



Stradbroke CE Primary School
Queen Street, Stradbroke, Suffolk, IP21 5HH
(01379) 384415
Executive Head Teacher – Mr Daryl Jones
Head of School – Mrs Samantha Barlow
www.stradbroke.suffolk.sch.uk

19th September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils,

As we begin a new term, we are delighted to share some of the wonderful changes we've made to our school environment – changes that are already having a positive impact on the way we learn, grow, and connect each day.

Over the past few months, we've been working intentionally to transform our classrooms and shared spaces using a *hygge* approach – a Scandinavian concept that emphasises coziness, comfort, and calm.

You'll notice that our classrooms now have softer lighting, more natural textures, and thoughtful layouts that encourage focus, wellbeing, and a sense of belonging. The result? A peaceful, purposeful atmosphere where children feel safe, nurtured, and ready to learn.

Teachers and students alike have commented on how these subtle changes have made a big difference in their daily experience at school – from calmer transitions to more focused learning time.

In line with our Christian ethos and commitment to living out our school values, we are proud to introduce our new **Heart of Gold Award**.

This special recognition is awarded to children who consistently show kindness, compassion, trust, integrity, and love – the core values that help us build a caring and respectful community. Each week, a child from every class is nominated for demonstrating these values in their words and actions. Whether it's helping a friend in need, showing patience in the playground, or offering a kind word, our *Heart of Gold* recipients are shining examples of how we can live our faith every day.

This gold statue award stays with the child for the week on their desk as a powerful reminder of how we treat others matters, and that every child can make a positive difference in our school community.



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Alongside the changes to our environment, we are also focusing on some core areas of teaching and learning to ensure our children continue to thrive academically:

👉 Developing Writing Through Feedback

We are enhancing our approach to writing by using quality feedback that empowers children to draft, edit, revise, and publish their work with pride. This process not only builds technical skill but encourages reflection, perseverance, and ownership of learning.

🌍 Enquiry-Based Humanities

Our humanities curriculum is now centred around enquiry-based learning – where curiosity leads the way. Children are challenged to ask big questions, explore complex ideas, and produce beautiful, meaningful work that reflects deep understanding and creativity.

✚ Deepening Mathematical Reasoning

In maths, we are working on fostering reasoning skills that go beyond getting the right answer. Our goal is for children to explain *why* something works, explore *how* problems are connected, and build a deeper, lasting understanding of mathematical concepts.

🌈 Inclusive Strategies for Every Learner

We are committed to inclusion and equity for all children. This means using strategies like flexible grouping, where children learn in different configurations depending on the task, and providing tailored scaffolds to support learners at all levels. Every child deserves to be challenged, supported, and celebrated in their learning journey.





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Looking Ahead

We are excited for the year ahead and grateful for the support of our school families. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we are creating a school where children feel safe, inspired, and ready to make their mark on the world.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Barlow
Head of School

Dates to Note

- 24th September – Year 6 taster morning at Stradbroke High School
- 25th September – Flu vaccinations in school
- 2nd October – 14.00 Harvest Festival at Stradbroke Church – parents and welcome to join us in church
- 6th October – 09.30-11.30 Open Morning for prospective Reception joiners
- 8th October – Scholastic Book Fair in school
- 10th October – 13.30-15.00 Open Afternoon for prospective Reception joiners
- 20th October – 15.00-18.00 Parents evening
- 21st October – 15.00-17.00 Parents evening
- 24th October – last day of term
- 3rd November – back at school

Term Dates for the Academic Year 2025 to 2026

Autumn term

- Starts Monday 1st September 2025
- Half term Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025
- Ends Friday 19th December 2025
- Christmas holiday Saturday 20th December 2024 to Sunday 4th January 2026

Spring term

- Starts Monday 5th January 2026
- Half term Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026
- Ends Friday 27th March 2026
- Spring (Easter) holiday Saturday 28th March 2026 to Sunday 12th April 2026



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Summer term

Starts Monday 13th April 2026

Half term Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Ends Monday 20th July 2026

Non-pupil days or 'PD' days

All schools set 5 teacher training days called Professional Development (PD) days:

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Stradbroke Church of England Primary School is part of the All Saints Schools Trust.

A charitable company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 11216388.