

Stelling Minnis CE Primary School



Newsletter



Friday 19th December 2025

It seems to have been a 34 week term! And my favourite term "in office" so far!

The sense of community has really stood out this term with some truly heart warming events. Carols with the Animals was a huge success as was our Christingle Service, Nativity and KS2 Carol Concert. Throw in a visit from Bishop Rose, a fantastic SIAMS report and a trip to the theatre too!

This "big term" we launched our new curriculum for history, geography, design technology and art under the focus of "Impact & Power". It has been wonderful seeing learning brought to life in the classrooms as children explored concepts such as the power of the pencil or the impact of war.



There is lots more to come in the new year too! On behalf of all the staff, thank you for all your support and Merry Christmas!

Mrs Buss
Acting Headteacher

Key Term Dates

Monday 5th January	Inset Day. School Closed to Children
Tuesday 6th January	Children return to school
Wednesday 7th January	Welly Wednesdays start for all Year Groups
Monday 12th January	Swimming starts for Year 3
Thursday 22nd January	SEN Information Evening– Provisional
Friday 13th February	Last day of Term Three

Farm School Term 3: Provisional

January is often a very cold time at the farm so we will recommence Farm School After February Half Term

If we have the opportunity to sneak another session in before then– we will let you know!

26th February	Year 1
5th March	Year 5 & 6
12th march	Year 4
19th March	Year 3
26th March	Year 2
2nd April	Year R

Sendco Update

Mrs Short has enjoyed her first term with the school. She has spent time in classes to get to know the children as well as the teachers and support staff. She has also arranged some staff training. Mrs Short will be hosting an SEN Information Evening so that she may introduce herself formally.

Christian Distinctiveness



This term has seen a visit from Bishop Rose who heard from School Council and Guiding Stars about all they have been up to including our sustainability efforts, the farm and our school improvements. The children have also been busy thinking of others, raising money for Children in Need and collecting donations of gifts, toiletries, warm clothing and treats to give to those in

need this Christmas Time.



Outdoor Learning

From January, we will be working with Primary Sports Giants, who will be supporting us with a three year plan to enhance our outdoor learning provision. They are very excited by our extensive grounds and working with us to further improve our offer. This means that all children will be taking part in Welly Wednesdays but we do ask that children keep their outdoor gear in school so that we may go out on Mondays and Fridays too if the timetable allows!

We are also looking forward to working with Stelling Lodge Farm to become a Leaf Demo School. Further information may be found here <https://leaf.eco/education/for->

[teachers/leaf-education-demonstration-school](#)

Goodbye...

...to Mrs Brown who is leaving the classroom to be Head of Learning Support. Mrs Cannell is also leaving us to take up a Teaching Assistant position closer to home. We wish them all the luck in their new roles!

It is also with great sadness that after 24 years at the school, Mrs Debbie Semple will be retiring at the start of April. We will of course be planning a school celebration in recognition of many years of service!

Mr Jonathan Heslop will also be retiring at the start of April. He has been our “handy man” for a number of years and is looking forward to a well earned rest!

Welcome...

... to Mrs Sophie O’Callaghan, an experienced EYFS teacher who will be joining us in Mice Class, and Miss Jade Jago will be joining us as an experienced Teaching Assistant. We also welcomed Mrs Lindsay Harrison, an experienced Teaching Assistant who joined us at the start of December.

We also welcome aboard our new Site Manager– Mr Max Andrews who many of you

know as Farmer Max. He will be supporting us in maintenance but also in supporting our compliance and Health & Safety obligations.

In the new year we will be starting the recruitment process of a new School Business Manger. If anyone knows of anyone who may be interested– please get in touch.

Attendance

Thank you for your support and understanding that due to new government guidance we are no longer able to authorise ANY holiday requests. In our school we rate good attendance as being 95% or above.

Currently our whole school attendance is **95%** which is on our target. We are however performing slightly below national and local attendance figures which are 95.3% and 95.1% respectively.

Parking & School Safety

Please keep the staff car park clear in the mornings and the zig zag lines on the road. When using the visitor parking, please reverse park. We also ask that you supervise your child in the mornings when waiting for the gate to open and again at the end of the day . Thank you for your support.