

Strathmore

NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

This half term has been full of lots of exciting activities such as a school trip to the cinema, biscuit decorating with parents in Reception, As One Choir singing to us in assembly, Year 5 coming to visit Year 1 for Good Deeds day, Year 2 going to Wilshire-Dacre to watch their Christmas performance, FOSSA fireworks and Crafternoon, and so much more! The children and staff have had a fun filled half term with a highlight being the Wiggly Nativity performances from Year 1 which were exceptional. Well done all!

Thank you to everyone for working with HCL and the new food ordering system. The children are loving this process at lunch times and it is hugely benefiting learning time each day. Change is not always easy but we really appreciate your patience and support with these recent developments.

As we head towards 2026, we look forward to more opportunities to work together. Our school community is strong because of the support, care, and commitment we share.

We hope you all have a wonderful break and a Happy New Year!

The Strathmore Team



Nursery News

This half term we have been busy looking at the world around us. We have visited lots of places in the school including the library, the hall and the playground. We also walked to the postbox near school and used the pelican crossing to cross the road. We posted letters to Father Christmas and were very excited to get a reply!

We have been developing our social skills and friendships through the activities we take part in. We have been learning to ask others before taking toys and how to share with our friends. We have been working well as a team during our PE lessons.

In busy fingers and pen discos we have been working on diagonal lines and shapes that include diagonal lines. We have been using these lines in our drawings and mark making. We have also been using our fine motor skills to thread beads and do puzzles.



What's been going on in Reception?

The children are working incredibly hard in phonics. We have learnt all single sounds and have now moved onto phase 3 digraphs. The children are writing CVC words daily on their whiteboards, showing increasing independence, which is amazing to see.

We have become authors in English, writing 2 books! Our first *All About Me* book had us writing about our families, favourite foods and hobbies. Our second book focussed on rhyming, where we wrote CVC rhyming words including rat, hat, dog, log, mug, rug.

In maths, we are busy securing our subitising skills, subitising different arrangements, both structured and unstructured. We are also making different arrangements of numbers within 5 and encouraging the children to talk about what they can see using positional language, developing their conceptual subitising skills.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our 'What is all around me?' topic this term, exploring the different seasons, space, our environment and celebrations. We link our topic to our art lessons, where we have drawn seasonal pictures, moon phases, created flower collages and most recently, drawn our favourite celebrations.





What have we been exploring in Year 1?

Year 1 have had a fantastic Autumn term! We were all so proud of their Nativity performance and impressed by their growing confidence, resilience, and independence across all areas of learning.

Phonics: This term, we've focused on Phase 5 graphemes. The children are learning that many graphemes can represent more than one sound, and we've been so impressed with how well they've remembered this!

English: We explored traditional tales, including *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Princess and the Pea*, and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The children enjoyed role-playing, creating their own versions of stories, and using descriptive language to bring characters to life.

Maths: Our focus has been on addition and subtraction within 10, building strong number bond skills as a foundation for tackling larger numbers later in the year.

Topic: Through our Geography question, "Where are we?", we learned basic map-reading skills and key geographical terms by exploring Hitchin, England, and the UK. In Science, we began investigating weather—how to measure it and how seasons affect it.



What has our journey been in Year 2?

Phonics

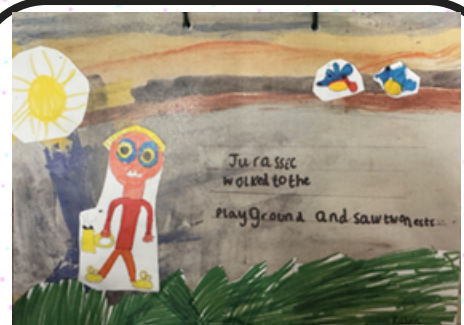
This half term the children have worked hard to consolidate their phase 5 knowledge; they have done such a fantastic job and should be very proud of themselves!

English

This half term's English learning has been based around the books Last Stop on Market Street and Dragon Post. The children have explored different types of books, with a focus on illustrations and then created their own illustrated piece of writing as part of a class book. We also learnt about different types of communication and then focused on letters. We researched the features of letters before writing our own letters to our heroes!

Maths

This half term in maths we completed a unit on addition and subtraction with 2-digit numbers and the children learnt to complete calculations using practical resources and a variety of strategies. We have since moved on to exploring 2D and 3D shapes and their properties.



Wraparound

From spooky Halloween giggles to cozy Christmas crafts, its been a term full of children's laughter, creativity, and endless fun. Smiling faces and joyful memories made every celebration extra special!

The children are enjoying playing under the canopy with lights and in the sandpit.

As we turn the page to a brand new year may the joy and warmth, and happiness continue to grow. Wishing everybody a very happy new year filled with laughter, love and bright new adventures!





Forest School

What a glorious season your (or our!) year two outdoor thinkers have had. Such incredible sunny, cold, windy & wet days with all the glory of the colours changing and bringing the yuletide in!

We have been looking at the changing weather, what this means for animals and their habitats, thinking about hibernation and what this means for us as human animals. Talking about the importance of rest and peace and we have introduced a new area to the forest school, the chill out tree, for moments just like these, to sit and just be, to take yourself away to hibernate for a moment.

We've been mindfully wondering outside in our beautiful forest school space, exploring the wilds of the long grass, playing bears and salmons, laying on the earth and gazing at the tree canopies, imaging what is happening beneath us. Building dens and zip wires, using our hands to create places to play, unguided but supported, leaving mental space to do it ourselves and feel all the comes with that.

As a group we have been conducting nature's orchestras, listening and feeling the sounds of nature and human sounds and how they fit together to create the music of the world. Some the children have been creating mini theatres and writing plays including songs and facts, we have noticed that some these young people are more reserved generally but have found a creative outlet & confidence outside, where it can be less intimidating with the sky above us, rather than a roof.

This children have really grasped the concept that we ARE nature, we don't use, live alongside or above nature, we ARE! The years twos have really embraced the concept of respect for ourselves, our friends, our grown ups and our immediate environment, looking at how we can do for ourselves and ask for help if we need, working more independently, making creative choice and bold decisions, with risk and benefits attached.

We end next week with out yuletide fire where we sing to bring warmth, comfort and always, yummy marshmallows!

Hannah

