

Strathmore

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first half termly newsletter!

Welcome to our first half termly newsletter! We are so excited to share with you some of the learning and fun we have been having so far this academic year. It was lovely seeing so many parents and carers this week at our Learning Reviews and we look forward to welcoming you into school for our Learning Fairs in the Spring term.

As we move into this next half term, we would like to welcome Miss Economides who has joined our Adventurers after school team. In Year 2 we are pleased to have Mrs Allan join us as class teacher in South America on Thursdays and Fridays, and Miss Bennett as a SEND Teaching Assistant throughout the week. In the office, some of you may have already met Mrs Stirratt who will be working alongside Mrs Ali-Shah as our new Pupil & Parents Officer. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Burger on the birth of her little girl, Esme.

In our last Governing Body meeting we said a fond farewell to two of our governors. Lisa Morgan has been a parent for many years and a co-opted governor. We are looking forward to welcoming her back into school when As One Choir performs at Christmas in assembly. Debbie Pal-Born has been a governor for 8 years and was Chair for the past four years. Debbie has seen the school grow and change and we will miss having her as part of school life. Our new Chair of Governors is Rob Mitchell who recently joined the governing body.

For those of you who can make it, we look forward to seeing you at the Fireworks event run by our wonderful FOSSA team. If you are able to volunteer even for a short period of time, the team would be incredibly grateful.

Have a wonderful half term.

The Strathmore Team



FOSSA

FOSSA Fireworks Event

Saturday 2nd November
5:00 - 7:30pm

To book tickets please use this link:
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/strathmore-school/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=84673>

Please help if you can!

What's In This Issue?

- Updates on learning in class
- Forest school news
- Wraparound information
- FOSSA events

How have we settled in Nursery?

This half term we have been answering the question "What makes me, me?"

To begin with we explored our new classroom environment and got to know places in the school. We have visited the garden, the reception classes, the hall and the library. The children enjoyed watching Electric Umbrella perform in the hall.

We have talked about and drawn pictures of our families. We have also named parts of our body and painted self-portraits.

We took part in pen discos and practised holding our pens with crab fingers. Over the half term we have drawn vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines, crosses and circles.

We have learnt about Diwali. The children enjoyed making Diya lamps and drawing Rangoli patterns in the doorway of Nursery.



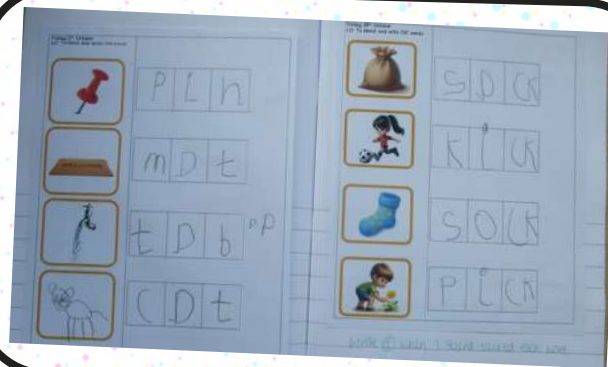
What have we been exploring in Reception?

We have had a wonderful first half term in reception. The children have settled beautifully into Strathmore life, learning lots of new names, routines, joining the rest of the school for weekly assemblies and showing enthusiasm towards their learning.

We are well underway with our phonics journey, learning 17 graphemes and our first digraph with some incredible blending to read and write CVC words.

In maths, we have learnt the definition of subitising and we recap this daily. We have also explored the composition of numbers, gaining a deeper understanding of the 'two-ness of 2', 'three-ness of 3', 'four-ness of 4' and 'five-ness of 5', along with exploring more and less by comparing quantities.

We have loved planting in our garden, and will begin planting vegetables in the upcoming terms to meet one of our curriculum ambitions of growing and cooking our own vegetables.



What has our journey been in Year 1?

What an incredibly busy but wonderful start to the year! In **English** we have focused on two core texts: Jasper's Beanstalk and Puffin Peter. The children have learnt all about sentence structure, how to write a short set of instructions and how to write a sequence of sentences in order to retell their favourite part of a story.

In **Maths** we have been focusing largely on number - what are numbers? What are some of the different relationships between numbers? What are some of the resources we can use to help us make sense of numbers?

In **Science** we have learnt all about Everyday Materials and what familiar (and unfamiliar) objects are made from each one. In **Art** we have used our prior knowledge of colour to help us learn how to mix secondary colours using only primary colours - we have absolutely loved seeing the children be so creative and passionate.

In **RE** the children have been learning about Harvest and what it means when people say they are thankful. We completed this topic with a fantastic trip to St Mark's Church - the children were absolutely wonderful and were a huge credit to our school.





What has been happening in Year 2?

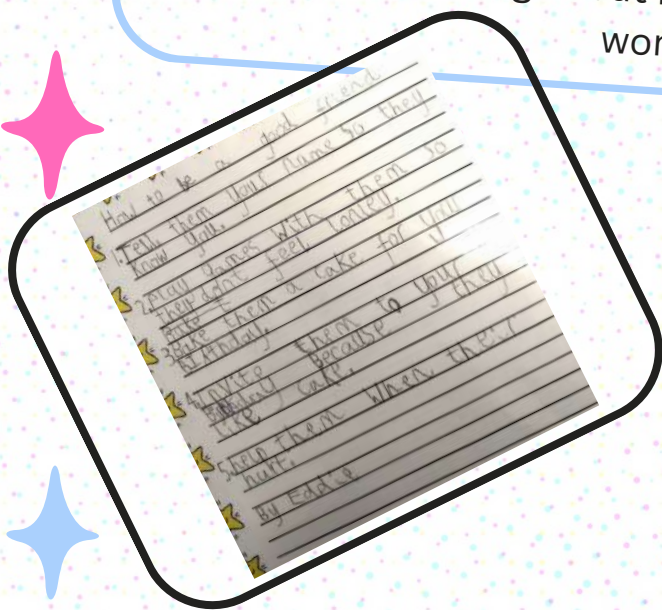
It has been a wonderful start to the year with children settling really well into their new classes.

In **English**, we have been looking at the book *How to make friends with a ghost* and completing instructional writing using imperative verbs. We have created our own class books on How to be a good friend.

In **Art** we studied still life artists and created our own scenes. We have drawn and painted them in our sketch books.

We have been learning about human survival and health eating in **Science**. The children loved learning how to build their fitness by doing different exercises every day and seeing how long they could hold a plank for!

In **History** we have been learning about famous activists. We spent time learning about Rosa Parks and the importance of anti-racism, and we also learning about Emmeline Pankhurst and the right for women to vote.





Forest School

Forest School happens on a Tuesday and is run by our trained practitioner, Mrs White. This half term Year 2 have had a wonderful time building dens for minibeasts, making potions in the mud kitchen, climbing trees, swinging in hammocks and making a zip wire. The children are looking forward to a fire next half term. In the afternoon, Mrs White visits the children in our nurture group and encourages them to be outside, making hammocks in the trees and exploring the outdoor environment.





Wraparound

We are so proud of our new after school wraparound and are pleased with the new name, Adventurers and the logo we have designed. The children are beginning to say 'we are Adventurers' and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves in our provision.

This half term we have been ensuring systems work effectively, children are used to the set up and everyone feels safe and happy. We are going to be developing the provision further after half term by introducing more of our 'Let's get...' activities.

Here are some comments the children have made about our new provision...

