

Weekly Reading Update- Pageticker week ending 18th October

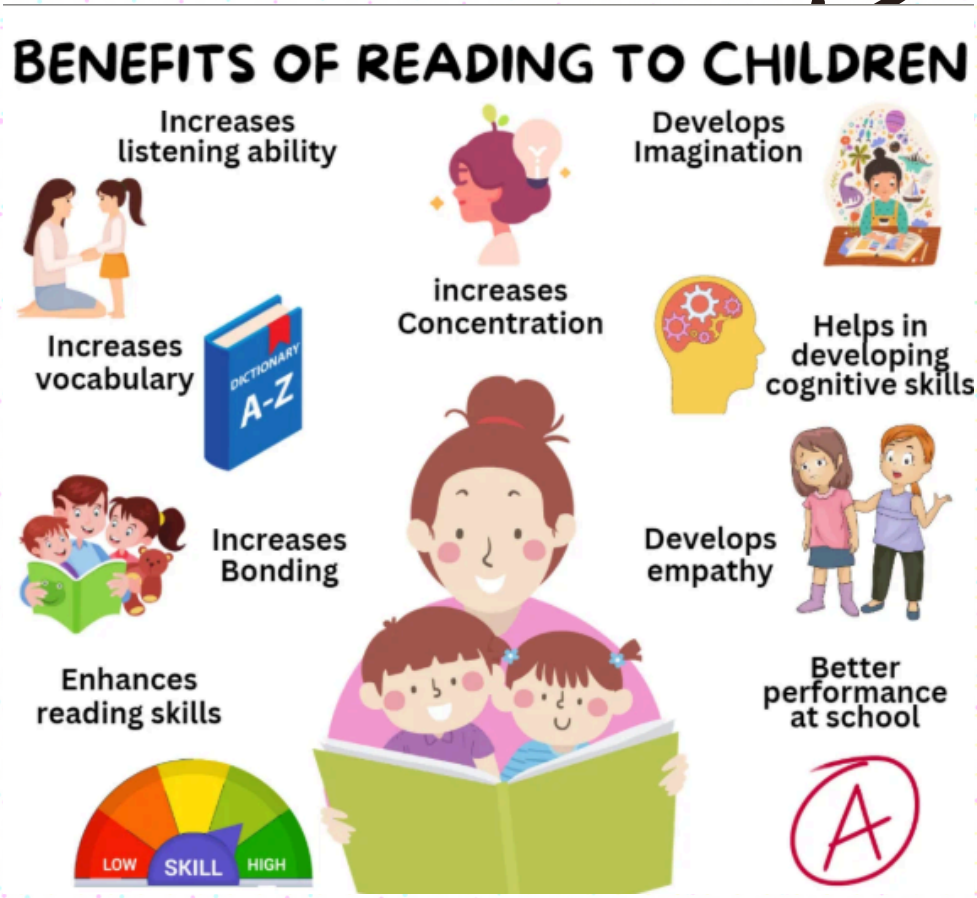
Across the school...

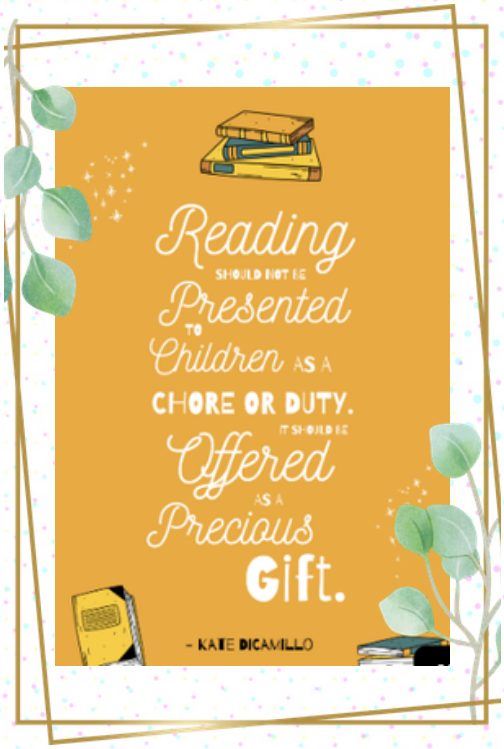
Reading engagement by class:

Class name	% of pupils with 3+ reading logs last week
Daisy Chain	0%
Oak	45%
Cherry	18%
Rowan	27%
Birch	35%
Hawthorn	42%
Lime	45%
Alder	50%

PLEASE, please read with your child. Pageticker is so easy to use...the children can record their reading themselves!

- 📖 **Books completed:** 197
- ⭐ **Books rated:** 182
- ✍️ **Books reviewed:** 7
- ⏱️ **Reading sessions logged:** 498 (average 62 per class)
- 👍 **Sessions acknowledged:** 85
- 📄 **Pages read:** 16555





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WEEKLY BULLETIN
23RD OCTOBER 2026

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents and carers,

Reading engagement - PLEASE support us and help your child to be successful.

Last week's statistics from Pageticker are incredibly disappointing, especially as children were learning from home for 2 days last week - an ideal time to have completed lots of reading! I know that life at home can be very busy and that for many of you it can be a struggle to listen to your child read everyday. However, I cannot stress how important reading with your child is...if you only do one piece of home learning each week, *please, please* make it reading!

Learning to read, and reading for pleasure, are essential skills for life. We have tried a range of different things to encourage children to read at home; this really is something we need your continued help and support with. Children need to read every day (we aim for at least 5x a week) so they are fluent, develop a good vocabulary and can learn effectively across the entire curriculum. We have made lots of adjustments to support engagement of reading across the school. This includes children being allowed to read what they enjoy (as long as there is a range of authors over time); a signifcant amount of money being spent on engaging phonics books for Early Years and KS1; a raffle prize draw each half term (the more they read, the more chances they have to win); an easier way to record reading at home (using Pageticker); early morning reading club (by invite only); changing the way we teach reading at school so it is more talk-based; re-designing the school library and ensuring there are dedicated library times for each class. **How else can we help every child to enjoy reading? What else can we offer? And how else can we work together to ensure every child leaves our school as a reader?** Please do let me know if you have any suggestions.

Follow up to the emergency closure last week

I wanted to make sure that everyone understood that the remedial gas works were not fully completed until approximately 2pm on Thursday 15th October. As explained in last week's newsletter, there were a number of factors that had to be carefully considered throughout the process.

Representatives from Southern Gas Networks (SGN) remained on site during this time and worked closely with the Site Manager, Hampshire Property Services and me. Repairs to the gas pipes and meter were subject to rigorous testing and repeated safety checks to ensure that they met the stringent standards required for a public building.

The decision to close the school was therefore made on safeguarding grounds, which will always be my highest priority. Further work continued on Friday to ensure that the pathway and field were left in a safe and acceptable condition. For this reason, all families were asked to enter and leave the school site via the KS2 gate. Thank you for your understanding and support during this unusual situation.

Following a suggestion from a parent, we are exploring the possibility of having a text facility to help us communicate with parents more quickly. This will be connected to Arbor and is currently being costed.

Whatever your plans for the half term break, I wish you all a lovely family time together and please try to read together lots...why not send in a photo of somewhere exciting or different that you have shared a book! There will be a prize for the most adventurous!

I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 2nd November for what is possibly the busiest and most exciting half term of the school year.

What's in this bulletin?

- Headteacher message
- GIVE
- You said, we did...
- Wake Up Wednesday
- Attendance
- Uniform and earring reminders
- First Aid Friday
- Celebrations
- Collective Worship
- INSET days
- Reminders for next week

We are a school that has adopted a 'culture of allergy awareness and education', please remember we still aim to be a nut free school!



Give

Helping others, saying thank you or just giving someone a smile can improve your self-esteem and your emotional health

When "Give" is going well

- You will have a sense of purpose and achievement.
- You'll feel connected to your community.
- You'll make new friends / widen your support network.
- You'll be a good role model and support to those around you.
- You'll grow in confidence.
- You'll learn new skills.
- You'll improve your mental well-being.

When "Give" isn't going well

- You may feel distracted and disinterested.
- Feeling removed.
- Isolation - feeling completely alone.
- Becoming a bad influence.
- Lack of confidence.
- Boredom.
- Low self-worth.

Useful Links

getvolunteering.co.uk

www.gohenry.com/uk/blog/chores/age-appropriate-chore-list-for-kids

Give back to your community

- Litter picking.
- Helping in a local Charity shop, Hospital, care home or animal Charity. Volunteer days are one of the easiest ways to give back to your community.
- Volunteer in school E.g. listen to readers, or support the PTA.
- Start a class WhatsApp.
- Start a conversation with a parent / carer at the school gate.
- Help a neighbour
  - Pop their bin out for them.
  - Walk their dog.
  - Offer to clean their room / house
  - Help in their garden.
  - Be a listening ear for a chat.
- Join a church group.
- Encourage children to take on a household chore.
- Children could draw a picture, write a letter to a friend, relative or neighbour.
- Children (with your support) could offer to care for theirs or someone else's pet.
- Reach out to local groups or clubs for help and support. They can **GIVE** back to you.

Made by Ruth Downer, Maria Knight, Sonja Balmer, Ceri Kentish, Maddy Child, Leoni Hayes, Jo Dorans, Sarah Allen and Jo Ayres in conjunction with East Hants and Havant Heads



Back to Basics

Each half term we are focusing on a different petal.
This half term we are exploring 'give'.
Looking after your family's wellbeing is very important.
As a parent or carer, you can take small steps to help your child's wellbeing as well as your own. You can do this by starting with the basics.

Think about your home environment and what small changes you can make together as a family. I definitely like 'Encourage children to take on a household chore' and shall be doing more of this in my family home!

You Said, We did...

Back to Basics Coffee Mornings

We are planning to run **Back to Basics** coffee mornings in the Green Room on the following dates:

Wednesday 4th November - 09:00-10:00
Wednesday 2nd December - 09:00-10:00

We will be using the petals from the Back to Basic flower at each coffee morning and our first one will be 'Give'. We will be sharing and giving each other recipes we use. Coffee and biscuits (and sometimes cakes!) will be provided and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. There will be an area set up for younger children to access toys and games.



Lime Class Educational Visit - RHS Wisley



Year 5 went to RHS Wisley on Friday last week. More information about this venue can be found here: https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley



After a delayed start to the day (traffic causing chaos!), Lime class still had plenty of time for their 'How do plants grow?' workshop and teacher-directed time in the afternoon to explore the gardens. This supported their Learning Quest topic: **'What have Beetles ever done for us?'.**



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Safeguarding: Wake Up Wednesday



This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** focuses on deepfakes.

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

This will be added to the website https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/onlinesafety and shared on our school Facebook page each week.

Attendance and Punctuality

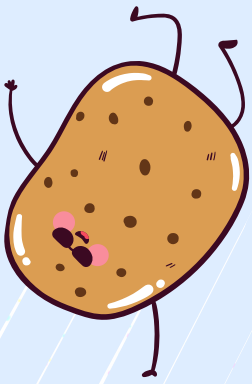
"Every day of school missed is a day stolen from a child's future,"
Bridget Phillipson (Education Secretary), August 2025

Whole school average - 95.8%
(national average 95.5%)

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY UNLESS THEY ARE REALLY UNWELL; if you child feels under-the-weather, please send them into school and we can see how they go!

Average attendance by class to date:

- Oak (R) - 98%
- Cherry (1) - 96%
- Rowan (2) - 95%
- Birch (3) - 96%
- Hawthorn (4) -96%
- Lime (5) - 96.6%
- Alder (6) - 95%



If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school if they are unwell, please look at this page on our website:
https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/attendance

PE Kit Reminders

When purchasing new school uniform, please consult our uniform policy:
https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/policies/

IMPORTANT:
PE kits MUST be a PLAIN NAVY TRACKSUIT or SHORTS - no stripes or logos. T-SHIRTS must be a PLAIN WHITE POLO STYLE.

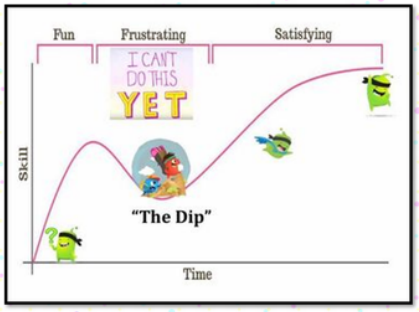
Check out the new designs - available from Skoolkit!

We want to continue to look smart and if we all follow the uniform guidelines, we will. Please also remember trainers should be BLACK and with discrete, or preferably, NO LOGO.

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Celebrations

This half term we are focusing on the learning skill of **'Perseverance'.**





End of term perseverance awards go to:
Bertie, Emila, Lily-Rose, Ivy, Esme, Raire, Sylvie, Kshetra, Aiden, Lexie, Ava, Arnold, Rudi and Sophie R
Headteacher Awards go to:
STEP Awards go to:
Merits go to:

- Oak (R) -
- Cherry (1) -
- Rowan (2) -
- Birch (3) -
- Hawthorn (4) -
- Lime (5) -
- Alder (6) -



Health and Wellbeing: First Aid Friday

This weeks **#FirstAidFriday** focuses on flu. Flu will often get better on its own, but it can make some people seriously ill.
Flu symptoms come on very quickly and can include: a sudden high temperature, an aching body, feeling tired or exhausted, a dry cough, a sore throat, a headache, difficulty sleeping, loss of appetite
The symptoms are similar for children, but they can also get pain in their ear, sore eyes, swollen glands and appear less active.
More information can be found on our website: https://www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/wellbeing-support.

Poppy Appeal 2026

We will be supporting the **Royal British Legion Remembrance Appeal** this year by offering poppies to pupils in school for a minimum donation of 50 pence (ideally send donations in a sealed envelope with 'Poppy Appeal' written clearly on the front). Students from Year 6 will be offering poppies to pupils in school during break times after half term (from Monday 2nd November).

For more information about the appeal, or to donate online, please visit: https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/donate

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Outside School Celebrations

Celebrating the clubs, activities and achievements children take part in outside school is an important way to recognise their growing confidence, talents and interests. Whether it's a sports team, dance class, arts group, scouts, music lessons or a special celebration within their community, these experiences help children develop new skills, build friendships and feel proud of who they are.
By sharing and celebrating these moments together, we create a school community that values every child's uniqueness and encourages them to keep exploring the things they love.



Mr Evetts ran The Great South Run last Sunday and ran 16km in 66 minutes...An amazing time which we are all in awe of. Well done and thank you for raising £435 for Macmillan - you are amazing! :-)

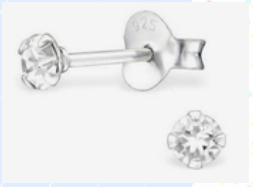
Please send in a picture and a short explanation if you would like your child to appear on our school bulletin!



Beth was baptised on Sunday at St Albans Church by Jenn; a beautiful day celebrating Beth's baptism with her family. Congratulations Beth!

Reminder - Earrings in School







Following several reminders about the style of earrings that are suitable for school, if children are wearing any earrings other than simple round studs, they will now be asked to remove them. **These are the only style, colour that are acceptable: small studs that are either silver or gold or have a clear coloured gem.**
We want to continue to look smart and stay safe, and if we all follow the uniform guidelines, we will. If children continue to wear earrings that are not suitable for school, we will revert to only Year 6 being allowed to wear them.

Collective Worship

This half term we are focusing on the value of '**perseverance'.** We have already considered many of the things that we would be showing in class if we are persevering with our learning. In Collective Worship, we will be learning about perseverance through various Bible stories and activities that highlight the value of staying committed to goals and overcoming obstacles. This week, we explored the verse from Hebrews 12: 1–2 '***And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.'***
We discussed the metaphor of life being a race to be run and how perseverance is a lifelong journey, strengthened by love, courage and fellowship.

Next half term, we will be exploring the value of trust.
All of our Collective Worships can be found on our website:
www.stalbansprimaryschool.co.uk/collective-worship



INSET DAYS 2026-2027

The INSET days for the next academic year are:

Monday 30th November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Friday 30th April 2027
Monday 7th June 2027

Please make a note of these. The website will also be updated and we will continue to remind you on bulletins throughout the year.

Please check your details!

Please inform the office if you (or another emergency contact for your child) move house or changes mobile number.
If you would like to check that your details are up to date or if you need to make any changes, please email the office and these details can be checked and updated for you.

Reminders for 2.11.2026

October Half Term 26/10 to 30/10.

2/11
Start of Autumn 2

3/11
Year R NCMP, Height, Weight and Vision Screening
Year R Dental Hygiene Assembly

5/11
Final Straw Foundation Assembly

6/11
Year 6 Early Islamic Civilisations History Workshop

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Headteacher:
Mrs Sarah Goldsworthy BA(Hons) QTS NPQH NASENCo

Ofsted
Read our report