



STOKENCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY



AIMING HIGH ... FLYING HIGHER

Everything we do makes a difference to our children; empowering minds and shaping futures.



STOKENCHURCH STAR



ISSUE 281: 3rd July 2026



£67,463 so far!

www.stokenchurchprimary.co.uk

[@stokenchurchps](https://www.instagram.com/stokenchurchps)

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/stokiesbigsplash>

THIS TERM'S SCHOOL VALUES ARE TO SPOT OUR CHILDREN WHO ARE:

SUCCESSFUL



THIS WEEK:

- SPORTS DAYS
- THE ENGLAND GAME
- Y2 TRIP TO MOP END
- NEW NURSERY STORY TIME
- PLASTIC BOTTLES
- CORTEX CIRCUS
- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
- AND SO MUCH MORE...

ECO TICKER

Solar Panels
 produced = 93.50 MWh
 CO₂ saved = 53.11t

GOLDEN RULES


READY

RESPECTFUL

SAFE

😊 THE TEACHER'S RACE WAS AN INFLATABLE AFFAIR 😊

🌟 THINGS TO CELEBRATE 🌟

ATTENDANCE	Beech 92.7%		Cherry 89.7%		Chestnut 89.0%	
GOLDEN FOLDER	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	166	223	201	217	222	193
KITE'S KITCHEN AWARD			ELDER CLASS			
THIS TERM'S SCHOOL COMPOSER (Music we are listening to in class and assembly)			CURIOUS QUESTION (Something to talk & think about as a family)			
 John Williams			What is your proudest school moment?			



FROM THE HEAD'S CHAIR

You can donate to our swimming pool project here:
<https://justgiving.com/campaign/stokiesbigsplash>



SPORTS DAYS

Our **SPORTS DAYS** this week were an absolute triumph and had a real community feel, enjoyed by everyone who attended. The children ran, bounced, balanced and pulled their way through a series of races and challenges, earning points for their houses and having a bit of fun along the way. The teamwork and sportsmanship were on show throughout, with a good dose of competitive



spirit thrown in – the children supported and cheers for each other throughout the morning. The weather was kind, the conduct of everyone in attendance was a credit to the school, and the sight of Mr Sloan running as an inflatable pig with his legs in the wrong leg holes will stay with me for ages!

HUGE thanks to all of the staff who helped, supported, set up, ushered, encouraged, hydrated,



shaded and planned the event. Both mornings ran like clockwork and that is not possible without a great deal of planning and effort. Thanks to Chris from the Fleure for the loan of the music system and microphone, as well as the PTA for the much-needed Gazebos. A special thanks to Miss Foster and Mr Pounder for coordinating the event and ensuring it was the success it was. Personally, for my last one, I thoroughly enjoyed it 😊



And so - to the scores...which were pretty close! All children who placed in their races earned points for their house. These were totalled up over the course of the morning and the trophy was presented at the end.

The results were:

EARLY YEARS & KS1

4 TH PLACE	3 RD PLACE	2 ND PLACE	1 ST PLACE
65 pts	77pts	80pts	89pts
AIR	FIRE	WATER	EARTH

KS2

4 TH PLACE	3 RD PLACE	2 ND PLACE	1 ST PLACE
80 pts	81pts	83pts	99pts
EARTH	FIRE	AIR	WATER





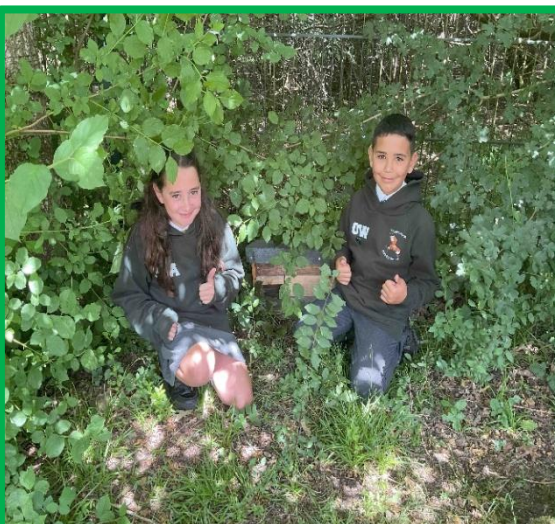
HEDGEHOG HOUSE

Following our special assembly last week, telling the children all about hedgehogs in the UK and how we can all do our bit to help support them (750,000 hedgehogs are killed on Britain's roads each year!), we were happy

to receive and locate not one but two new hedgehog hibernation boxes. Our intrepid Y6 children hailed to choose two quiet spots for the homes to be located and we also received a bumper pack of books and a bird nesting box from 21st Century Thame. Many thanks to Councillor Andrew Seddon for setting up the experience for our children, as well as Jess for coming in last week to talk to the children.

NURSERY STORY SESSION

On Thursday this week we were joined by 15 or so of our new starters and their families in our super Nursery. An opportunity to meet the staff and start becoming familiar with the space, the children enjoyed stories and songs





alongside their mums and dads, and I know that, whilst a little nervous, they will have a fantastic start to the new term in September. There are a series of these events for both Nursery and Reception children during the run

up to the end of this term, which are both fun and invaluable as a part of a successful transition into school. Many thanks to Mrs Warner and the Early Years team for making these possible 😊

PLASTIC BOTTLES NEEDED!

Sadie, who comes to **STOKENCHURCH** every year to launch the Summer Reading Challenge (see the details below) has come to school with a strange request!

Jonathan, her partner, has devised an Asian hornet detector [Asian hornets predate on honey bees] which is going national and international as Buzz-copper very soon.

It will allow beekeepers, and any other interested parties to identify Asian hornets in an area, and alert the National Bee Unit via email to come and take out the nests.

It's an entirely not for profit enterprise and the homemade kit of parts uses a 2l pop bottle. They need 100s and wondered if our children/staff might assist in collecting them for us? Washed and with labels removed would be fantastic.

In exchange I hope he might be willing to do an assembly to show how it all works, and get the children interested.

Please drop your bottles off at school, and here's link to the website for anyone who might be interested in finding out more!

<https://www.buzzcopper.org/>

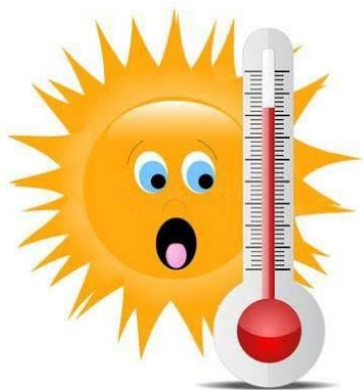


HOT WEATHER

Returning next week ... the forecast at the present time appears to predict another period of hot weather coming next week, but as we know, things can change! At the current time, we have been provided with the information below:

YELLOW HEAT-HEALTH ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED

The Met Office and UKHSA have issued a YELLOW Heat-Health Alert which will be in force between **12PM on Sat 4th July until 5PM on Wed 8th Jul 2026**. Minor impacts are likely across health and social care services, which are still under pressure from last week's incidents.



Guidance is also available for [Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals - GOV.UK](#)

Here is the quick "**Slip, Slop, Slap, Slide**" checklist before heading out the door each morning:

- **Slip** on clothing that covers the shoulders (white school shirts / polos are perfect but please remove jumpers and ties)
- **Slop** on SPF 30+ broad-spectrum sunscreen before school.
- **Slap** on a wide-brimmed hat that protects their face, ears, and neck.
- **Slide** on a pair of (named) sunglasses if they have them.

Please Note: Please send a labelled bottle of sunscreen and a hat in your child's bag so they can reapply and protect themselves during the day. Make sure they have a water bottle too – many of our children particularly like it if they have been frozen the night before. Thank-you for helping us keep playtime safe and fun!

MINI ENTERPRISE AT THE FAIR

Last week's summer fair was a great success, and in assembly on Monday we celebrated the contribution made by our Y5 and Y6 children. They were challenged with designing, pricing, resourcing, manning, promoting and running their own stall, with a prize for the most entrepreneurial teams in Y5 and Y6. They all did a brilliant job, with a special congratulations to our Y6 children who did all of the above despite arriving back from their residential trip to the Isle of Wight at 8pm the evening before! (Well done mums and dads too!). The prizes were awarded to Noah and George in Y5 and River, Noah and James in Y6. Congratulations to them but also a huge well done to all of our mini-enterprisers for raising an impressive **£600** profit to the grand total – a record for **STOKENCHURCH!**



THE CIRCUS COMES TO STOKENCHURCH

It seems like no two days are the same at the moment and as such, we welcomed a special performance from the local circus to thrill, inspire and wow the children this morning. We enjoyed death defying chair balances, juggling and LOTS of laughs and smiles from the eager and excited audience. The circus is performing in the village over the weekend and I know you have been sent some deals for tickets if you would like to take your family along. It was a real bit of fun 😊



FOOTBALL FEVER

I am very aware that the next England game against Mexico is kicking off in the early hours of Monday morning and I am sure that lots of our children will be begging parents to stay up to

watch it. Whilst this is understandable, it is not something I would advise as they will be really grumpy for the next few days! We will be making sure the match highlights are on in the hall on Monday

morning for any children who would like to watch – including myself - and from past experience the opportunity for them to share the game with so many of their friends creates a really exciting atmosphere which becomes an experience in itself. What you decide to do as a family is up to you, but school will be open as usual at the normal time for ALL children, so:

PLEASE TRY NOT TO GIVE AWAY THE SCORE BEFORE THE CHILDREN HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO SEE IT TOGETHER!

(I know this is an impossible ask, but please do your best so it is exciting for all of them!). Thank you as always for your support, and if blaming me is a good way of telling them they can't stay up then you are welcome 😊



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL STUART!

I wanted to say a huge thank you to Stuart Wilson who has been leading our Seido Karate club weekly here at **STOKENCHURCH** for the last 20 years. He has been a consistent face for our children as their progress with their passion and I wish him the very best of luck in his retirement. We look forward to welcoming Kasia Lampard-Terry who will be filling Stuart's shoes from September.



Y2 VISIT TO MOP END

On Monday, Year 2 had a lovely day spent outdoors at Mop End Field Studies Centre. They went pond dipping and searched through the woodland for bugs and critters - they even found some toads! The children had a super experience and represented **STOKENCHURCH** incredibly well. A huge thank you to all of the parents who came with us to support on the day and well done to Mrs Elliott and the Y2 team for making it happen 😊



Are you concerned about a child?



ALWAYS act on any concern.
Make a written record of your concern and share without delay.

Mr Nick Stevens
Designated Safeguarding Officer
Headteacher



Mr Stephen Sloan
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Francesca Avery
Designated Safeguarding Officer
SENCo



Mrs Kat Warner
Designated Safeguarding Officer
Nursery Manager



Miss Catherine Howland
Designated Safeguarding Officer
SENCo



Mrs Judy Pope
Designated Safeguarding Officer
Administration Manager



SAFEGUARDING: IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

REMEMBER, IT COULD HAPPEN HERE (AND PROBABLY DOES).

SMARTPHONE POLICY UPDATE

Link to information about our changing Mobile Phone Policy: [the letter](#)



If you have any concerns about a child or notice something that makes you feel uncomfortable, please contact one of our DSL team (in confidence) who are always happy to listen. We have a dedicated email address solely for any concerns of this nature so that you can get in touch directly to our DSL team confidentially if needed. Please contact via:

safeguarding@stokenchurchprimary.bucks.sch.uk



This email address is monitored constantly and confidentially by the school's safeguarding team, including at weekends and during holidays.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: STAYING SAFE ONLINE AT SCHOOL AND HOME

We know that our filtering and monitoring systems are robust at **STOKENCHURCH** and we are always alerted on the rare occasions that children attempt an inappropriate use of devices in school. However, we also know that children can be naturally curious. Where boundaries are secure in one setting, some children may try similar searches at home using home Wi-Fi, mobile data, or personal devices. For this reason, we strongly recommend that all parents and carers review the parental controls in place on home networks and children's devices.

We appreciate that this can feel complicated, as every provider and device is slightly different. The key areas we would encourage parents and carers to check are:

Home Wi-Fi router settings

Most broadband providers allow adult-content filtering to be switched on at router level. This helps block inappropriate content on devices connected to your home Wi-Fi.

Mobile network settings

If your child has a phone or tablet with a SIM card, age-restricted filtering can usually be enabled through your mobile provider account or by contacting the provider directly.

Search engine settings

Please check that SafeSearch is turned on and locked where possible on search engines used by your child.

Family account settings

Systems such as Google Family Link and Apple Family Sharing can help parents and carers manage app downloads, screen time, age restrictions and website access.



For clear, independent guidance, we recommend **Internet**

Matters – <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>. It provides free, step-by-step advice for setting up parental controls across different broadband providers, mobile networks and devices.

If you would like further guidance, or are finding it difficult to manage settings on a particular device, please contact the School Office **FAO Mrs Whelan** and we will do our best to help.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping to keep children safe online.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

AMAZON WISHLIST	We have recently updated our Amazon wishlist! Here you can purchase items for your child's year group to be delivered directly to the school: https://amzn.eu/aw5up8c	
PICKING UP YOUR CHILD	If you need to inform us of a different adult collecting your child at the end of the school day, please do this by emailing office@stokenchurchprimary.bucks.sch.uk	
LOST UNIFORM	We have a huge amount of unlabelled uniform making it's way to our lost property every week. Please remember to label all of your child's uniform to ensure that it can make it's way back to them!	

DATES FOR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The dates below are for the next month or so.

For a full list please see (and link to) our calendar on the school website.

JULY 2026

w/b 6 th	Sponsored Swim Week	All	
Tue 7 th	Nursery New Starters Stay & Play 4pm	Nursery	

	Meet The Teacher – Transition Morning	Acorns	
Fri 10 th	Y5 Willen Lake Assembly at 900	Y5	
Tues 14 th	Meet The Teacher – Transition Morning	F2 to Y5	
Thurs 16 th	Y6 Production at 600pm	Y6	
	Nursery New Starters Stay & Play 4pm	Nursery	
Fri 17 th	Reports Home	All	
Tues 21 st	Y6 Leavers Assembly at 915	Y6	
	Y6 Leavers Disco 6.00-7.30pm	Y6	
Wed 22 nd	End of Term @ 1pm	All	
Letter available / to follow		Please join us if you can ☺	Please note change of date

BIG SPLASH UPDATE!

You can donate to our swimming pool project here:

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/stokiesbigsplash>

Our **BIG SPLASH** fundraising campaign continues and the committee have lots of ideas of helping us reach our target for the pool. If you can donate, please do. If you work for a company or organisation that can help or signpost our campaign, go for it. If you have any contacts or ideas, please don't hesitate to get in touch as we all work together to bring our school's dream to reality!

BREAK THE RULES DAY raised an amazing £578! Thank you for your support and we hope the children enjoyed taking part.


SPONSORED SWIM CHALLENGE – Starting next week!!

Week Beginning 6th July 2026

All children will take part in our **Sponsored Swim Challenge!**


How to Sponsor – deadline Monday 13th July

Option 1: Online (Quickest & Easiest!)

- **Create a Personal Page:** You can set up an individual fundraising page linked directly to our campaign so you can track your child's progress. [Click here for easy step-by-step instructions on JustGiving.](#)
- **Donate Directly:** You can donate via our main campaign page: [JustGiving - Stokie's Big Splash.](#)
-  **Important:** Please clearly state **which year group** you are sponsoring so we can track the Ice Pop Party winner!



Option 2: Cash

- Please hand cash directly to your child's class teacher or the school office.
-  **Important:** Cash **must** be accompanied by a completed sponsorship form.





Summer WATER SAFETY

BEACH FLAGS

The beach flags are displayed by the Beach Lifeguards in patrolled areas to provide guidance on the water and the wind conditions. The flags also inform beach users where the swimming and water sports zones are located.



RED AND YELLOW LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY

Between the flags is the safest place to swim.



RED DANGEROUS AREA

Lifeguards are not watching this area. Do not swim here.



BLACK AND WHITE WATERSPORTS AREA

Do not swim here.

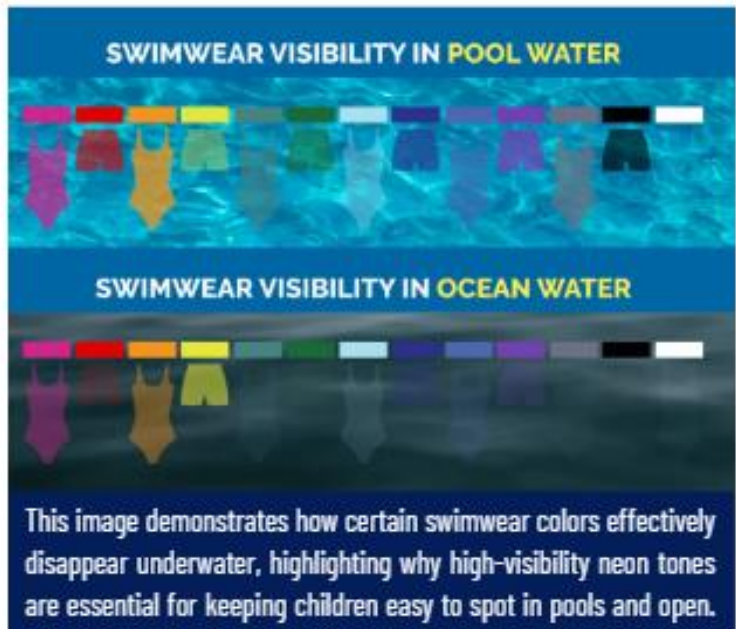


ORANGE WINDSOCK SHOWS THE DIRECTION AND STRENGTH OF THE WIND

Beware of winds blowing out to sea

#ENJOYWATERSAFELY

For more information visit rlss.org.uk



WATER SAFETY STARTS AT HOME

Whilst schools are working hard to equip students with the skills they need to stay safe, the most effective way to prevent accidents is for these messages to be reinforced at home. Water safety isn't just a lesson for the pool—it's a life skill that requires regular conversation and practice.

As children spend more time outdoors during the summer, they need to know that open water—like rivers, lakes, and beaches—behaves very differently than a swimming pool. By discussing the Water Safety Code with your children, you can ensure they have the confidence to make the right decisions when it matters most.

How You Can Get Involved

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) provides a fantastic range of free resources specifically for parents and carers. These are designed to make learning about water safety fun and engaging for the whole family.

- Educational Cartoons: Perfect for younger children to help them understand the risks.
- Activity Sheets: Interactive ways to learn the Water Safety Code together.
- Splash Safely at Home: Tips for keeping safe around garden ponds, paddling pools, and even bath time.

We encourage all families to visit the [RLSS UK Water Safety Resources for Families](#) page to download these free materials.

RACE FOR LIFE

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER THAN CANCER

RUN, JOG OR WALK
5K YOUR WAY

WE'RE RUNNING THE RACE FOR LIFE ON
26th of July

*Kirsty,
bleubelle,
beaux*

FOR EVERYONE AFFECTED BY CANCER.
WE RACE.
WE REMEMBER.
WE HOPE.

MOVE YOUR WAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER WE CAN

Print Poster Download image

LET'S BEAT CANCER SOONER

SIGN UP, DONATE OR FIND OUT MORE AT RACEFORLIFE.ORG

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

COMING UP THIS SUMMER AT THE NATIONAL TRUST HUGH ENDEN ESTATE

22.07	24.07	25.07	31.07
01.08	02.08	05.08	07.08
09.08	12.08	14.08	15.08
19.08	21.08	22.08	
28.08	30.08	31.08	29.08

SCAN ME EASELY DOES IT

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

COMING UP THIS SUMMER AT THE NATIONAL TRUST THE WALLED GARDEN

27.07	27.07	28.07	28.07
30.07	03.08	03.08	04.08
06.08	06.08	10.08	10.08
13.08			
18.08	18.08	20.08	24.08
24.08	25.08	25.08	27.08
31.08	31.08	01.09	01.09

SCAN ME EASELY DOES IT

Welcome to

SPRINGBUCKS GYMNASTICS CLUB



Hi! We are Springbucks Gymnastics Club, a registered Independent Gymnastics Affiliation Club, who have been running top class gymnastics sessions in the mornings before school at Stokenchurch Primary since we started up in 2009.

The club is run by Ruth Middleton and Fenella Lockhart and a team of highly qualified and experienced coaches who love gymnastics and are enthusiastic about introducing children to our sport and helping them develop their skills and achieve their goals.

'I love gymnastics because all the activities are amazing and the coaches make it fun, memorable and challenging. It is an amazing experience and I recommend it! 5 star experience!!!' 😊
Skye



We are a welcoming and friendly recreational club, focused on growing children's self confidence as they develop their agility, balance and coordination, strength and flexibility whilst moving through a progressive and motivational awards scheme. Our sessions introduce gymnasts to skills on floor, air track, beam, bars, trampette and vault in a safe, fun and progressive manner and many of our gymnasts stay with us from Reception right through to Year 6 because they love it so much!



'It is so fun and you learn new skills that you never knew you could do!'
Molly

This June, 6 pupils from Stokenchurch entered our Annual Springbucks Floor and Vault competition, where 120 gymnasts from our various Springbucks venues got together to compete, displaying a floor routine they had learnt and their best vault. All the gymnasts did really well with the following receiving medals in their age category – Arthur Horner (gold), Erin Hunt (silver), Phoebe Rose (bronze), Skye Walker (gold), Ridhee Dharmakeerthi (silver) and Rozii Awan (bronze). A big congratulations to all!!

'I love gymnastics and the opportunities that we are given are amazing and it teaches us lots of important skills!' Poppy

We would love to see more children from Stokenchurch Primary at our gymnastics classes next school year, running for Foundation up to year 6 on a Wednesday morning. We have a soft start where gymnasts may arrive between 7.45 – 8am as we know some are better at getting up in the mornings than others and our sessions run through to 8.45am.

EMAIL US TODAY AT SPRINGBUCKSGC@GMAIL.COM TO BOOK YOUR CHILD IN FOR A FREE TRIAL SESSION THIS SEPTEMBER OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO ON OUR FAB SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS THAT ARE OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 3 – 11 OF ALL ABILITIES!





Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Competition at Stokenchurch Library

Choose a character from a book you've enjoyed reading. Think about what music they might like to listen to or might suit them and explain why.

You can draw a picture of your character or find one on the internet.

Send your entry with your name, age and school with the heading Summer Reading Challenge Competition to

enquiries.scl@gmail.com

All entries will be placed in a draw for their school. There will be one winner per school.

Entries close on 12 September 2026.

Winners for each school will be announced in Certificate Assemblies in September.

For an example of an entry, see over.



I think Paddington would love songs and music that show his sense of fun. He is always getting into scrapes and you can guarantee that there will be a very funny mess, with the Browns tearing their hair out. I think he would love "I wanna be like you" from The Jungle Book. He tries so hard

But for sheer nonsense and chaos, I'd choose the

finale from Ibert's Divertissement. Listen to it. I think you'll agree.

SUMMER: YOUTH THEATRE & WORKSHOPS

AT READING REP!

Looking for a creative escape for the kids (or yourself!) this summer? **Reading Rep Theatre** is launching an exciting lineup of Summer Schools and workshops for young people aged **5–25**, running throughout July and August.

Led by professional theatre-makers in a friendly, supportive environment, these sessions are the perfect way to build confidence, learn new skills, and make lifelong friends.

Check out the blockbuster line up:

- **West End Experience (27–31 July) | Ages 5–10 (Juniors) & 11–16 (Seniors)** Spend a high-energy week singing, dancing, and performing hits from smash musicals like *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, *SIX*, and *Paddington*. Plus, enjoy exclusive masterclasses from West End performers starring in *Mamma Mia!* and *The Rocky Horror Show*.
- **Summer on Stage (3–7 August) | Ages 12–18** A specialist, inclusive theatre week designed specifically for young people with additional needs. It's a welcoming space built to boost confidence, communication, and performance skills.
- **Play in a Week (10–14 August) | Ages 11–16** Got a storyteller in the house? Participants will devise, write, and perform a brand-new play alongside professional practitioners, ending with a special showcase for family and friends.
- **Superheroes on Stage (10–14 August) | Ages 5–10** Younger creatives can bring their imagination to life by inventing original superhero characters and crafting an epic adventure on the big stage.
- **Drama School Prep (17–19 August) | Ages 15–25** Perfect for aspiring performers gearing up for drama school auditions. Take dedicated, intensive workshops in acting, singing, and dance. Book one, two, or all three days!