

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Dear Stanground Family,

Thank you so much to all the families who joined us for the recent parent evenings. It was wonderful to see so many of you engaging with your children's learning and celebrating their progress. Your support and partnership make a real difference, and we're grateful for the time you took to be with us.

We'd also like to extend our sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused around the Harvest Festival arrangements. We understand how disappointing it was for those affected, and we're working to ensure future events run more smoothly. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

A quick reminder that school will be closed on **Friday 24th October for an INSET Day**. We hope the children enjoy their half term and come back refreshed for Spring 2. School reopens on **Monday 3rd November 2025**.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and look forward to sharing more exciting moments with you throughout the term.

Have a restful half term.

Regards,
Mr Steenkamp
Headteacher



Design and Technology Day Year 2



Year 2 had a fantastic time during our DT Day, diving into the delicious world of pizza! The children explored the origins of pizza and discovered why it has become such a popular food around the globe. Working together in teams, they followed a recipe to make their own pizza dough, learning how to knead and prepare it with care. Each child added their own toppings, showing creativity and teamwork throughout the process. To finish off the day, we held

a taste test and evaluated our creations – a tasty way to reflect on our learning! Well done, Year 2 – great teamwork and fantastic food!

Attendance Update

Regular attendance in primary school is essential as it ensures consistent learning, helps children build strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, and supports their social and emotional development. It encourages good



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Silver School
Awarded
in 2025

Awarded for commitment to
high-quality phonics practice



habits like responsibility and discipline, while also allowing teachers to monitor progress and provide timely support. Frequent attendance also fosters stronger connections between families and schools, reinforcing the value of education from an early age.

Year to date

Class	Attendance Percentage
<i>Reception</i>	88.0%
<i>Year 1</i>	96.6%
<i>Year 2</i>	94.0%
<i>Year 3</i>	94.8%
<i>Year 4</i>	97.3%
<i>Year 5</i>	96.8%
<i>Year 6</i>	97.8%
TOTAL	95.1%

Week to date

Class	Attendance Percentage
<i>Reception</i>	88.2%
<i>Year 1</i>	94.2%
<i>Year 2</i>	97.3%
<i>Year 3</i>	93.9%
<i>Year 4</i>	94.5%
<i>Year 5</i>	95.7%
<i>Year 6</i>	99%
TOTAL	94.7%

Class	Lateness Percentage
<i>Reception</i>	1.1%
<i>Year 1</i>	2.3%
<i>Year 2</i>	1.5%
<i>Year 3</i>	0.4%
<i>Year 4</i>	0.3%
<i>Year 5</i>	1.9%
<i>Year 6</i>	0.3%
TOTAL	1.0%

Class	Lateness Percentage
<i>Reception</i>	1.0%
<i>Year 1</i>	2.6%
<i>Year 2</i>	1.6%
<i>Year 3</i>	1.0%
<i>Year 4</i>	0.5%
<i>Year 5</i>	3.7%
<i>Year 6</i>	1.0%
TOTAL	1.5%

Well done Year 6! Top effort.

A polite reminder about parking

For the safety of our pupils and the wider community, we kindly ask that families **do not park on the yellow lines** during drop-off and collection times. These areas must remain clear to ensure visibility, safe crossing, and access for emergency vehicles. Maintaining these safety measures also helps us foster **positive relationships with our neighbours**, who are affected by congestion and blocked driveways.

Please use a nearby public parking areas or walk where possible. Your cooperation makes a big difference in keeping our school environment safe and respectful for everyone. Thank you for your continued support.



SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosey around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

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.



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