



	AUTUMN 2021	SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022
<b>School Open</b>	Mon 6th September	Mon 10th January	Mon 25th April
<b>Close Half Term</b>	Friday 22nd October	Thurs 17th February	Fri 27th May
<b>School Open</b>	Mon 1st November	Mon 28th February	Mon 6th June
<b>End of Term</b>	Weds 22nd December	Fri 8th April	Thurs 21st July

## Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear parents, carers and friends of Stanton Vale,

Welcome to the third half termly newsletter of this academic year. This half term has seen the return of students going out and about into the local and wider community. In school we have seen an increase in Forest School activities and there is now a weekly Forest School club which is really well attended.

Trips to West Park and local supermarkets and cafes strengthen the Independent Learning in the curriculum and affords opportunities for functional Literacy and Numeracy activities.

Students in Elm class have also been visiting Lea Green an outdoor activity centre near Matlock once a week. Activities include accessibility bikes, a nature treasure trail and making popcorn and toasting marshmallows over a camp fire. The students really love it. After Easter it will be Oak classes turn to venture out.

Willow class participated in a Table Cricket tournament and I am delighted to say that the school only lost once but won two matches, so well done to all the students involved for doing so well.

Students in TG3 have been participating in a Joint Enterprise venture with other students from Brackenfield School. The intention is to make unique items of pottery which will be sold to make a profit.

On Monday 7th of February we hosted the first of our "My Futures" events which involved a number of Post 16 and Post 19 providers setting up stalls in the hall and being available to talk to young people and their families about the next steps after life at Stanton Vale. The event was a great success and we hope to be hosting more of them in the future.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to let you all know that after two and half years as Head at Stanton Vale School I will be leaving on the 8th of April, the day we break up for the Easter Holidays. My decision to move on is purely due to my work life balance. I live in Sheffield and have a daily 80 mile round commute to school which is on top of a 50 hour plus working week. This has proved to be quite challenging at times and I'm not getting any younger!! The Headship at my previous school became vacant as the Head there is retiring. I was successful in getting the post and as this is a school I know very well and only 20 minutes from home I felt it was an opportunity I could not miss for my own emotional and physical well-being.

I will be very sad to leave Stanton Vale School. Although the last few years have been "eventful" for everyone at times, I will greatly miss the fantastic students, the wonderful staff and all the amazing families and carers.

A new Head has been appointed to take over after Easter – her name is Emma Kehoe and she joins us from Leicestershire and has considerable experience of working with children and young people with additional needs.

With warm Regards,  
Rob Mulvey





## TG3 Local Community, Meal Prep and Gardening

TG3 have been going out and about to develop their community skills and awareness of road safety, thinking of appropriate places to cross the road, looking and listening for traffic as well as crossing safely with assistance. Students have been making pancakes as part of their dessert for meal prep following a simple verbal instructions and measuring in adding water to a shaking pancake mix. In the school's memorial garden, TG3 students have been planting flowers and supporting one another in the process.



## Beech Class enjoying Rebound Therapy

Pupils have made progress in Rebound Therapy sessions, gaining confidence and balance on the trampoline with some pupils bouncing independently. Beech class have also been out in the community in small groups, they have walked to the local park and the cafe. Pupils have demonstrated some excellent listening skills and accepted visiting different environments really well.



## Upcoming Events

World Book Day - 3rd March

Comic Relief - 18th March

## In-School Activities

Upcoming -

Forest School

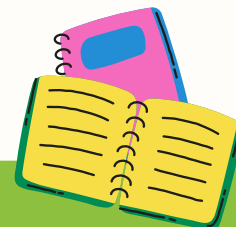
Further details

TBC



## World Book Day..

On March 3rd it is World Book Day and we will be celebrating in Stanton Vale style! Each class has chosen a book to theme their day around and the children will be taking part in a variety of activities to do with their classes theme, getting as creative as possible! All children and staff are invited to dress as their favourite character from a story or film, each class will be awarding a best dressed award and there will be a book prize for the best dressed in Lower and Upper! TG3 will be providing a bookie breakfast where children can buy a bacon or sausage cob for £1, this can be organised through ParentPay.



# New Stanton Vale School Website



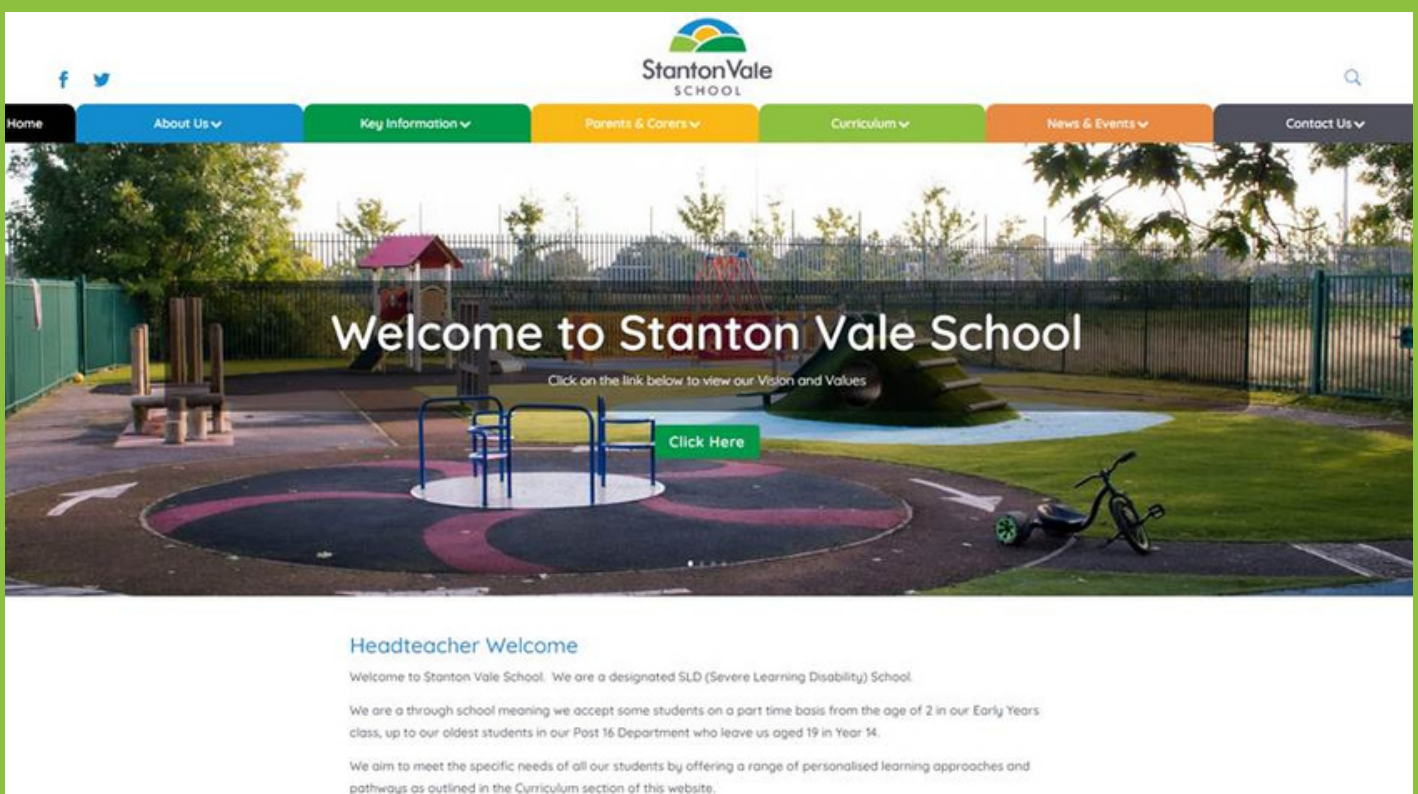
We are delighted to share our new website with you, which has new up to date content and information, as well as some new exciting features. The layout and functionality make it easier to navigate and find the information you require. This has been enhanced by navigation bars on each of the pages and the layout supporting access via tablet and smart phone. The website is using the same web address of [www.stantonvale.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.stantonvale.derbyshire.sch.uk)

We believe the website to be an important part of communication with home and school, so have added a news and events section, which keeps parents/carers up to date with the learning taking place across the school and future events taking place. You can sign up to news and events, which will automatically send you an update of events added to the school calendar and blogs posted by class teams. There is also a search function, so you can look for updates on an individual class and provide a list of blogs/events/letters associated to that class. The site also allows us to send electronic copies of letters/surveys, including booking times for meetings and confirmation of attendance to school events, which we will start introducing prior to Easter.

We will continue to develop the site further over the coming weeks by signposting parents/carers to useful services, learning opportunities, community events, which we will inform you of when they are complete.

<https://www.stantonvale.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

CLICK  
HERE





## Willow Class' Trips Out

Willow have been going to the shop every Monday and buying ingredients for our cooking session on a Thursday. As we have celebrated Chinese New Year, we have made a Chow Mein and a Sweet and Sour. The children also chose to make a pizza one week as well. We have also been playing table cricket in PE where we went to Derbyshire County Cricket Club and played against other schools!



## Phonics at Stanton Vale



Reading and Communication is the foundation to an independent life!

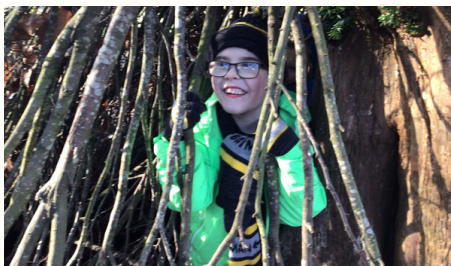
At Stanton Vale, we have undertaken a huge journey in developing a phonics scheme that supports all of our students in their communication and language development. For some students, this may be reading and writing, for others this may be listening and responding or communicating a choice. However it looks for individual students; we have made it our mission to ensure all of our students are given the opportunity and support to develop their reading and communication. The school have invested in the Jolly Phonics scheme and are currently embedding this into some of our classrooms. So far, the results have been amazing and we are so proud of all of our students accessing this and continuing to develop their reading and writing ability. With the help of Nell, our new caretaker, we have created a reading room that will house all our new interventions. It is a welcoming and calming space to learn and once it is completely finished, I will be sure to add pictures to the website! On the whole, I am incredibly excited about where we are on our journey and I am excited for the next part which will involve interventions, creative teaching and fostering a love of reading around the school!

**Bethany Steeples - Class Teacher  
& Reading and Phonics Lead**



## Elm Class visited Lea Green

Elm class visited Lea Green for the second time on Monday. They took part in a fantastic bushcraft activity in the morning learning how to start a fire, be safe around the fire! They even toasted their own marshmallows and made their own popcorn! In the afternoon, the children went on a nature trail, climbing, crawling and searching for animals in amongst the obstacles. They worked really well as a team and were a pleasure all day!



# New Teacher Roles

Laura Sprules - Associate  
Senior Leader in charge of  
Teaching & Learning



Bethany Steeples -  
Reading and Phonics  
Lead



## Myfutures Event

We welcomed a number of colleges, day services, care settings and a social worker (transition to adulthood) to Stanton Vale for a 'My Future' information event on Monday 7 February. There was an extended invitation to families of Bennerley Fields, Holbrook and Brackenfield school who were able to join us. Students in Stanton Vale's Post 16 did a fantastic job supporting with refreshments and it was a welcome sight to see a busy hall with parents/carers from across the trust.

If you were unable to attend the event and would like some information in to provision and services available Post 19, then please contact me on the school number and I would be happy to support with this.

Andy Bunney - Deputy Head Teacher



## Forest School Fun

After the success of Forest School being introduced into the curriculum, we are pleased to announce that we have introduced a Lunch Time club, in which a number of classes have already attended so far this half-term and there has been some fantastic learning taking place. This has included exploring the environment with different textures, smells, using tools to whittle sticks, toast marshmallows on the fire, creating perfume with flowers, making homes for hedgehogs and much more..

Forest school takes place all year round, in varying conditions, so please be prepared to provide warm and waterproof clothing during the winter months as it can get quite muddy and wet!

