



Friday 25th September
2026

The **STONEBRIDGE SPOTLIGHT**

HEADTEACHER'S EDITION

MESSAGES

Welcome to our second newsletter of the new academic year. I hope you are finding it useful for keeping up to date with school news, information and events.

Thank you to the parents/carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who joined today's coffee afternoon with our SENDCo, Mrs Iqbal. It was a valuable opportunity to share experiences and discuss how we can work together to support your children.

If you have any questions about SEND, inclusion or support for your child, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with Mrs Iqbal. We want every family to feel heard and every child to have the support they need.

Please keep letting us know what you need from us as a school. I have already updated the newsletter in response to your feedback and welcome your suggestions for making our communication more helpful.

Do continue to explore our [new website](#), where you can find key information, policies, lunch menus and news - everything you need to stay informed about school life.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to me or a member of my team at the school gates. We are always happy to listen.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Pelazza
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

6S Visit to Harlesden Library

Tuesday 6 October

6B Visit to Harlesden Library

Tuesday 13 October

School Finishes at 2:30pm

Tuesday 20 October

3-6pm: Parents' Evening

Tuesday 20 October

School Finishes at 2:30pm

Wednesday 21 October

3-6pm: Parents' Evening

Wednesday 21 October

Reception Visit to Harlesden Library

Tuesday 3 November

Dr. Doolittle Play for Years 1-6

Friday 6 November

All calendar dates can now be
found on our [website](#)!



**The Stonebridge
School**



Preesha Lachani

Designated Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)
Deputy Headteacher



Nasreen Iqbal

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)
Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo



Tracy Halpin

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)
Welfare Lead



Kate Pelazza

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)
Headteacher

Every child should feel safe, listened to and supported.

If something is worrying you - at school, at home, online, or anywhere else - you can talk to one of our safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Contacts

If you have any concerns regarding a child, please ask to speak to one of our safeguarding team below straight away:

P. Lachani: Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

K. Pelazza: Headteacher / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

N. Iqbal: Inclusion Lead / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

T. Halpin: Welfare Lead / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

D. Guebli: Chair of Governors / Governing Body Safeguarding Lead

Brent [contacts](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only you and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app unfortunately comes with several risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' and even cons where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then, posing as WhatsApp, call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access to your private messages and personal information.

CHANNELS

Channels let users follow interests without sharing their phone numbers or sending direct messages, allowing only votes on polls and reacting to posts with emojis. However, fraudulent channels can impersonate legitimate organizations, tricking people into sharing personal data and even spreading misinformation or hate speech. Additionally, WhatsApp may collect details about followed channels and sell this information to third parties, raising data privacy concerns.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK

Another new feature named 'Chat Lock' allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. While this usually functions as intended, it can potentially be exploited by younger users to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of – such as the sharing of age-inappropriate material.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages are useful for sharing personal or sensitive information, but young people may have a false sense of privacy regarding the content they share. These messages disappear after anywhere from 24 hours to 90 days – depending on the user's preference – or can even be set to be viewed one time only. However, the recipient can 'keep' the message by bookmarking or screenshotting it, making them not as private as they may first appear.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, children are able to share their location with anyone in their contacts list or a mutual group – potentially letting strangers identify their live location.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to Privacy, then Groups. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except ... Additionally, if the child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence. Real-life friendships are far more important than likes, after all.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why a child might want to hide them. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

Mental Health & Wellbeing Support

At Stonebridge, we care about the wellbeing of our whole school community - children, parents and carers. If you are feeling worried, low or overwhelmed, you do not have to manage alone. There are services available to listen and help.

Support for Parents and Carers

Brent Talking Therapies

This NHS service offers support for difficulties such as anxiety and low mood. You can refer yourself without needing a GP referral. Visit the website to check eligibility and find out how to access support.
[Find out about Brent Talking Therapies.](#)

Someone To Talk To

Samaritans: Call 116 123 if you need someone to listen. [Visit Samaritans.](#)

Shout: Text SHOUT to 85258 for support by text message. [Visit Shout.](#)

Cruse Bereavement Support: Find help when you are coping with the death of someone close to you. [Visit Cruse.](#)

Hub of Hope: Search for mental health support services. [Explore Hub of Hope.](#)

Supporting Your Child

If you are concerned about your child's emotional wellbeing, please speak to their class teacher or contact the school office to arrange a conversation with our SENDCo, Mrs Iqbal. We can discuss your concerns, explore support in school and help you find further advice.

Looking After Your Wellbeing

Brent Council encourages six everyday actions: connecting with others, being active, noticing the world around you, learning, giving and creating. Small moments—such as a walk, a chat or a creative activity together—can be a starting point.

For more ideas, local activities and support services, visit [Brent Council's mental wellbeing page.](#)

If You Need Urgent Help

If you need urgent mental health support, call NHS 111 and select the mental health option.

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 or go to A&E. Please seek help straight away rather than waiting to speak to school.

You don't have to have all the answers or face every challenge alone. Asking for support is a positive step towards feeling better.

School Lunches

 STONEBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEK 3 MENU <i>Nutritious • Balanced • Delicious</i>					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY MEAT-FREE	THURSDAY	FRIDAY FISH DAY
FIRST MENU	Chicken Sausage Pasta Bake (G, M, SU)	BBQ Chicken with Rice ()	Macaroni Cheese (G, M)	Mutton Korma ()	Crispy Fish / Fish Fingers (F, G)
SECOND MENU	Rich Tomato Rice Bake (M)	Vegetable Frittata (M, E)	Mushroom Lentil Shepherd's Pie (M)	Beans Tomato Curry ()	Vegetarian Nuggets (G)
SIDE ORDER	Broccoli + Sweetcorn ()	Potato Wedges + Sweetcorn ()	Roast Potatoes + Peas & Carrots ()	Rice + Broccoli ()	Chips + Peas ()
DESSERT	Fresh Fruit + Yoghurt (M)	Jam Sponge + Custard (G, M, E)	Fruit Jelly ()	Apple Crumble + Custard (M)	Yoghurt + Fresh Fruit (M)
ALLERGEN KEY (14 Allergens)  G Gluten (Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats)  C Crustaceans  E Eggs  F Fish  P Peanuts  S Soya  M Milk  N Nuts  Ce Celery  MU Mustard  Se Sesame Seeds  Su Sulphur Dioxide  L Lupin  Mo Molluscs					
CHEF'S CHOICE SPECIAL Here at Stonebridge Primary, where possible, our menu items are sustainably sourced and prepared with care. Items marked  show a Chef Choice Special!					
WE DID OUR BEST TODAY, LET'S DO EVEN BETTER TOMORROW!					

WEEK BEGINNING:

- 7 September 2026
- 28 September 2026
- 19 October 2026
- 16 November 2026
- 7 December 2026
- 11 January 2027
- 1 February 2027

ON THE SIDE

Jackpot Potatoes available daily with a choice of fillings

DAILY
Fresh Bread,
Fresh Fruit,
Yoghurt,
Cheese & Crackers
& Mixed Salad

All our food is
Halal
and prepared
with care

Please speak to a
kitchen team member
about allergies or
special dietary needs

Following a request from a parent, our school lunch menus have just been added to the website. You can now view them on our [School Lunches](#) page, making it easier to check what's on offer and plan ahead.

Next week's menu is also shown above for you to look through with your child. Taking a few minutes to explore the choices together is a lovely way to talk about their favourite meals and encourage them to try something new.

Please bookmark the page so you can find the menus easily whenever you need them. We hope this will be helpful.



TERM DATES AND CALENDAR

A reminder that the school's term dates are now available on our new website.

Please check upcoming term dates, holidays and school closures at any time using the link below:

[TERM DATES](#)

You can also find key dates and upcoming events on our school calendar page, available [HERE](#). The calendar will be updated throughout the year.

WC 14 September

Congratulations!

YEAR GROUP	GOLD AWARD	HEADTEACHER'S AWARD
Reception	Kabir	Mohammed
Year 1	Zohaira	Ayzal
Year 2	Reetal, Amira, Meral, Riam, Zaayan, Ismail, Ali, Aymen, Rayan, Haifa, Zainul, Musab	Jouri
Year 3	Reem, Mohammasaad, Aryan	Reem
Year 4		Hashim
Year 5	Leila, Laura	Adam G, Safa
Year 6	Abdelbari, Aminah A, Aditi, Elijah, Mohamed A, Joseph	Bilal, Demitris

Weekly Attendance Winners

YEAR 2

YEAR 4

YEAR 6



WC 21 September

Congratulations!

YEAR GROUP	GOLD AWARD	HEADTEACHER'S AWARD
Reception	Aseel	YUSUF
Year 1	Hamood	Amira
Year 2	Amira, Retaal, Ali, Jouri, Noor, Salaar, Musab	Retaal, Ismail, Noor
Year 3	Nevaeh, Omar, Maysa, Sadam, Rhimeek, Layan, Jibril	Omar
Year 4	Special mention to all the pupils in Year 4 for their incredible effort this week!	Bernadette
Year 5	Leila, Laura, Abubakar, Mason, Herlan, Mawada, Adam, Abdirahman	Abubakar, Yasmeen
Year 6	Libany	Libany, Aminah A

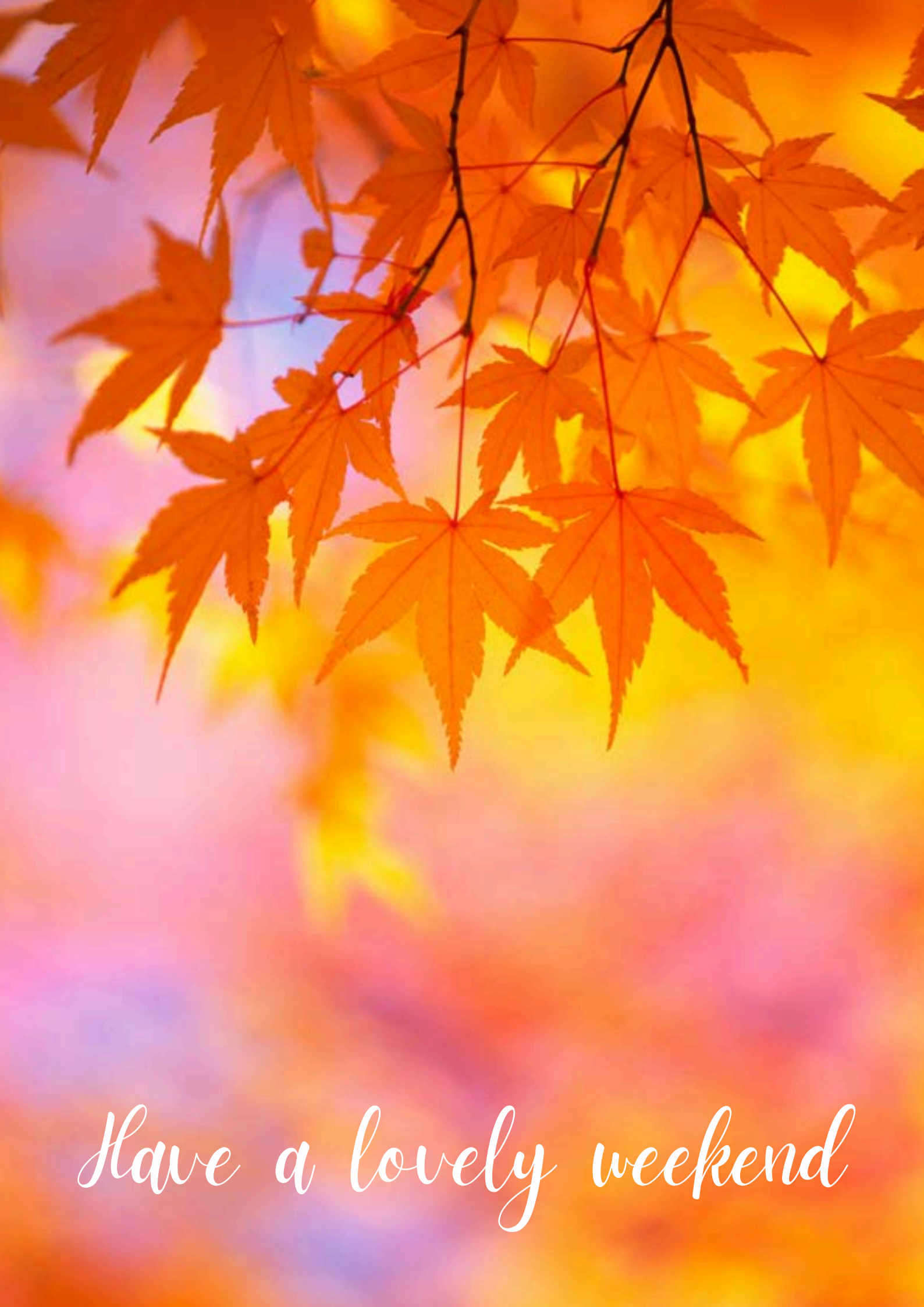
Weekly Attendance Winners

RECEPTION

YEAR 3

YEAR 4





Have a lovely weekend