



# NEWSLETTER

17.07.26



*Aim high, work hard, be happy and successful*

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

### Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Together, we have celebrated many achievements, overcome challenges and, most importantly, ensured that our children continue to flourish both academically and personally.

This half term, I had the pleasure of welcoming our new Reception families to Stanley Grove Academy. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the values that sit at the heart of our school and the high-quality education and experiences we are committed to providing for every child from the very beginning of their journey with us.

At Stanley Grove Academy, we believe every child deserves to experience a school where they feel safe, valued, inspired and challenged. These principles underpin everything we do and shape the opportunities we provide each day.



### Things that we hold dear for our pupils

Reading to the children every day.

Playing outside – even if it is drizzling or snowing.

Experiencing regular Forest School and outdoor learning sessions.

Showing and feeling respect for ourselves, others and our community.

Developing resilience – it is ok to fail, as we learn from our mistakes.

Having an 'I can' attitude and doing everything to the best of our ability. I can't do it yet, but I will keep trying until I can.

Feeling cared for and supported.

Giving experiences that children wouldn't otherwise get.

Providing a pride in Stanley and a knowledge of what makes it special and how to help our community.

We have the right to feel safe, to learn and be respected.





## Supporting Successful Transitions

Preparing children for the next stage of their learning is something we take great care over, as we know that a positive transition helps children feel confident, secure and ready to thrive. Over recent weeks, our staff have worked hard to ensure every child is well prepared for September. This has included home visits for our new children, visits to nurseries and other settings, opportunities for pupils to spend time in their new classrooms and meet their new teachers, and additional transition visits and personalised support for children with SEND and those who may be more vulnerable. Some children have also received transition booklets to help familiarise them with the changes ahead, completed work in their new classrooms and, in keeping with our love of reading, each classroom will have a carefully chosen favourite book basket waiting to be shared when the children return in September. These thoughtful experiences help children develop a sense of belonging, build confidence and ensure they return to school feeling happy, safe and excited about the year ahead.

## Safety, Respect and a Warm Welcome

We regularly remind our children that everyone has the right to feel safe, to learn and to be treated with respect. These simple but powerful expectations help create the positive learning environment that our school is known for.

Each morning and afternoon, members of the Senior Leadership Team and I are on the school gates to welcome children and families. These moments are far more than a greeting—they provide an opportunity for us to listen, support and strengthen the partnership between home and school. If you ever have a question or concern, please do speak to us. Often, a quick conversation can resolve an issue before it becomes a larger worry.

## Celebrating Our Staff

We are proud of our dedicated staff team, and I am delighted to share some wonderful news.

Following the Summer 2026 TEP Employee Engagement Census, Stanley Grove Primary and Nursery Academy has received national recognition, placing us amongst the highest-performing schools in England across more than 500 schools and over 30,000 school staff.

We are incredibly proud to have achieved:

- **Top 5% nationally – Employee Inclusion**
- **Top 10% nationally – Employee Line Management**
- **Top 10% nationally – Employee Satisfaction (also recognised in Spring 2026)**

These awards reflect the positive culture we have worked hard to create for our staff. Happy, supported and valued staff provide the very best experiences for our children, and this recognition is something our whole school community can be proud of.

We are pleased to let you know that SGA has been recognised as being within the **Top 5% of Pol-Ed schools across West Yorkshire for engagement during the 2025/26 academic year.**

This recognition celebrates the commitment staff have shown to providing children and young people with relevant, high-quality education around safeguarding, wellbeing and keeping safe.





## Staffing News

As we reach the end of the year, we also say a heartfelt farewell to **Ms Gibbings**, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service to education.



Throughout her career, Ms Gibbings has made an immeasurable difference to the lives of countless children. Her kindness, patience and unwavering commitment to helping every child succeed have left a lasting impression on generations of pupils and their families. She has inspired children to believe in themselves, supported them through challenges and celebrated every success, no matter how big or small.

For our staff, Ms Gibbings has been much more than a colleague. She has been a trusted friend, mentor and source of wisdom, always willing to offer encouragement, guidance and a listening ear. Her professionalism, warmth and sense of humour have helped shape the caring and supportive culture that makes Stanley Grove Academy such a special place to work.

While we will greatly miss her daily presence, we are glad she will be working for half a day every week with class 6 who will continue to benefit from her high quality teaching.

We are also delighted to welcome **Miss Slater** back from maternity leave. We know both colleagues and children will be pleased to see her return, and we look forward to having her back as part of the Stanley Grove team.

## Celebrating Our Children's Achievements

We are incredibly proud of the achievements our pupils have made this year. Although we are still eagerly awaiting our Year 6 SATs results, which have been delayed nationally this year, we know how hard our children have worked and are immensely proud of their resilience, determination and positive attitude throughout the assessment period.

Our younger pupils have also achieved some fantastic outcomes. We are delighted that **100% of our Year 1 pupils achieved the expected standard in the Phonics Screening Check**, reflecting the strength of our early reading curriculum and the dedication of both our staff and families in supporting children to become confident readers.

Our Year 4 pupils have also excelled in the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**. An impressive **63% of pupils achieved full marks of 25 out of 25**, with an outstanding **school average score of 24.1 out of 25**. These results are testament to the children's hard work and commitment, as well as the high-quality teaching and support they receive throughout their learning journey.

We look forward to celebrating our Year 6 SATs outcomes when they are released and are confident that our pupils have given their very best. Whatever the results, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at Stanley Grove Academy.



## National Recognition for Early Years Excellence

We are extremely proud to announce another significant achievement for our school.

Following a recent Department for Education visit, Stanley Grove Academy has been selected as the Lead School for the new Accomplish Early Years: Stronger Practice Hub.

This prestigious designation recognises the outstanding quality of our Early Years provision and our commitment to ensuring every child receives the very best start to their education.

As part of this role, we will work alongside other schools and early years settings across Wakefield, Doncaster and Hull, sharing effective practice and supporting excellence across the region.

Mrs Swinburne, CEO of Accomplish Multi Academy Trust and Strategic Lead for the Hub, shared the following message:

***"Accomplish Multi Academy Trust is delighted to announce that the Department for Education has designated Accomplish Early Years: Stronger Practice Hub, recognising the outstanding expertise and collaborative leadership of our partnership in supporting excellence across the early years sector."***

***This prestigious designation marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for early years education across Wakefield, Doncaster and Hull, strengthening our shared commitment to ensuring every child receives the very best start in life from birth to five."***

This is an exceptional achievement and one that reflects the expertise, dedication and passion of our Early Years team. We are incredibly proud that the excellent practice taking place every day at Stanley Grove Academy will now help shape and support provision across our region.

## Celebrating Success

Our success in early reading continues to be recognised beyond our own school. Due to the exceptional quality of teaching across our Read Write Inc. programme, Read Write Inc. (RWI) has once again invited Stanley Grove Academy to continue as one of its filming schools. This is a significant endorsement of the expertise of our staff and the high standards of teaching that our children experience every day. The resources created through filming are used to support and train teachers nationally and internationally, allowing the excellent practice at Stanley Grove Academy to have a positive impact on schools and children far beyond our own community. We are incredibly proud of this continued recognition and of the dedication and professionalism shown by our staff.

## Looking Ahead

As another academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank every member of our school community. Our children continue to impress us daily with their enthusiasm, kindness, resilience and determination. They are a credit to their families and to our school.

Thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support, encouragement and trust. Working together makes a genuine difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for every child.

To our Year 6 pupils, we wish you every success as you move on to the next stage of your education. You leave Stanley Grove Academy with wonderful memories, lifelong friendships and the confidence to embrace new opportunities. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning.

With best wishes,  
**Mrs Frost**  
**Headteacher**



# ATTENDANCE

## SCHOOL TARGET



## WHOLE SCHOOL AVERAGE THIS YEAR



### Attendance Matters

Although Stanley Grove Academy continues to be one of the most popular schools in Wakefield, attendance remains an area we are determined to improve. The majority of absences continue to be the result of holidays taken during term time, which can have a significant impact on children's learning, confidence, friendships and overall progress.

Regular attendance is one of the strongest indicators of future success, and we ask for your continued support in ensuring children attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.

We are currently working closely with the Local Authority to provide parents with clearer information about the impact of term-time holidays and the procedures that follow unauthorised absences. We hope to share this guidance with families before the start of the new academic year.

| YEAR GROUP | AVERAGE THIS YEAR | NATIONAL AVERAGE |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| NURSERY Y1 | 90.6%             | 89.6%            |
| NURSERY Y2 | 91.9%             | 91.7%            |
| RECEPTION  | 95.6%             | 93.8%            |
| YEAR 1     | 96.1%             | 94.5%            |
| YEAR 2     | 95.7%             | 94.9%            |
| YEAR 3     | 95.4%             | 95.0%            |
| YEAR 4     | 94.7%             | 94.9%            |
| YEAR 5     | 93.2%             | 94.8%            |
| YEAR 6     | 95.4%             | 94.5%            |

100-95%  
GOOD



94-85%  
WORRYING

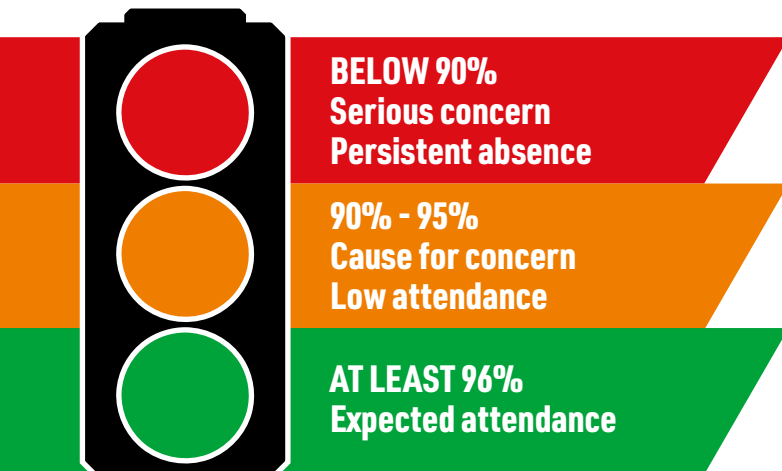


Below 85%  
SERIOUS  
CONCERN





# Attendance Matters



## EVERY DAY COUNTS...

Learning is a progressive activity. Each lesson and each day builds on another. If your child is absent for lessons that include demonstrations, discussions, experiments and other participation activities as part of the daily learning activities, they are missing learning that cannot be made up.

### BENEFITS OF GOOD ATTENDANCE

- Pupils with good attendance generally achieve higher grades.
- Pupils with good attendance generally enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Good school attendance helps to develop other responsible patterns of behaviour.

### SOME RISKS OF POOR ATTENDANCE

- Pupils are likely to miss learning activities that their classmates have taken part in, which could mean they fall behind.
- They miss out on social interaction with friends/classmates - this can have a negative effect on the wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Low attendance is associated with anti-social behaviour and poor learning behaviours

### THE LAW AND YOU

The Law states (Education Act 1996, Section 7) that all children of compulsory school age must receive an appropriate full-time education. As a parent/carers, you are legally responsible for making sure your child receives an effective education. Failure to ensure your child attends school regularly could lead to intervention from the Missing Education & Child Employment Service which has the power to implement:

**Fixed Penalty Notices • Prosecutions • An Education Supervision Order**

### TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

It is not a parental right to take their child on holiday during term time.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances and you have completed a holiday request form in advance.

If you choose to take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday you could receive a penalty notice of £80, per parent, per child.

### CAN I GET SUPPORT?

Absolutely! We appreciate the unavoidable events that affect our pupils and their families.

We believe that the most effective way to ensure your child remains on track is to work together to maximise support in their/your time of need.

Our caring and dedicated staff are committed to making sure your child is happy and getting the best out of their time at school. Talk to us.



## NURSERY

We were extremely proud of all the children in Nursery for completing their **Sport's Day**. They practised hard, showed great determination and were fantastic competitors throughout.

The children were wonderful at cheering on their friends and encouraging one another, demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. It was lovely to see every child taking part. They were also very brave performing in front of all the adults that came to support them.

It was a fantastic morning and a lovely opportunity to celebrate the children's skills, confidence and achievements. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped to make the event so special.



## RECEPTION

**Reception** had a fantastic day visiting White Quarry Farm as part of our Understanding the World topic. The children enjoyed exploring the arable farm, learning about how barley, wheat, beans and corn are grown, as well as meeting the farm's chickens and horses. They asked lots of thoughtful questions, showed great curiosity and represented Stanley Grove Academy beautifully throughout the day.

The visit provided valuable first-hand experiences that brought our learning to life, and it was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and excitement. A huge thank you to White Quarry Farm for such an enjoyable day, and to our parent volunteers for helping to make the visit such a success!



# KEY STAGE 1 NEWS



## YEAR 1

**Year 1** loved sports day and everyone gave it their all – well done!



**Year 1** love their yoga. We have been lucky enough to have our weekly yoga in PE and we also enjoyed an extra session led by some of our school families.

# KEY STAGE 1 NEWS



## YEAR 1

We had a visit from the Library Bus and loved the chance to borrow some new, exciting books.



Year 1 designed and made their own smoothies – they were delicious!



CHAMPIONS!!!! Year 1 sung their hearts out and WON the school singing competition – well done everyone!!!

# KEY STAGE 1 NEWS



## YEAR 2



**Year 2** really enjoyed observing and discussing the outcomes of our plant experiment! We carefully watched how our plants changed over time, made predictions, and compared our results with what we expected to happen.

Some of the outcomes really surprised us and sparked lots of thoughtful discussion as we explained our ideas and listened to each other's observations. It was wonderful to see everyone using their scientific enquiry skills and developing their confidence in speaking and reasoning like young scientists!

Pearl Diamond Dash Finalist we are so proud of your achievements and commitment to learning your timetables well done.



Enjoying outdoor yoga.

# KEY STAGE 2 NEWS



## YEAR 3



In Outdoor Learning lessons, **Year 3** undertook a mini-beast investigation to look at identifying, classifying and determining habitats.



As part of our History topic on Victorians, children in **Year 3** have been learning Victorian playground games to better understand the life of a Victorian child.



**Year 3** loved visiting the library bus and were so excited to choose a book to take home.

# KEY STAGE 2 NEWS



## YEAR 3



Some of the Wonderful Artwork and story writing produced by **Year 3** inspired by Greek Myths and the story of Theseus and the Minotaur.



**Year 3** have enjoyed creating Artwork inspired by Pablo Picasso's abstract art and illustrations of the mythical beast "The Minotaur".



A wonderful singing performance from **Year 3** competing in the Stanley Grove annual singing competition.

# KEY STAGE 2 NEWS



## YEAR 4

### Jorvik & Dig trip

**Year 4** had a fantastic time in York at the Jorvik & Dig to learn about the Vikings. They also got to dig like an archaeologist to find out more about life in the past.



### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory inspired work

**Year 4** prepared some beautiful artwork and writing for the art gallery

### STEM visit

**Year 4** had a great session from Rand, our STEM ambassador, to learn about the digestive system.



# KEY STAGE 2 NEWS



## YEAR 5

**Year 5** had an amazing morning with Mark, our Nuclear and Astrophysicist STEM Ambassador, who presented a really engaging practical and informative session with the children on the universe and solar system.



Bold and brilliant outcomes from **Year 5** with our whole-school Art Gallery. So many fantastic pieces of work produced, influenced by book focus from this year 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief'. A real collaborative whole-class piece!



### Earth and Space Individual Projects

What a real pleasure it has been in **Year 5** to listen to the childrens' individual and paired project presentations relating to Earth and Space. Such care, attention and quality taken with each one.

# KEY STAGE 2 NEWS



## YEAR 6

**Year 6** enjoyed outdoor games with Miss Matthews, which included using strategy and logic to complete the games - and we also had some time for some other fun too.



**Year 6** used natural resources to create outdoor artwork, with many of us linking the work to features of portraits, such as eyes.

# KEY STAGE 2 NEWS



## YEAR 6

As part of our final half term reward and team-building during outdoor learning, children learnt how to create fire and enjoyed a shared campfire – we even had chance to roast some marshmallows too.



**Year 6** shared our Booknic with our Early Years' pupils.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## SEPTEMBER

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st and 2nd</b>                    | <b>Inset days. School closed to children.</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>3rd</b>                            | School opens for Reception to Year 6 pupils.<br>Am nursery pupils only in today.                                                                                               |
| <b>4th</b>                            | 30 hour nursery pupils only in Nursery today.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>7th</b>                            | Nursery fully open today.                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>15th</b>                           | Reception and Year 1 class meeting for parents with the class teachers. 3:15p.m.                                                                                               |
| <b>17th</b>                           | Meeting for parents with children attending the Residential. 4p.m                                                                                                              |
| <b>22nd</b>                           | SEND coffee morning. Please attend the coffee morning where you will be able to speak with SENDCo and other professionals and find out about services for your child. 9-10a.m. |
| <b>25th</b>                           | Booknic on the field. Parents invited. 12-1 p.m.<br>Bring your packed lunch and a book and enjoy a booknic on the field with your child/ren. (Weather permitting)              |
| <b>29th September to 2nd October-</b> | Book fair in the school hall after school. Please come and have a look at the lovely selection of books available to purchase.                                                 |



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## OCTOBER

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6th         | Year 4 visiting Stanley Marsh.                                                                                                                                                 |
| 13th        | SEND coffee morning. Please attend the coffee morning where you will be able to speak with SENDCo and other professionals and find out about services for your child. 9-10a.m. |
| 14th – 16th | Year 5 and 6 Residential                                                                                                                                                       |
| 19th        | Attendance Reports to parents                                                                                                                                                  |
| 23rd        | Pumpkin competition. Please bring pumpkins to school to be judge by our Junior Leaders. Pumpkins to be collected at the end of the school day.                                 |
| 23rd        | School closes for half term.                                                                                                                                                   |

## NOVEMBER

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd  | School opens                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10th | SEND coffee morning. Please attend the coffee morning where you will be able to speak with SENDCo and other professionals and find out about services for your child. 9-10a.m. |
| 23rd | Inset day. School closed to pupils.                                                                                                                                            |



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DECEMBER

|      |                                                                                                               |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8th  | LKS2 performance 9a.m. Due to safety, 2 tickets per child with limited additional tickets on sale.            |
| 8th  | UKS2 performance. 1:30. Due to safety, 2 tickets per child with limited additional tickets on sale.           |
| 9th  | Reception Christmas performance. Due to safety, 2 tickets per child with limited additional tickets on sale.  |
|      | KS1 performance. 1:30 Due to safety, 2 tickets per child with limited additional tickets on sale.             |
| 11th | Autumn Reports to parents. (Reception to Year 6)                                                              |
| 14th | Attendance Reports to parents                                                                                 |
| 15th | KS2 party. Party clothes may be worn today.                                                                   |
| 17th | EYFS and KS1 party. Party clothes may be worn today.                                                          |
| 18th | Community sing along. 2:30 – 3:15.<br>Singing with the school choir and mince pies and hot chocolate on sale. |

### Friends of Stanley Grove.

We are hoping that we can also run some additional fundraising activities during the year. We had some parents in our new Reception class that were keen to be part of this. If you are able to spare any time or have ideas for fundraising events and would be prepared to organise and run these, we would love to hear from you.



# 2026-27 CALENDAR

## END OF SUMMER HOLIDAY

Back to school - Thursday 3rd September 2026

## AUTUMN HALF TERM

Holiday starts - Monday 26 October 2026

Back to school - Monday 2 November 2026

## CHRISTMAS

Holiday starts - Monday 21 December 2026

Back to school - Monday 4 January 2027

## SPRING HALF TERM

Holiday starts - Monday 15 February 2027

Back to school - Monday 22 February 2027

## EASTER

Holiday starts - Friday 26 March 2027

Back to school - Monday 12 April 2027

## SUMMER HALF TERM

Holiday starts - Friday 28th May 2027

Back to school - Monday 7 June 2027

## SUMMER HOLIDAY

Holiday starts Thursday 22nd July 2027

## BANK HOLIDAYS 2026-27

Christmas Day -  
Friday 25 December 2026

Boxing Day -  
Monday 28 December 2026

New Year's Day -  
Friday 1 January 2027

Good Friday -  
Friday 26 March 2027

Easter Monday -  
Monday 29 March 2027

May Day -  
Monday 3 May 2027

Spring Bank Holiday -  
Monday 31 May 2027

## INSET DAYS 2026-27

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Monday 23rd November 2026

Friday 29th January 2027

Friday 28th May 2027



# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## Teaching Staff for 2026 - 2027

**Nursery - Mrs Johnson, Miss Smith and Miss Cullimore**

**Reception - Miss Price, Mrs Minie, Miss Cullimore and Miss Mackie**

**Year 1 - Mrs Marsden, Mrs Franks and Mrs Todd**

**Year 2 - Mrs Brown and Mrs Maroof**

**Year 3 - Mrs Hughes, Miss Slater and Mrs Wiles-Bishop**

**Year 4 - Mrs Hodgson and Mrs Maroof**

**Year 5 - Mr Whipp, Mrs Turner and Mrs Bush**

**Year 6 - Mr Reynolds and Mrs Turner**

**Miss Webster HLTA - working across school leading phonics and classroom delivery.**

**Miss Way HLTA - working across school and classroom**

**Lessons start at 8:45.** Please ensure that you arrive **before** this so that children can enter classroom prior to this. **Gates open at 8.30** to allow this to happen. As you know we have a breakfast club so these children use the playground and field prior to school opening so we cannot open the school site while these pupils are accessing these areas.

We will continue to enter at the field gate as this has created a calm entry to school and staff on the gates are able to see adults entering the school for messages and for safety. Please don't feel you have to queue outside school. As I have explained before, you are more than welcome to use the area near the scooter part, or come onto the field area near the path so you are not near the road whilst waiting to enter school. Lessons finish at 3p.m. and again, we will not be able to open more than 5 minutes before this due to children using the areas for their lessons. Thank you for understanding.