



# THE STOBOROUGH SCOOP

Stoborough CE VA Primary School

SPRING 2026  
Edition 031

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## Headteacher Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Community members,

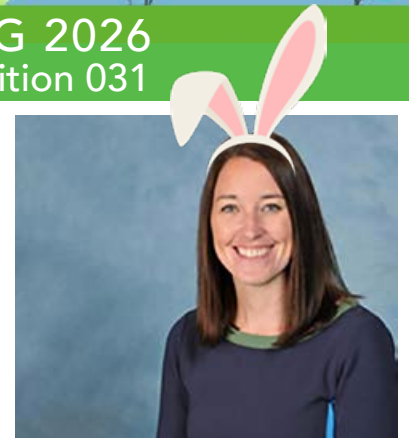
*'Let all that you do be done in love'*  
1 Corinthians 16:14

*Love for ourselves, for each other and for the world.*

As we approach the end of the Spring term, I am reminded—as I am every year—of how the first half of Spring seems to stretch ahead of us endlessly, and then suddenly the second half rushes by in a blur and Easter is upon us before we know it! What always strikes me when preparing this newsletter just how much happens in such a short space of time! The breadth of experiences we offer is testament to the dedicated adults who support our pupils every day—our staff, our volunteers, our parish partners and of course our wider community.

This term, our PTFA has continued to champion our Positive Play project, providing us with new basketball equipment that has quickly become a firm favourite with both older and younger pupils. We have also found unexpected joy in our fancy-dress area—unexpected only because we hadn't realised just how much our older pupils clearly miss dressing up! Their enthusiasm has been wonderful to witness!

Our children have once again embraced exciting learning beyond the classroom. Year 1 enjoyed their visit to a working farm, while Year 2 ventured to the East Dorset Museum to support their history learning. Throughout the school, weekly music lessons continue to bring rhythm and energy to our day and our new rock band has been a particular highlight. Watching



pupils experiment with electric guitars, keyboards and drums—and the delight on their faces as they discovered the sounds they could create—was one of my favourite moments of the year so far.

Speaking of favourite moments, I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of pupils to gather pupil voice. I left the conversation feeling incredibly proud. The children spoke with such respect, kindness and confidence.

I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to the wonderful volunteers who give their time so generously: listening to children read, caring for our library, supporting playground projects and offering lifts to events are just examples. Your involvement enriches the life of our school and if anyone would like to join this team of helpers, we would be delighted to welcome you—particularly any keen gardeners who might enjoy helping us! Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Easter break. We look forward to seeing you for what promises to be a busy and exciting summer term.

Warmest regards

*Mrs Murray*

Head Teacher

# DIARY DATES

- Tuesday 14th April: Summer Term begins
- Wednesday 29th April: Year 4 Residential to Leeson House
- W/C 11th May: Year 6 SATs week
- Thursday 21st May: Year 6 London Visit
- Friday 22nd May: Sports Day
- Monday 25th May: May Half Term Break

### Attendance Below 92%

If your child's attendance falls below 92%, further absences will not be authorised without medical evidence.

# Stoborough Attendance

## Attend, Belong, Flourish

### Our Vision for Attendance:

*"Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

Stoborough CE Primary School seeks to ensure that every child experiences a school day filled with belonging, care, and opportunity. We believe that regular attendance is an act of love: love for learning, love for community and love for the future each child is growing towards. If a child is not in school, they will not achieve as well or benefit from the education and social experiences of school life.

### Monitoring Attendance

Attendance is monitored regularly. Parents and Carers will be notified of their child's attendance regularly and will be contacted if we have concerns relating to their child's attendance.

### Our School Attendance Target:

We have been set a target by the DfE of 95.4%. Last year our school attendance was 95.1. This is in line with national averages.

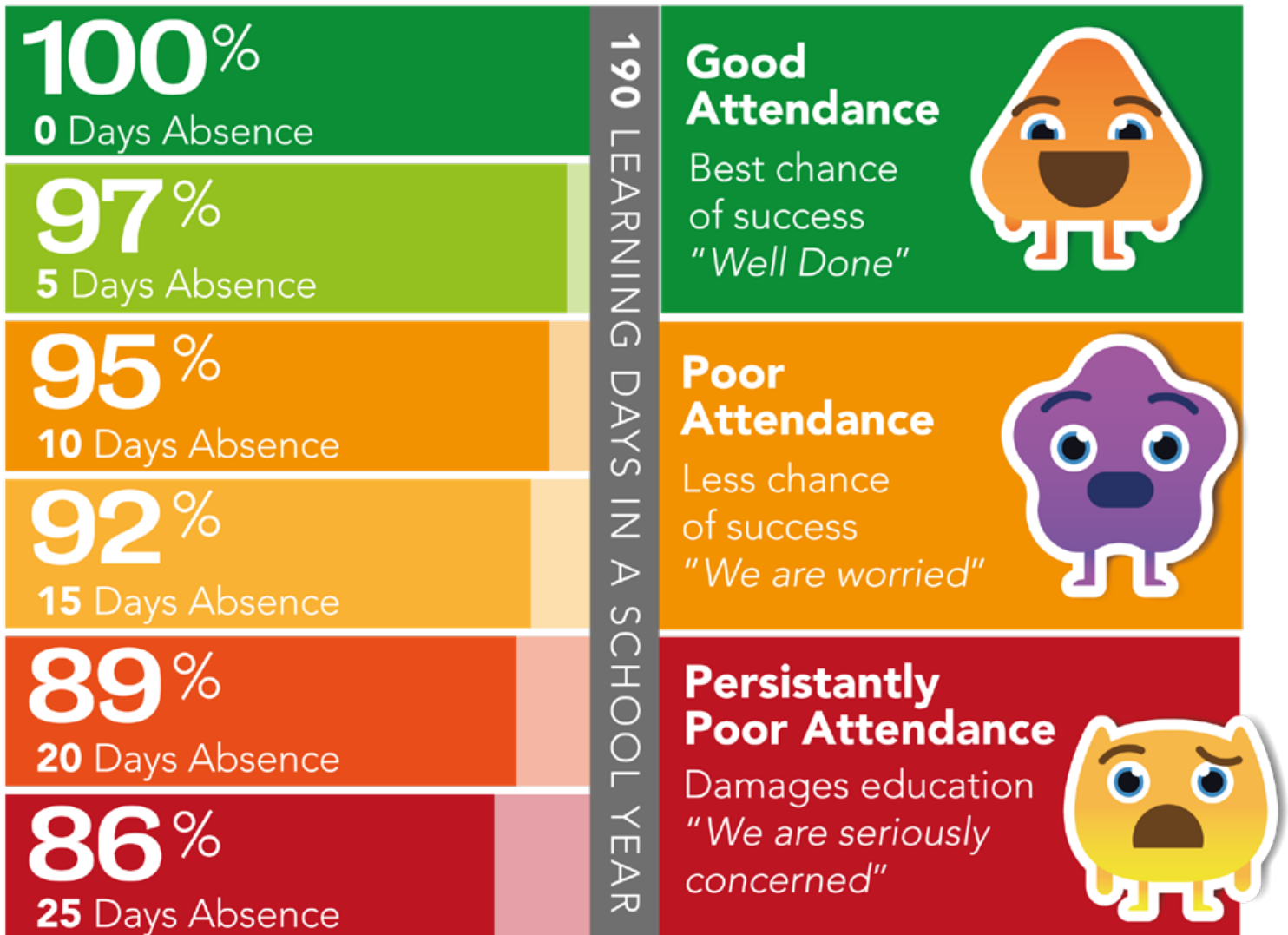
Did you know, before COVID our attendance was 97%

### Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)

If a child is taken out of school for unauthorised absences for 10 sessions +, parents/carers will be issued with a fine of £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.

### Punctuality

All children should be in school by 8.50am (8.45 for Reception). Children arriving after this time will be marked as (L) Late and after 9.20am marked as (UA) Unauthorised Absence.





STOBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
**ECO CLUB**

## Our Battle of the Bands

At the beginning of the spring Term Key Stage 2 took part in an exciting Battle of the Bands competition using Times Tables Rock Stars.

Throughout the competition children worked hard to answer as many multiplication and division questions as they could, earning points for their class along the way. The competition was a fantastic way to encourage regular timestables practice and to help children build confidence and speed in their mental maths.

There was a real buzz across KS2 as pupils checked their scores, encouraged their classmates, and pushed themselves to improve. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, determination and teamwork.

To celebrate the end of the battle, we held a brilliant *Dress Like a Rock Star Day*. The school was filled with rock legends of every kind, complete with sunglasses, wigs, leather jackets, and inflatable guitars! Liam and Noel Gallagher were even spotted at school. The atmosphere was electric, and the children loved showing off their Rockstar style.

After a very close competition, we were delighted to announce that **Year 4 were the overall champions!** Their hard work earned them the top spot and a well-deserved golden hour as their prize.

A huge well done to all pupils for taking part so enthusiastically, and thank you to staff and families for supporting the event. We look forward to the next *Battle of the Bands!*



# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

**DRAGFLY CLASS: 3400**  
**BARN OWL CLASS: 2243**  
**PEREGRINE FALCON CLASS: 1664**  
**OTTER CLASS: 437**

## Big School Bird Watch

This term we have taken part in the *Big School Bird Watch*. This year we had to brush up on our water birds as due to all the rain, we had plenty of water birds wading through the fields! The eco team were fantastic at spotting the birds. They also took out small groups of Year 1 students, teaching them how to use the binoculars and identify birds. The highlight this year was having a beautiful Jay fly past.

**Eco Team Top Tip:** Provide high protein bird feed such as sunflower hearts, meal worms and nyjer seeds to help during the breeding and nesting season. Ensure bird feeders are washed regularly to avoid spread of disease.



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



## Positive Play Scoop

Our *Positive Play* initiative is already having a positive impact at lunchtimes. The children are embracing the wide range of activities now available to them. Whether building imaginative creations with Lego, shooting hoops on using the new basketball net, dressing up in exciting roleplay costumes, tackling our new obstacle courses, or getting hands on in the mud kitchen, pupils are engaging in purposeful, joyful play.

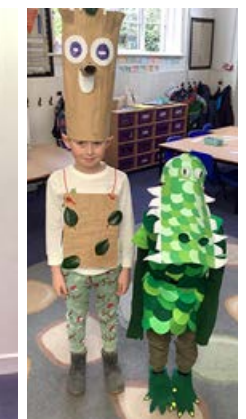
These resources are helping to develop teamwork, creativity and problemsolving skills, while ensuring every child can find something they love during their lunchtime play. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful PTFA for their generous support in helping fund this initiative. Their contribution is making a real difference to our children's school experience. We would also like to thank the parent volunteers who have helped to build

many of our resources. We are also looking forward to making full use of the field once the weather becomes drier, opening up even more opportunities for active and imaginative play.

We would also like to celebrate our fantastic Playmakers, who play an important role in supporting Positive Play. Each day, they help to set up the activities, encourage children to get involved, and promote friendly, inclusive play across the playground. They also make sure everything is tidy and packed away safely after playtimes. Their enthusiasm and leadership are helping to create a happy, welcoming environment for everyone.



# World Book Day



We had a wonderful time celebrating **World Book Day** at school. It was fantastic to see the pupils arriving in such creative and imaginative costumes, with so many favourite book characters brought to life. The effort that everyone put into their outfits helped create a brilliant atmosphere and made the day feel really special across the whole school.

Throughout the day, classes explored the beautiful story *The Invisible*. Pupils took part in a range of activities

inspired by the book, including discussions, drama, creative writing and artwork. The story encouraged children to think about important themes such as kindness, empathy and what it means to notice and include others.

It was lovely to see how thoughtfully the pupils engaged with the story and shared their ideas about how small actions can make a big difference. Many classes also created wonderful displays and messages of kindness inspired by the book.

Overall, it was a joyful day celebrating reading, creativity and the power of stories. A big thank you to families for supporting the event and helping to make it such a memorable **World Book Day** for everyone.



## Year 1 Trip to the farm

As part of our Geography topic, Where does our food come from? Year 1 got to enjoy a fantastic trip to The Hen House, part of Traveller's Rest Farm in Blandford.

They were treated to a tour of the farm in a tractor trailer ride, explored the grains and crops growing as well as meeting the cows and sheep. After lunch everyone worked together to chop and cook vegetables grown at the farm to make a delicious vegetable soup, and even made the bread to dip into it!

*A fantastic time was had by all – many thanks to Farmer George and Penny for hosting us.*



## Year 2 trip East Dorset Museum

Year 2 had a wonderful day exploring toys from the past during their visit to the **East Dorset Museum**. The children spent the morning taking part in a series of hands-on workshops that helped bring history to life.

Throughout the day, museum staff and members of the public commented on how polite, engaged and well-mannered the children were. We are incredibly proud of how beautifully they represented the school.

It was a fantastic trip full of learning, creativity and fun. *Well done, Year 2!*



They were fascinated as they handled real old toys, comparing them with the toys they enjoy today. The children showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions about how these toys were made and played with. During the craft session, they enjoyed making their own peg dolls, carefully decorating them and proudly showing off their creations. The fun continued as they took part in traditional playground games, discovering how children used to play before modern technology. They also listened to the story 'Paper Dolls' and then made their own set of paper dolls to take home.



After such a busy morning, everyone enjoyed a well-earned lunch at the



## Reception: Growing in Maths, Art and Nature

This half term, Reception have become seasonal detectives as they have explored our topic "**Let's Get Growing!**".



The children noticed some beautiful daffodils growing on the front lawn, so we decided to go on a walk around the school grounds to search for other signs that Spring was on its way. The children spotted snowdrops, colourful crocuses and pretty pink blossom. They also noticed buds growing on the bushes and trees and some birds building a nest, ready for their eggs.

Inspired by these changes in nature, we have been learning about the **life cycle of a seed**. The children discovered how a tiny seed grows roots and shoots once it is planted, before growing into a plant and starting the cycle all over again. In class, we have planted our own cress seeds and are taking great care of them. The children are carefully watering them and observing the changes as they grow a little more each day.

In **Maths**, we have been learning all about numbers to 10. The children



are becoming increasingly confident at identifying one more and one less, exploring how numbers are composed, and are beginning to recall their number bonds to 10 more fluently.

In **Art**, we have been learning about the Spanish artist **Joan Miró**. The children know that he loved using bright colours, bold lines and interesting shapes in his artwork. They have enjoyed creating their own abstract pieces inspired by his style using oil pastels, marker pens and collage materials. Soon, we will also be creating our own sculptures inspired by his work!

It has been a wonderful start to the term, and we are looking forward to seeing what else grows and changes as spring continues.



## Year 1 Creating Characters

This term in Year 1 we have been writing regular sentences to describe characters and retell stories.

We have written descriptions of **Peter Rabbit** and retold his story, as well as welcoming a **Bog Baby** into the class and creating our own **Bog Babies** to write about. Children have been working hard at their handwriting and letter formation to make sure their writing is clear and easy to read.

In **maths** we have been learning all about place value and recognising coins and notes - can your child tell you how many 10s and 1s are in the numbers they see around them?

We had fun learning about **Henry Moore** in Art and experimenting with using different grades of pencil to

sketch and add shading and texture to our sketches. We're now creating our own puppets for **Design and Technology**.



## Year 2: Learn grammar from *The Man on the Moon*

This term *Kingfisher Class* have been enjoying the wonderful picture book *Man on the Moon* by *Simon Bartram*. The story follows Bob, whose very unusual job is to travel to the moon each day to keep it clean and tidy! The children were immediately captivated by the imaginative illustrations and the humour hidden throughout the book.

As part of our *English learning*, we focused on describing the setting of space. The children explored a range of adjectives, expanded noun phrases, and similes to help bring the mysterious, shimmering world of outer space to life. From "glittering, silver craters" to rockets "zooming like shooting stars," their descriptive writing was wonderfully creative and full of vivid imagery.

Bob also needed the children's help this week! As he couldn't make it to work, he wanted us to write a clear set of instructions for his friend, *Agnes the astronaut*, so she could take over his mooncleaning duties for the day. To do this, we learnt how to use imperative verbs to give commands and adverbs to add detail and precision. The children produced fantastic instruction texts, using phrases such as "Carefully check every crater" and "Quickly sweep away any space dust."

The children have really enjoyed exploring the story and developing their descriptive and instructional writing skills. We are so proud of the creativity, enthusiasm, and hard work they have shown throughout this unit.



Dear Kingfisher Class,

Thank you for reading my book. I understand you really like it.

I was hoping you could help me? I am going away for a day to visit my mum and I will not be able to go to work. Could you please write some instructions for my friend Agnes the Astronaut who is going to my work for me?

Thank you so much!

Kind regards

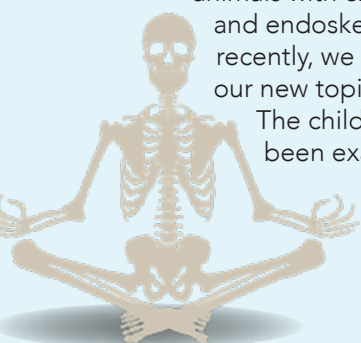
Bob

## Year 3: Humans, Animals and the Bronze Age

We've had a fantastic Spring term in Otter class. In *Science*, the children began learning about Animals, including Humans.

They explored the important role of skeletons and muscles, and enjoyed sorting and categorising animals with exoskeletons and endoskeletons. More recently, we have started our new topic on plants.

The children have been examining real plants, closely inspecting their different



parts and beginning to learn about the important functions of the roots and stem.

In *History*, we have begun our Bronze Age topic. The children have been developing their understanding of chronology, learning that the Bronze Age followed the Stone Age. We also explored why the Stone Age came to an end - when people discovered how to make bronze.

In *English*, the children have written some amazing narratives. They created their own additional chapter for the story *The Boy Who Grew*

*Dragons*, and their creativity has been wonderful to see. Here are a few snippets from their writing:

"Flicker managed to follow the class outside and then chaos started. He perched on the wooden sandpit and sneezed which, of course, set the sandpit on fire!" - Alana

"Ten minutes later they got to school and Tomas had butterflies in his stomach. They started spellings, Tomas could smell smoke..." - Callum

"While it was rustling in his bag, Tomas arrived at school. "Good morning." said the teacher." - Leo D.

"He flew down like an eagle, but he wasn't flying to Tomas he was flying to a puddle. There was a giant splash! Everyone looked at Flicker." — Kitty

## Year 4: Discovering Worlds both Old and New

Year 4 have had an action-packed term full of reading, writing, investigating and discovering old and new worlds!

We started with the text *The Land of Roar* by **Jenny McLachlan** in English lessons. The children wrote non-chronological reports about their favourite characters and loved creating imaginative Land of Roar maps with portals and extra details. Using their maps as inspiration, they wrote their own story chapters, which were so creative they even made a book for the school library. Next, we enjoyed the classic *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by **C. S. Lewis**. The children wrote vivid setting descriptions and diary entries, stepping into the role of Edmund to imagine his first encounter with the *White Witch*.



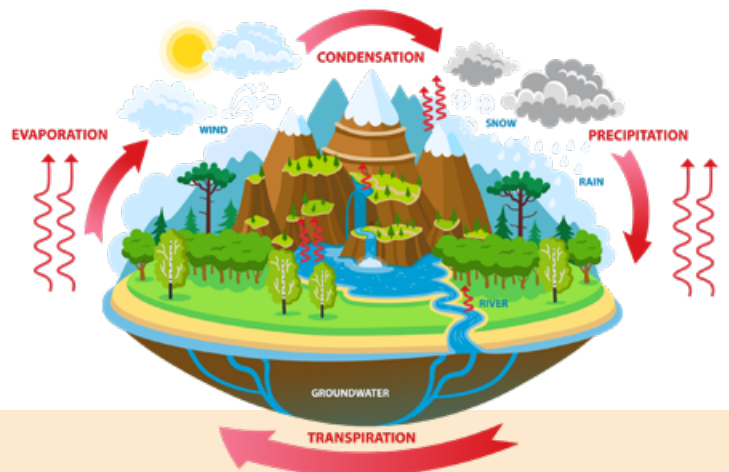
In **Science**, Year 4 investigated **States of Matter**, exploring how solids, liquids, and gases change state. They carried out experiments to see how quickly water evaporates in

different locations and used their findings to understand the **Water Cycle**.

In **History**, the class learned about the **Anglo-Saxons**, discovering who they were, where they came from, and what daily life was like. They explored Anglo-Saxon homes, villages, beliefs, and even imagined life as a child in that era.

Year 4 have worked hard this term and should be proud of all their creativity, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning!

### The Water Cycle



## Year 5: Weekly Violin, Everest, Forest and Rockets

Although this has been a very short term, we've already managed to pack a lot in.

During the autumn term, we took part in whole-class weekly violin lessons. **Dorota**, our wonderfully patient teacher, certainly had a challenge on her hands—keeping 27 children, one teacher and 28 violins in check—while working hard to coordinate us into a group that could play the same notes at the same time.

At the start of January, she challenged us to perform a short concert for parents and younger members of the school (our Year 5 children were especially keen to show their Reception buddies what they could do). When the time came, the children were fantastic, playing in unison with such control and concentration. We were incredibly proud of them all. Since then, eight children have chosen to continue with group lessons, determined to

improve their playing skills even further.

Our learning has taken us to some exciting places this term, especially as we explored mountain ranges around the world—focusing on **Everest**—while studying the explorers **Mallory and Irvine** and their determination to reach the summit. This led to a fascinating debate about whether the men were "*brave or selfish*"; our children always amaze us with their passion, honesty and deep thinking. We also discovered that a few of our thrill seekers are adamant that they too would like to climb **Everest** one day (our apologies to their parents in advance!).

Opportunities for debate continued in **R.E.**, especially when the topic of reincarnation was raised. The children may only be 9 and 10 years old, but their curiosity and reasoning never fail to astound us; they are capable of such reasoned debate and have the

confidence and reflection to formulate their own ideas while remaining respectful of the views of others.

We have also enjoyed outdoor learning during our weekly **Forest School** sessions. All the children have had a fantastic time, despite this being the wettest winter on record. They learn so much outside, and as one of them wisely commented during a session, "Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom, does it?" Seeing them all sitting on logs around a fire, toasting marshmallows on sticks they had found and cleaned themselves, prompted my answer: "*No, it certainly doesn't.*" How lucky we are to be able to offer this experience to our children.

We still have invisible ink to explore, **Pop Rockets** to make and a **Coke/Mentos Experiment** to set up before Easter.

A busy few weeks to come!

## Year 6: Trojan Horse, Science, English and Mocks

### History & Design Technology

In History, pupils started their topic by placing historical events on a timeline. After this, pupils learned about the story of the *Trojan Horse*, exploring the difference between fact, myth and legend. They discussed whether the story could have really happened and practised presenting their opinions using evidence. Linking this learning to *Design Technology*, pupils then designed and built their own Trojan Horses, adding creative innovations and carefully thinking about how their structures would work.



### Science

In Science, pupils have been learning about light. Through a range of practical investigations, they explored how light travels and how it behaves when it meets different materials. The children enjoyed experimenting and making predictions as they investigated how light works.

### English

In English, pupils have been studying *Wolves of Currumpaw*, an emotive text based on real-life events. The story prompted thoughtful discussions and powerful writing, as pupils explored themes of survival, perspective and empathy.

### Mock SATs

Our recent mock SATs were very successful. Pupils approached the experience with maturity and determination, showing a great deal of effort and focus. The results have provided valuable feedback and we are very proud of the hard work and resilience the children demonstrated.

## Sing for Joy Day 2026 Purbeck Youth Music Singing Project

*"We loved singing for everyone!"* – that's how Year 3 and 4 summed up their amazing day at Lady St Mary's Church, where they joined children from neighbouring schools for a spectacular singing celebration!

Led by *Susannah Nettleton* from *Purbeck Youth Music's Singing Schools Project*, the children gave an informal concert for friends and family, showing off the skills they

had been practising in school. They sang beautifully in harmony, and their performance of their very own song, *"Soualle,"* was a real showstopper.

The children were incredibly patient throughout the long rehearsal in the church, and behind the scenes, they couldn't stop giggling as they practised tricky rhythms.

The children should feel incredibly proud of their confidence, teamwork, and enthusiasm – it was a day to remember! *A big thank you to all the parents who came along to cheer them on.*



## Spring Sports News

### Stoborough 'Springs' into 2026 with Sporting Achievements

It has been a term full of sporting opportunities for our pupils at Stoborough and we are grateful to **The Purbeck and Christchurch Partnership** for being able to provide a wide range of experiences for pupils across our school. We are always incredibly proud of how our pupils represent Stoborough at these events. Well done to all those who have shown our school value of confidence and have taken part.

Some highlights from our competitive events below:

#### Purbeck Cup: Football

We played our second **Purbeck Cup game V Bovington and won 8-0**. We saw some fantastic goals from Nico x2, Bertie x2, Rohan, Sachet, Reggie and Quinn. We are now through to the semi-final.



#### Indoor Athletics:

Finally, our indoor athletics team came in third place. They competed in indoor running events and field events, which included standing long jump, vertical jump, triple jump, javelin, speedbounce and chest push.

#### Tag Rugby:

Our year 5 and 6s took part in a round robin tournament at the Swanage and **Wareham Rugby Club**. We are delighted to share they finished in first place. They played some fantastic rugby in the torrential rain and showed great determination and teamwork to keep going. Well done!

*Mr Merredew*

Sports Coach