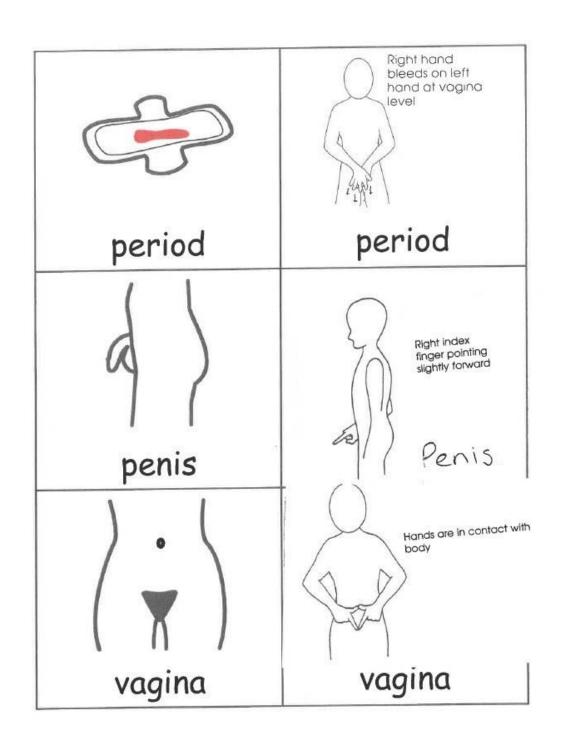






Signs of the week





## Spotlight on Starling Class



This term our topic is My World of Work.

We are reading the book Izzy Gizmo by Pip Jones.

We are developing our rights by expressing our views and wishes by completing student well-being surveys.

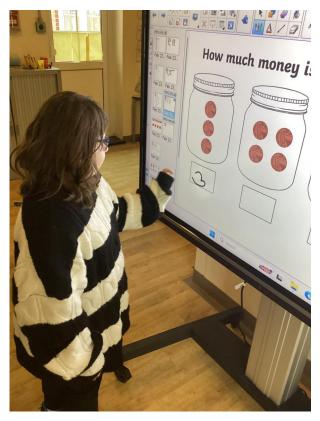
We are being healthy by getting outside in the sunshine and moving our bodies.

The best thing about being in our class is learning life skills like making pancakes!

Next term we are learning about dinosaurs and cavemen.

Have a lovely weekend from Starling Class!







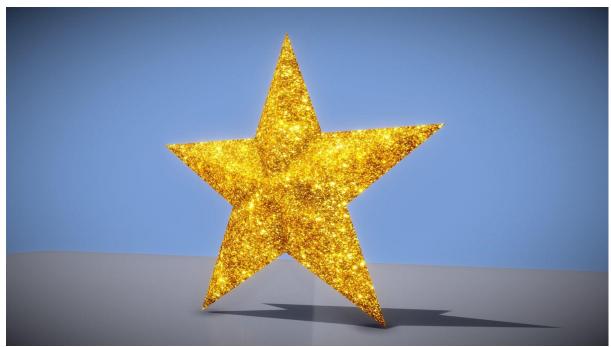


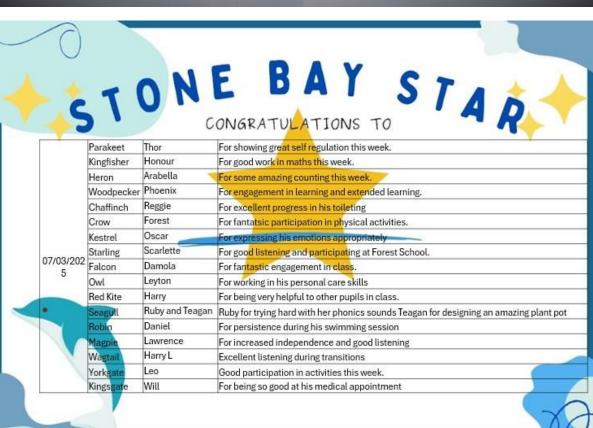






#### Star of the week





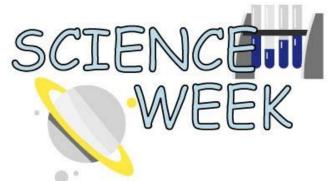
## Stone Bay families



Parent/Carer
Workshop
Toileting, Sleep &
Puberty Support

Tuesday 11th March
9:15
Lead by the NHS Nursing
Team





Stone Bay is celebrating science week 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March!

We would like to invite parents/carers in to take part in a science activity in your child's class.

14th March 2pm

This will be followed by an exciting rocket launch in the main garden.





#### 16+ Event

Tickets are available for purchase at <u>Special Events Tunbridge Wells — The Manor House</u>. To maintainthe privacy of the event, you will need a password to purchase tickets. **The password is: eastergg**.

Parents and carers are welcome to relax and mingle in the upstairs bar while the young people enjoy the festivities downstairs.



https://www.kentbigweekend.co.uk

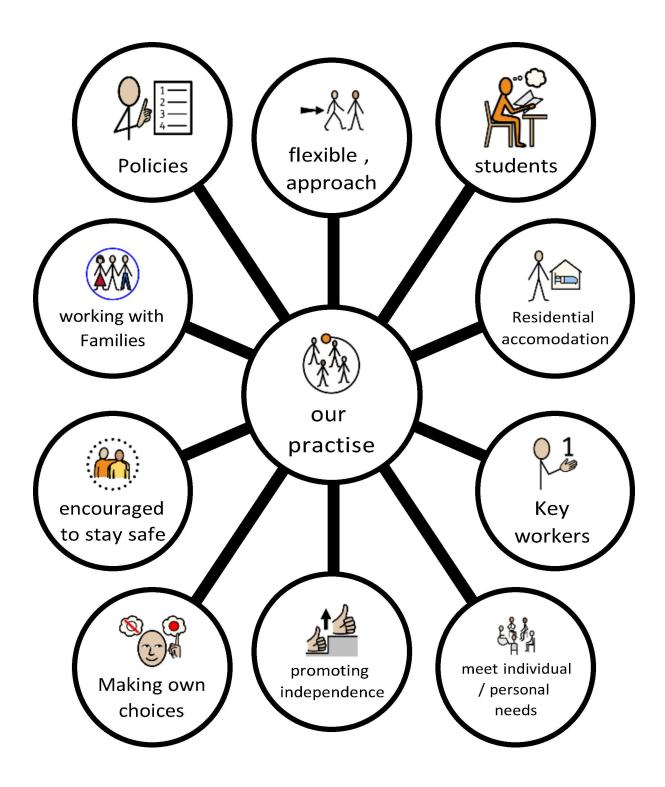
#### Our Residential Provision



We are evolving excellence by exceeding the National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools. Each week we will show you how we are doing!

**This weeks Standard is Standard 1**: "A statement of the school's principles and practice to be known as the 'Statement of Purpose' is promoted through the school and made available to parents and carers".

Please see the link to our website where you can see our <u>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</u>. It has lots of photos and information.



This week the residential students have been engaging in activities that focus on making choices together as a flat and individually for their newly decorated bedrooms.

One of the activities the students really enjoyed was pancake day. The students chose their topping of choice for Shrove Tuesday, they all enjoyed eating them too!

Some of the students have begun to add some personalisation to their bedrooms this week by decorating their walls with bedroom stickers they chose, selecting what sticker they wanted and where they wanted it to go. We have also enjoyed the inflatable canoe that provides a feeling of deep pressure, the students have enjoyed rocking side to side, laying in it with their quilts and simply taking a moment in it to relax.

Lastly we participated in World Book Day activities, the students really enjoyed the different sensory materials from rolling and shaping the playdough to sticking the buttons on the paper gingerbread man.

Next week we are planning to create bird feeders using apples and seeds, and create our own cress egg heads. This is part of British science week which is themed around 'change and adapt.

We also plan on visiting the donkeys to feed them, and will finish off the week with The Very Hungry Caterpillar yoga adventure, to encourage learning the importance of healthy eating as well as gaining the physical benefits of yoga!

Have a lovely weekend

The Kingsgate Team





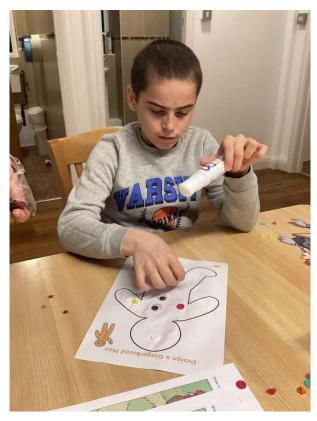


















3 - Spotlight on Christina

My name is Christina, I have worked at Stone Bay School for 5 years and I am a teaching assistant in Owl Class.

The thing I love most about my job is working with our amazing pupils, seeing their progress and their development. Coming to work and seeing them happy makes me happy

## **Our Vision, Mission & Values**



Our school vision is to provide an outstanding, nurturing, learning environment, where all our pupils can achieve their full potential and progress to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Our mission is to provide each and every pupil with the best possible education, delivered in an environment that is supportive, caring and safe. "Getting it right for every pupil"

At Stone Bay we focus on **Evolving Excellence** in all that we do, working towards making our school the best it can be for pupils, staff and families. We are creating lasting **Trust** with all our stakeholders, **Empowering** each other to learn and grow. By adhering to policies and clear processes we ensure **Fairness** and transparency in our decision making and actions, whilst ensuring we are **Collaborating** with others and always looking for ways to help each other to deliver excellence for our pupils.

### Click here for our term dates

