



NEWSLETTER

Issue 11: Thursday 27th November 2025



Stir Up Sunday



The Great Stipps Bake Off!

On Monday we had a wonderful time making our traditional Christmas puddings for Stir Up Sunday.

This year the class teachers were challenged to make the best pudding, judged by the children for their teamwork skills! It was lots of fun and every child gave the puddings a stir. The puddings are now resting and will be cooked later this week. Thank you to the staff for being such great sports as usual!

Our school recipe

This is our school Christmas Pudding recipe; it is vegetarian and nut free.

These quantities make an extra-large pudding so you may want to halve them to make a smaller family sized pudding.

- 170g plain flour
- 170g vegetable suet
- 230g dark brown sugar
- 1tsp baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp mixed spice
- 230g raisins
- 230g sultanas
- 340g currants
- 115g mixed peel
- 4 medium eggs
- Juice of one orange
- Juice of one lemon
- Juice of one lime



Alistair Strathern MP visit to St Ippolyts

We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Alistair Strathern, to our school last Friday. It was a real pleasure showing him around our school. He enjoyed seeing the children in action — busy learning in their classrooms, collaborating with friends, and having fun in PE.

He then joined Year 6 for a fantastic Q&A session. The children had prepared thoughtful, confident questions about the role of an MP such as:

“I’d like to know more about your views on mobile phones in secondary schools”

“I live on a busy road that I will have to cross to get to secondary school; how will you keep me and my friends safe on that road?”

“What are the main issues facing the people of Hitchin currently?”

Year 6 are now buzzing with excitement for their upcoming trip to the Houses of Parliament in London next week!



C1 Nativity 2025



Class One parents and relatives are warmly invited to come and watch: Thursday 11th December at 2pm. (Please do not arrive before 1.45pm)

Bookings are now open and close Friday 5th December. Class 1 parents can book a maximum of four seats per family.

So that Class 1 can give you all a wonderful performance without disruptions, we ask that younger siblings are not brought to this event and ask that you make alternative arrangements for babies and pre-schoolers. While you are organising childcare it may be useful for you to know that we anticipate the performance will last around 30-40 minutes and we thank you for your cooperation.

Wednesday 21st
January, 7.30pm
Pirton School

PAPAYA

PAPAYA

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

PARENT TALK WITH BEN:

PIRTON SCHOOL

DATE & TIME

WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2026 – 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM



Dr Ben Hibberd

Ben is an HCPC registered Educational Psychologist with over 15 years experience of working with children, young people and adolescents in both clinical and educational settings. Ben could be considered a 'millennial' (born 1982) and was one of the first generations to grow up as technology was becoming an integral part of all child and adolescent development.

Now with 3 young boys of his own, and having witnessed the rise of tech companies, he is passionate about empowering children to enjoy childhood and supporting teens to learn and grow in a balanced way, making thoughtful choices about their engagement with social media and online platforms.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Dr Ben Hibberd unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgemental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

– Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.



PUPIL JOURNALIST

Felicity Year 6

ALISTAIR STRATHERN'S VISIT TO OUR SCHOOL

On Friday, Alister Strathern, who is our local MP, generously came. Lucky Class 6 got to ask him lots of great questions for they are learning about The Houses of Parliament and soon going there.

Freya says, "My favourite fact we found out from Alistiar Strathern was that if he became Prime Minister the first thing he would do would be to help the environment."

CLASS 5'S ASSEMBLY

On Friday, it was class 5's assembly. They performed an interesting, fun and certainly an attention-grabbing performance of the treacherous Tudors. Tilly says, "I really liked my part as Elizabeth I, it was really fun. My favourite scene was the Tudor restaurant, it was really interesting finding out what meats they would eat. I was also very surprised when I found out children drank beer."

I still can not get my head around children drinking beer instead of water. Imogen says, "Practicing our class assembly was so fun, I enjoyed learning all the different wild facts about the Tudors, for instance potatoes were not around until the 1800s. I also loved the Tudor dance, and listening to the plague doctor."

Well done class 5, the assembly was amazing!

STIR UP SUNDAY (MONDAY)

On Monday we had our bake-off competition between the teachers of class 123 against 456. After some skillful weighing, mixing, pouring and a little bit of cheating, it was called a draw. Now that everyone has had a stir of the mixture and made a wish, we're all waiting for the delicious pudding to be tasted.

FACT OF THE WEEK

Did you know the Christmas pudding originated in the 14th century as a sort of porridge known as "frumentry".





Terrific trampolining!

It was a fantastic weekend for the children who competed in the regional round of the trampoline competition. All the teams came home with medals and trophies - well done!



Brilliant Benchball!

A huge well done to the Y3 and Y4 benchball teams who competed in the rural schools tournament at Henlow Academy this week. They all played really well, and the purple team finished in first place - well done!

Rowing

Y6 flexed their muscles at the SSFT Rowing tournament this week. It was a tough competition, but they showed great determination and effort -well done!



County Table Tennis

Congratulations to the children who represented the school at the table tennis county finals in Watford last week. They faced strong competition from schools across Hertfordshire and demonstrated outstanding resilience, sportsmanship and positivity throughout.





CLASS 5 CAKE DAY!

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER



Dear Class 5 parents,

The PTA are holding a cake sale on 12th December to raise funds for school. This time it is the turn of Class 5 to each supply small cakes or biscuits to sell on the day. Please make sure that any tins, plates or containers are clearly named.

We would be very grateful if you could **donate a minimum of 15 small cakes for cake day**, to ensure that we have enough to go around & the children are not left disappointed. These cakes /biscuits can be either homemade or bought. You may want to plan some kitchen time to make or decorate the cakes with your child!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CAKES MUST BE NUT-FREE. The cakes will be sold during the morning break to the whole of the school, any remaining cakes will be sold outside school at home time.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support, from The PTA



A huge Book Fair thank you!

Thank you so much for visiting the recent PTA Book Fair ~ your support has given us over £500 of new books for school!



Christmas

MOVIE AND MUNCH!

Monday 1st December 2025 3.15-5pm £5 per child

Book online: www.pta-events.co.uk/stipps

Last day for bookings today





Home time arrangements

Children will be dismissed at their usual places at home time. The fair will not open until 3.30pm, so please just pass the time for a few minutes after collecting your child. The fair will be officially opened by the school choir who will be singing Christmas songs. They will be standing on the raised waiting area at the front of the school so please leave this area clear.

Wrap up warm!

Some of the Christmas Fair is outdoors, please dress for the weather!

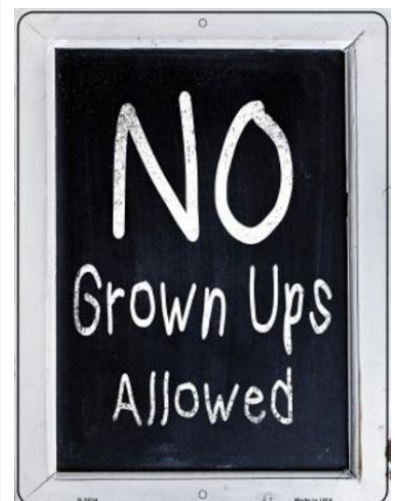
We are short of volunteers to man stalls on the day; if you can spare an hour, please do let the PTA know ~ thank you!

Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets

There are spare books of tickets in the office if you want more.

The Secrets Room

At The Christmas Fair, the 'Secrets Room' is a place where children can go and buy gifts for their family and have them wrapped ready for Christmas Day. We are currently low on donations for the secrets room so if you could have a search at home for anything suitable, that would be great.



No Prams indoors Please

Just a reminder that prams and buggies cannot be brought into the school building during the fair,
Thank you!



Visit Father Christmas in his grotto at The Christmas fair!

Book a time slot when you arrive at the fair (you can book for younger siblings too)

Tokens ~ beat the queues!

Pre-orders of tokens are still on sale until tomorrow. You can then collect tokens from the office in the w/c 1st December



Come and have a go on
the inflatable helter-
skelter!

Parking on Christmas Fair Day

Please be considerate in your parking next week. Please do not park in a way that causes an obstruction to local traffic or residents. Please also be prepared to park and walk to school. Many thanks.