

# Strathmore

## NEWSLETTER

### Welcome to our first half termly newsletter!

Each half term we will update you with some of the learning and fun we have been having so far this academic year. During our Learning Reviews the first week back in November, you will have the opportunity to look at your child's learning in their books. As the year progresses, we will welcome you in for more Learning Fairs.

As we move into this next half term, we are saying a fond farewell to Miss Nunn who has been a TA in our school. We are excited to share that Miss Mills is expecting a baby in the New Year and will be starting her maternity leave next term.

We have had visits from the NSPCC in Year 2, our local MP Alistair Strathern had a tour of the school this week and Troubadour Productions provided a free Beauty and The Beast pantomime to the whole school.

FOSSA have been busy planning more wonderful events to raise money this year. The recent quiz was a great success and we look forward to the upcoming fireworks. If you are able to help in any way please do let the team know.

We hope that you manage to have some time to rest and recharge during the half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

The Strathmore Team



## How have we settled in Nursery?

We have had a great start to the year. The children have settled in so well and are getting used to the routines in Nursery, well done everyone! This half term our learning has been focussing on our children and learning about them. We have spoken about our favourite things, what we are good at doing and our families.

During our phonics sessions we have been learning a different nursery rhyme each week. When looking at the rhymes we have taken part in activities; we have clapped the syllables in words, listened for words that rhyme and used our voice to make different sounds.

In maths we have been singing lots of number rhymes and beginning to develop our understanding of counting behaviours. We use our counting finger to touch the objects we are counting and say the number names.

In creative development we have been investigating instruments and exploring how to join different materials together on the creative table.

We have used PVA glue and scissors to create pictures including autumn leaf pictures.

We have also been taking part in weekly pen discos and learning how to draw different pattern lines including horizontal lines, vertical lines and circles. When we hold our pencil, we use crab fingers and draw our patterns on big pieces of paper.



## What have we been exploring in Reception?

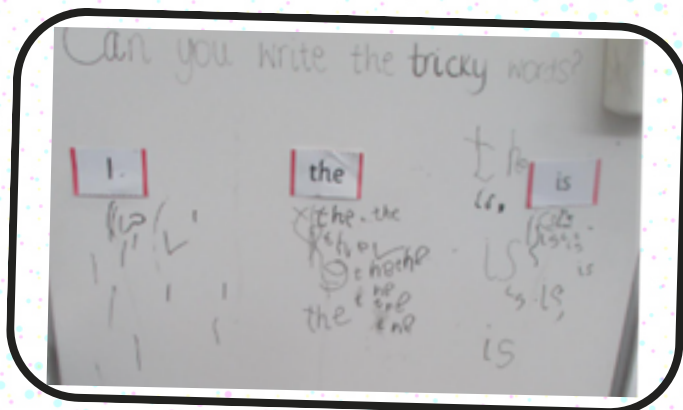
What a wonderful start to Reception we've had! The children have settled really well into school life and are growing in confidence and independence. We are so proud of how quickly they've learned our new routines and how kind and caring they have been towards their friends.

This half term we've been thinking all about our unique selves and our families. The children have been creating their own self-portraits and pictures of their families. We've also talked about keeping ourselves safe, learning how to use our classroom and outdoor areas sensibly and how to look after one another.

In phonics, we've begun our Little Wandle journey, learning our first sets of phonemes and practising how to blend them together to read simple words. The children have also been working hard on their letter formation and are hopefully enjoying sharing their new reading books at home.

In maths, we've been exploring numbers to 5, using real objects, fingers and games to count. comparing amounts, subitising and spotting patterns.

It's been a busy and exciting first half term. We're so proud of all the children's hard work and can't wait to see what next term brings!



# What has our journey been in Year 1?

Over the past eight weeks, our Year 1 children have settled beautifully into their new routines and expectations. They've shown fantastic teamwork, growing resilience in their learning, and a strong ability to build on the foundational skills and knowledge gained in Reception as they embrace new challenges.

In English, the children have been developing their independence in writing by applying their phonics knowledge with increasing confidence. They've also been learning the fundamentals of sentence construction—using capital letters appropriately and ending sentences with a full stop. A key focus has been encouraging children to verbalise their ideas before writing.

In Maths, we've explored place value within 10, including counting, comparing, and grouping numbers. We've now progressed to addition and subtraction within 10, supporting the children in mastering a range of systematic strategies to strengthen their understanding and problem-solving skills.

In Topic, we've been busy exploring different materials and applying this knowledge to design a waterproof umbrella for Incy Wincy Spider. The children have also created vibrant, line-focused artwork and designed bunting for a class DT project, which we're excited to continue next term. In Computing, they've learned to program our class Beebots using simple algorithms, and in RE, we've explored how different faiths and religions express gratitude.

To round off the term, we celebrated the season with a nature walk, created beautiful autumn-themed masterpieces, and made a delicious apple crumble to enjoy together as a class community.





## What has been happening in Year 2?

It has been a lovely start to a new year at Strathmore! The children have enjoyed their weekly outdoor learning sessions and exploring the outdoors. We have made some wonderful clay pieces- including a very detailed pigeon! We are beginning to build our confidence climbing trees and identifying different birds and trees.

This half term, in English we have been exploring fiction and instructional writing through our two class novels, *The Frog* and *The Stranger* and *How to Make Friends with a Ghost*. We have been so impressed by the children's wonderfully creative ideas in their writing! We have continued with our Little Wandle programme, picking up where we left off in Year 1 and revisiting some old texts to refresh our memories while challenging ourselves with new reading too.

In Maths this half term, we have been exploring place value, addition and subtraction within 100. We have been considering what we already know about number to help us to tackle trickier calculations – looking for ways that we can 'make a ten' to help us to add and subtract with confidence.

In our wider Strathmore curriculum, we have loved experimenting with colour, shape and line to create our very own abstract art paintings inspired by Janet Skates. The children have been enthusiastically investigating habitats, micro habitats and food chains in Science – even designing some habitats of our very own! In History, we have been exploring what it means to be an activist! We have looked at significant figures that have helped to change the world and started to think about how we would change the world.



## Wraparound

We've had a wonderful start to the new term, welcoming new children into our setting and settling into a joyful Autumn rhythm. The crisp weather hasn't stopped us from enjoying plenty of outdoor play — from running around in the fresh air to exploring our brand-new sand pit, there's been no shortage of laughter!

Inside, creativity has been flowing with lots of fun and engaging craft activities inspired by the season. The children have also been enjoying their snack times together, sharing stories and building friendships.

It's been lovely to see so many happy faces and hear the sound of play and discovery as we embrace all that this new term has to offer!

