



Week commencing: 28th September 2026

Whole school

Dear Strathmore families and friends

At last Tuesday's meeting of the school's governing body, I was elected by the governors to become the Chair of Governors, with Sarah Phillipson elected as Vice Chair, both appointments to take immediate effect.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Chair, Rob Mitchell, for his leadership and contribution in time and effort; as a former Strathmore parent, Rob's contribution and willingness to "give something back" was illustrative of a strong connection between the school and those who pass through its doors.

Rob hands over a strong governing body which will continue to work together, in partnership with the Headteacher and staff. Its focus will be set out in a revised strategy, created in the summer, which will be made available to all in the coming weeks.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a parent of twins who currently attend Strathmore in Year 2, and with a four year gap to our third child I will be a Strathmore parent for some time yet!

My wish to become involved in the work of the governing body stems from a lifelong interest in education and educational policy, much of which was inspired by growing up in a family of several teachers.

Having been fortunate to experience a high-quality state education, I am now a solicitor working in London for a full-service firm, Harbottle & Lewis, which specialises in the media and entertainment industry. My clients include stakeholders across the sports industry and the world of entertainment, with a particular focus on sponsorship and brand partnerships (as an extension of which I sit on the board of the European Sponsorship Association as its Legal Director). Until recently, I had also operated as a football referee in the professional game in England, spending over a decade travelling from Plymouth to Hartlepool and all places in between.

I very much look forward to leading the governing body as we continue to support and constructively challenge, working in partnership with the Headteacher and staff, and working alongside parents, carers and the wonderful FOSSA, so that we can all contribute to the nurturing of brilliant, resilient minds.

Should you wish to contact me, I can currently be reached by email at sam.purkiss@strathmore.herts.sch.uk, and after a temporary administrative period will also soon be available at chair@strathmore.herts.sch.uk. I am also usually on the school site for Monday, Wednesday and Friday drop-offs, and always happy to speak.

Thank you for reading this letter.

With all best wishes

Sam Purkiss
 Chair of Governors, Strathmore Infant and Nursery School

Class reminders

Weekly Blogs Strathmore Infant and Nursery School																													
Upcoming dates for parents / carers to be in school	Wednesday 7th October – MHST parent workshop on back to school, transition and anxieties.																												
FOSSA events	Get Ready for the Annual FOSSA Christmas Card Project! It feels early, but never too soon to be prepared for Christmas....keep an eye out in your child's school bag soon for their custom Christmas artwork! Over the coming days, children will be creating unique holiday designs in class. They'll bring home their artwork along with a handy leaflet and QR code so you can easily order personalised Christmas cards, gift tags, and keepsakes for family and friends. Every order placed directly raises money for our school, so thank you in advance for your support! It's time for the yearly Fossa Quiz Night! On Friday 16th October entry from 7.50pm at the school. Tickets are £8pp, there's a snacks and drinks bar plus a raffle to be won on the night. Teams are of up to 6ppl, please list the names of those in your team on the booking website, or fossa can assign you to a team. Tickets are on sale from today until the 12th October. Please follow link to book tickets: FOSSA Quiz Night Ticket Link We are looking for volunteers to help on the night, if you can please reach out or sign up when booking a ticket. If anyone can donate to the raffle it would be greatly appreciated! In previous years we've had prizes from local businesses, parents/carers companies they work for and hampers. Please reach out to a fossa member if you can help with a donation. We're delighted to share that our new classroom books have arrived. Each classroom has received a fantastic selection of new reading materials to support phonics and encourage a love of reading. These resources will make a real difference to children's learning and enjoyment. This was supported by the funds raised by FOSSA, to purchase these new books. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort and support to make this possible.																												
Did you know?	As part of our safeguarding duty, we work in partnership with the local police force as part of 'Operation Encompass'. This means that we are notified of any domestic violence incidents where the police are called, and it involves a child at our school. This allows us to give appropriate support to the child where needed.																												
General upcoming dates Calendar Strathmore Infant and Nursery School	<table> <tr> <td>7th October</td><td>MSHT parents' workshop – Transition, starting school and anxiety</td></tr> <tr> <td>16th October</td><td>FOSSA quiz (adults only)</td></tr> <tr> <td>26th – 30th October</td><td>Half term</td></tr> <tr> <td>2nd November</td><td>Children return to school for Autumn B</td></tr> <tr> <td>3rd & 4th November</td><td>Learning Reviews 3:30pm – 6:10pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>7th November</td><td>FOSSA fireworks event</td></tr> <tr> <td>19th November</td><td>Children's Individual photos day</td></tr> <tr> <td>27th November</td><td>Occasional Day – School closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>8th December</td><td>Year 1 performance – 2:00pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>9th December</td><td>Year 1 performance – 9:15am</td></tr> <tr> <td>13th December</td><td>FOSSA Christmas Carols</td></tr> <tr> <td>16th December</td><td>Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day</td></tr> <tr> <td>16th December</td><td>FOSSA crafternoon (date TBC)</td></tr> <tr> <td>18th December</td><td>Last day of term. School closes 1:15pm</td></tr> </table>	7 th October	MSHT parents' workshop – Transition, starting school and anxiety	16 th October	FOSSA quiz (adults only)	26 th – 30 th October	Half term	2 nd November	Children return to school for Autumn B	3 rd & 4 th November	Learning Reviews 3:30pm – 6:10pm	7 th November	FOSSA fireworks event	19 th November	Children's Individual photos day	27 th November	Occasional Day – School closed	8 th December	Year 1 performance – 2:00pm	9 th December	Year 1 performance – 9:15am	13 th December	FOSSA Christmas Carols	16 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day	16 th December	FOSSA crafternoon (date TBC)	18 th December	Last day of term. School closes 1:15pm
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