

Stretton St Matthew's Church of England Primary School

'Work Together, Aim High, Shine Bright'



Friday 5th December 2025

Prayer

*Dear God,
As we prepare for Christmas, fill our school with joy, peace, and kindness.
Thank you for the blessings we share and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to care for others and spread hope throughout our community.
Amen.*

Staffing Updates: Mrs Ball & Mr Penny

Following a thorough recruitment process, we are delighted to share the following staffing structure:

Year 1

- *Mrs Ball – Monday to Wednesday*
 - *Mrs Smith (existing, long-standing member of staff) – Thursday to Friday*
- Mrs Ball will also take on the role of SENDCo, supported by Mrs Watson and Miss Simcock.*

Year 3

- *Mr Penny*

Both Mr Penny and Mrs Ball are exceptional teachers who have previously worked with Miss Simcock across several schools. They bring a wealth of expertise, particularly in SEND, inclusion, and Mathematics. We are thrilled to welcome them to the team and further strengthen the strong provision already in place.

To ensure continuity for the children, comprehensive handovers and enhanced transitions will begin in January.

New staff will also have opportunities to teach the classes prior to the start of the maternity cover.

We will write to you in the new year with dates for families to meet the new teachers.

Staff Updates: Mrs Smith & Mrs Doyle

We are delighted to congratulate Mrs Doyle on securing her first teaching position. We have been incredibly fortunate to have her with us this term as a teaching assistant—benefitting from her skills as a qualified teacher. We are sad to see her go, but we know she will make a fantastic teacher. Mrs Doyle will be leaving us in December.

It is with great sadness that we also share that Mrs Smith will be retiring soon. We are deeply grateful that she has kindly agreed to stay on until we recruit her replacement.

This is unfortunate timing as both colleagues are part of our KS2 support team.

Recruitment is already underway, and we are committed to securing outstanding practitioners to continue supporting our children.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Smith for her dedication and for agreeing to remain with us a little longer.

Lockdown

You may be aware that we have recently completed some lockdown practices with the children. These were explained in a completely child-friendly manner and will, over time, hopefully become just another part of school life—much like our regular fire alarm drills.

We talked to the children about how it is very unlikely that we will ever need to use a lockdown, but it is important to know what to do in case of an emergency. We explained that while a fire alarm means it may be unsafe inside the building (so we evacuate), a lockdown means it may be unsafe outside.

This could be due to something like an accident nearby, a dog on the playground, or even—at my previous school—an ambulance helicopter needing to land on the school field.

The children have now practised this both in their classrooms and during playtime so that they know what to do in different situations.

Christmas Movie Night & Light Switch-On

Children enjoyed a cosy Christmas Movie Night, complete with snacks and treats while wearing their festive pyjamas.

Afterwards, families gathered for delicious food and refreshments before enjoying the annual Light Switch-On and carols around the tree.

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising such a lovely community event.

Christmas Jumper Day

*Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school on **Thursday, 11th December**. Whether it's sparkly, silly, or full of jolly characters, we can't wait to see all the colourful jumpers filling the school with festive cheer.*

*Please note that **school uniform must still be worn**, with the Christmas jumper replacing their usual school jumper or cardigan.*



Year 3 and Year 6 Class Assemblies

Thank you to all the families who joined us for the Year 3 and Year 6 assemblies. It was a pleasure to welcome you into school to see the children confidently showcase their learning and share their books.

Stretton Christmas Tree Festival & Light Switch-On

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Marshall for facilitating the Christmas singing in church on Saturday.

Our pupils also gathered around the pavilion tree, singing festive carols before the Light Switch-On.

If you haven't yet visited the Christmas Tree Festival, we encourage you to do so. Our school's Christmas tree is proudly on display, decorated with acts of kindness contributed by each class.



Confirmation Celebration

It was truly wonderful to watch four of our pupils being confirmed in church—an opportunity we have not offered previously.

The service was special and meaningful for the children and their families, and we felt immense pride seeing them embody the values of our school. They are exceptional pupils who live out our vision every day.



School Christmas Lunch

The kitchen will be serving a special Christmas lunch on Tuesday, 16th December. Children will be able to enjoy a festive feast—it's the perfect way to celebrate the season and get into the Christmas spirit! (A charge of £3.05 will be applied to your child's Parent Pay account if they are not entitled to free school meals.)



Scholastic Book Fair

A big thank you to all our families who supported the Scholastic Book Fair! Your generosity helps the children discover new stories, fuels their love of reading, and brings exciting new books into our classroom. We truly appreciate your support!



Christmas Nativities

Our EYFS, KS1, and KS2 nativities will kick off next week! If you have purchased tickets but no longer have them, don't worry—we maintain a register of all ticket holders for each year group.

Please do not bring anyone who does not have a ticket, as the hall has reached maximum capacity and we are unable to accommodate any additional attendees.

We can't wait to welcome you, and we hope you are excited to watch the performances!

After-School Clubs

*Our after-school clubs will go live for booking on **Monday, 15th December at 9:00am**. Please take a look at the list of clubs that will be running in Spring 1. We're excited to offer a great range of activities for the children!*

*Monday -
KS1 & KS2 Multisport & KS2 Science*

*Tuesday -
KS2 Mixed football & KS1 & KS2 Choir*

*Wednesday -
KS1 & KS2 Basketball & KS2 Cookery*

*Thursday -
KS1 Mixed football, KS2 Digital Wizards & KS2 Spanish*

*Friday -
KS1 & KS2 Gymnastics & KS1 & KS2 Hockey*

Book Bus

We were delighted to welcome the Book Bus to school this week! Pupils had the chance to explore a wonderful selection of books and enjoy the excitement of choosing new stories to take home. The visit helped to spark a love of reading across all year groups, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We look forward to the Book Bus returning again soon!



Disco Ticket Reminder

*A quick reminder that tickets for the school Christmas disco are now available to purchase from your child's class teacher. Tickets will be on sale until **Monday, 15th December**.*

Please send cash in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name.

We're looking forward to a fun-filled evening of music, dancing, and excitement for all!

Kittys Shed

This week, our Wellbeing Ambassadors planted daffodil bulbs beside Kitty's Shed. Their hope is that, come spring, the bright blooms will bring a little extra happiness to everyone in our school community.

We would also like to extend a big thank-you to the PTA for the new log seating. This thoughtful addition will make the area around Kitty's Shed an even more welcoming space for pupils to enjoy.



School Calendar 2025-2026

Friday	5 th December	Musical Evening in Church
Saturday/Sunday	6 th / 7 th December	Christmas Tree Festival at Church
Monday	8 th December	Christingle (2:30pm – All Welcome to Church)
Tuesday	9 th December	Y1/Y2 Nativity (9:30am - Y1 Parents)
Wednesday	10 th December	YR Nativity (9:30am)
Thursday 11 th December		Y1/Y2 Nativity (9:30am - Y2 Parents)
		Christmas Jumper Day
Monday	15 th December	YR Grandparents Day (9:30am-10:30am)
Tuesday 16 th December		RockSteady Concert (9:30am – RockSteady Parents Welcome)
		EYFS/KS1 & KS2 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 th December		Y4 Residential Parent Briefing 8:20am in the hall
		YR & KS1 Christmas Disco 3:30pm-5:00pm
		KS2 Christmas Disco 5:10pm-6:30pm
Friday	19 th December	Y4 Residential Third payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Friday	19 th December	School Closes – Autumn 2 – 2:00pm
Tuesday	30 th December	Y5 Residential Third payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Spring 1 st Half Term		
Monday	5 th January	School Opens – Spring 1