

Stelling Minnis CE Primary School



Newsletter



Friday 17th July 2026

It has been a delight to lead the school for a second successful year, bringing some stability and clear strategic direction for the school. I am very privileged to work with a fantastic team of teachers who have worked tirelessly to continuously improve the offer of our school. Plans are already afoot for an even better year next year but we shall have a little rest first! I wish each and every one of you a peaceful and blessed summer.

Mrs Buss

Acting Headteacher

Collective Worship

This term, the children have been learning about the first Christian and the events from Pentecost onwards. The children have reflected on what it is to give advice and words of encouragement—which we put into practice on Sports' Day!

Time to say goodbye...

Good bye and good luck to all our children moving on to new schools. In particular, we would like to wish the very best to our Year 6 Leavers, who will be leaving us at

Term 1 Dates

1st September	Inset Day
2nd September	Inset Day
3rd September	Children return to school
22nd September	Mice Class Worship
2nd October 2026	Individual School photographs
7th October	Squirrels Class Worship
23rd September	Bikeability Year 6
24th September	Bikeability Year 6
23rd October	Last day of Term One

Farm School

Will resume in September—Dates TBC at the start of the academic year

Stelling Minnis to join their new secondary schools and embark on a new adventure!

We wish all the best to;
Amelia, Ava, Barney, Bonnie,
Erin, Finlay, Fred, Harriet,
Harry, Max, Milo, Monty &
Ruby

May there always be work for your hands to do, May your purse always hold a coin or two, May the sun always shine upon your window pane, May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain, May the hand of a friend always be near to you and May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

PE/ Music Tuition/ Outdoor Learning

From September, our PE provision will be delivered on a Tuesday by Tom, of Primary Sports Giants who also deliver our Forest School provision. Tom is an experienced and qualified PE teacher and with his network of schools, will be able to support us in offering more opportunities for our school to compete and collaborate. We thank Mrs Horton for her time at the school.

Tuesday will also continue to be our Music lessons by Mr Melville who also offers some private and group music lessons. Forest School will continue on a Wednesday. Children may continue to wear

their PE kit to school on a Tuesday.

Staffing 2025/2026

Mice	Mrs Melville& Miss Kennedy & Ms Lee
Mrs O’Callaghan	
Squirrels	
Miss Smithson	
Otters	Mrs Harrison & Mrs Handford & Mrs Melville
Mrs Smith	
Badgers	
Mrs Jessup	
Nurture & Intervention Support:	
Ms Lee & Mrs Mumford	

Christian Distinctiveness

We are very proud of our school community and its ethos. Our values of courage, curiosity and compassion have woven through all we have achieved this year. Our community events have been a real highlight and we look forward to more next year—starting with some class worships in Term 1!

KS2 Production

A huge well done to all the children and staff & parents for an incredible production of Matilda! It looked and sounded very professional indeed! It was very exciting to bring a West End Production to Stelling Minnis. What should we do next year?!



Uniform

Parents may soon be purchasing new items for the new school year and we would like to remind parents of the following...

For PE the children may wear **PLAIN black leggings or shorts or joggers** in the winter months. Please note: no stripes, logos or patterns.

Our school uniform is **PLAIN** black footwear. Again not branded please. The children may wear **dark grey or black shorts, skirts, pinafores or trousers**. No navy or light grey please. White black or grey socks.

We have a small amount of spare shared kit for those children who on occasion are not in the correct uniform.

School Meals

Currently, Caterlink, our school meals provider will be maintaining at the cost of a hot school meal to £3.47 per meal, per day. Children in Mice and Squirrels are entitled to free school meals. Children in Otters and Badgers need to pay for their meal

unless parents are in receipt of certain benefits. If you feel you may be entitled to free school meals, please speak to office staff who will be happy to advise on eligibility alternatively please visit as eligibility is increasing for September 2026. Even if your child is in Mice and Squirrels it is worth checking as the school may receive additional funds to support your child.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals>

Wingham

The children had the most incredible trip to Wingham Wildlife Park. Fortunately lots of the animals were keen to be seen and all the children had a great time, even on the a very hot day! The children enjoyed some talks about animals and their diets. The children enjoyed the Bug house, Chimpanzees and nocturnal house and penguins the best.





End of Year Awards & Celebrations

In our final celebration Worship of the year, special awards are given to children who have stood out for various reasons. This year, awards have been given to:

Sadie Spangle Performing Arts Shield: Harriet
The Mike Spurling Cup: Amelia
The Jonathan Bushell Award: Ruby
The Burgess Cup: Bonnie
Progress Cup: Fred
Rising Star: Jenson
House Points Shield: Red
Sports Shield: Green

New Year 6 Roles & Responsibilities

Head Girl: Ivy
Head Boy: Ed
Head of School Council: Lily
Head of Guiding Stars: Rosie
Red House Captain: Orson
Blue House Captain: Molly
Green House Captain: Harvey
Worship Monitors Set Up: William & Freddie
Worship Monitors IT: Roman & James

Houses

As a small school, it is getting increasingly hard to organise events according to house teams. We have some year groups with no representatives for 2 houses! So from September we will be reducing to three houses, saying goodbye to yellow house. We will announce our new house names in September!

The School Day

Following the consultation period, From 1st September, the school day at Stelling Minnis will change. The gates will open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am.

Attendance

Our attendance for the school year is 94.2%. This is below our target. Next academic year we will be working closely with KPAS to support those families who are persistently absent from school.

Academic Results

At our school we are very proud of the wider offer of opportunities we have provided for our students but we are also proud of our academic offer too. This year has shown how hard the children have worked both in progress and attainment.

In EYFS 86% of children achieved a Good Level of Development compared with

72% nationally. In Year 1, 91% of children passed the phonics screening compared with 82% nationally.

In Year 6, 85% of children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared with 63% nationally. In Reading, 46% achieved the greater depth standard and 23% achieved the greater depth standard in Maths. Well done Stelling Minnis!

End of Term Treat

A huge thank you to Jenson & Presley (and parents!) For this year's end of term treat. A Stelling Minnis Fairground Ride! We are most grateful. Do let me know if you have an



idea for next year's treat!

Thank you from the Staff

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for the gifts, cards, and good wishes. We are all very grateful for your support.