

Laceby Stanford Primary Academy



Principal Newsletter

11th September 2026



Headteacher – Mrs Smith

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year at Laceby Stanford!

What a fantastic start to the year it has been. It has been wonderful to see our school come alive again, with children returning with smiles, enthusiasm and a real excitement for the year ahead.

For me personally, this September feels particularly special as I begin my first academic year as Principal of Laceby Stanford Primary Academy. Having been part of our school community for many years, I feel incredibly proud and privileged to now lead our wonderful school.

Care is something that I value enormously. I want every child, every member of staff and every family to feel that they are known, valued, listened to and cared about. I believe that strong relationships and a genuine sense of community are at the heart of a great school.

As we move forward, I want us to build on the many strengths we already have at Laceby Stanford, while continuing to be ambitious about what we can achieve. There is so much to celebrate, and I am excited about working together to make our school even better.

Positive communication will be an important part of this. I want to be a visible and approachable Principal and for our families to feel comfortable coming to talk to me. You will see me regularly on the gates, so please come and say hello. If there is something you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to come and see me. I may not always have an instant answer, but I will always listen.

I also want to make sure that you hear about the wonderful things happening across our school. Every fortnight, I will be sharing a Principal's newsletter with you, keeping you up to date with what is happening at Laceby Stanford, celebrating our children's achievements and sharing some of the successes and special moments from across the school.

Today I had the opportunity to welcome the first of our pupil's who were chosen to have lunch with myself- it was such a joy!

I am incredibly proud of our staff and the care, commitment and passion they bring to school every day. Together, we want to create a school where children are excited to learn, feel safe and supported, and are encouraged to be their very best version.

This year, our focus is simple: build on what we do well, keep raising expectations and make sure every child has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you to all of our families for your continued support. I am looking forward to getting to know even more of you and to working together as we move Laceby Stanford forward.

Here's to a brilliant year ahead — let's make it our best one yet!

Mrs Clair Smith
Principal

Celebrating Our Children



One of the things I am particularly passionate about is recognising and celebrating the wonderful things our children do every day. We want to notice effort, kindness, curiosity, resilience and those moments when children really demonstrate what it means to be part of our Laceby Stanford community.

This year, we are building on our existing rewards and introducing some new ways to celebrate our children.



Star of the Week: Our weekly Star of the Week celebrates children who have made a real difference through their effort, attitude, learning, kindness or behaviour. There are so many reasons to shine, and we want to make sure we celebrate them!

Living our 5Cs Awards: We are introducing new awards for children who demonstrate our 5Cs and truly live out the values that are important to us as a school. These will give us the opportunity to recognise children who consistently show our values in their everyday actions.



Lunch with the Principal: Each week, I will invite a small group of children to join me for Lunch with the Principal. This isn't just about a reward — it is a chance for us to chit, chat, get to know one another and celebrate their achievements. I am really looking forward to spending time with different children across the school and hearing about their experiences, interests and successes.

Introducing our Golden Leaf Award



I am also very excited to introduce our new Golden Leaf Award. This will be awarded each half term to children who have really stood out and demonstrated our school values, shown exceptional personal growth or consistently gone above and beyond.

The Golden Leaf is a special recognition, and we want to make it something that children feel incredibly proud to receive. Parents and families of our Golden Leaf recipients will be invited into school to share in the celebration, because these moments deserve to be celebrated together.

Ultimately, our rewards are about much more than prizes or certificates. They are about noticing the good, celebrating the small things that make a big difference and helping our children to recognise the positive contribution they make to our school community. I can't wait to see our first Golden Leaves awarded!



Discover, Explore and Have Fun!



We are delighted that our after-school clubs will begin on Monday 14th September, with a fantastic range of opportunities on offer for our children.



Our programme this term reflects the breadth of our curriculum and the values we want to develop in every child. From creativity and sport to exploring new interests, developing skills and working together, our clubs provide children with opportunities to discover something new, develop their talents and have fun along the way.

We want our children to leave Laceby Stanford with more than just excellent academic knowledge. We want them to be curious, confident, creative, resilient and willing to have a go. Our enrichment opportunities play an important part in developing the whole child and giving everyone the opportunity to find something they enjoy and can feel proud of.



Whether your child is discovering a new passion, developing an existing talent or simply trying something for the first time, we hope they enjoy the opportunities available this term. There really is something for everyone — get involved, have a go and enjoy!

Forest School KS2

Creative Crafts

Basketball

Dance

Cookery

Cricket

Gymnastics

Yoga

Choir

Football

Games

Dates for your Diary...

While dates were initially shared in our July newsletter, here are a few key dates to keep in mind for the next two weeks as we look ahead to a busy term at Laceby Stanford:

- After-school clubs begin- Monday 14th September
- Y1 Reading with parents 2:50pm- Thursday 17 th September
- Macmillan Coffee morning EYFS and KS1- Thursday 24 th September am
- Macmillan coffee Morning KS2- Friday 25 th September am
- Individual photo day- Thursday 1 st October
- Harvest Festival- Friday 2 nd October (Donations of tinned or packet food)
- Mentor Meetings- Monday 5 th - Friday 16 th October

Please keep an eye on our school calendar, newsletter, and usual communication channels for further dates and any updates throughout the term. We look forward to sharing lots of exciting events and opportunities with you, and we hope to see as many of you as possible!

Macmillan

Thursday 24th September

FS2: 9:00 AM

Year 1: 9:40 AM

Year 2: 10:20 AM

Friday 25th September

Year 3: 9:00 AM

Year 4: 9:40 AM

Year 5: 10:20 AM

Year 6: 11:00 AM

So Far This Term...

What a fantastic start we have had! Our first few days back have been filled with excitement, creativity and a real buzz around school. It has been wonderful to see our children throwing themselves into their learning and making such a positive start to the new academic year.

We have already enjoyed some amazing hook days across each year group, bringing our new topics to life and giving children an exciting starting point for their learning. From dragons, Anglo-Saxons, and Vikings, to immersive experiences, creativity, and practical challenges, our classrooms have been full of children exploring, creating, questioning, and discovering.

Adding to our busy schedule, Compass GO! delivered an assembly on Wednesday this week to support our pupils' well-being. To finish off the week this afternoon, we held a wonderful Year 2 reading together event with parents and carers—it was lovely to see that shared love of reading in action!

These experiences are a fantastic showcase of our creative and engaging curriculum at Laceby Stanford. We want learning to be memorable, meaningful, and something that children genuinely enjoy. Our hook days and special events provide that spark of curiosity and excitement that sets the scene for the learning that follows. It has been brilliant to see the enthusiasm on the children's faces — and there is certainly plenty more to come! What a way to start the year!

New Spaces, New Opportunities

Over the summer, we have been busy behind the scenes making some exciting improvements to our school environment.

Our Foundation Stage playground has been completely revamped and redesigned, creating a wonderful space for our youngest children to explore, investigate and learn through play. We have created an environment that encourages curiosity, wonder and discovery, while continuing to develop our provision so that our children have the very best start to their school journey.

We are also busy making some changes to help with congestion at the end of the school day and, most importantly, to support children leaving school safely. New bike racks and scooter pods will be added at the KS2 entrance. This will help us to keep pathways clear, reduce congestion and ensure everyone can leave school safely and smoothly.

Thank you for your support as we continue to improve our school environment and make those little changes that make a big difference.