

# Monday Memo @ Strathmore



**Week commencing: 4th November 2024**

## Whole school

### Opal Playtimes - Parent volunteer needed for our new play working party -

We are working with OPAL this year, to revolutionise our outdoor playtimes. After half term, we will be launching a working party to begin this journey, consisting of all members of the school community, including two parents. If you are interested in joining our working party, please contact Mrs Hargeaves via [deputy@strathmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@strathmore.herts.sch.uk). This working party will meet a minimum of 8 times across 18 months as we develop our playtimes and will be given simple tasks between meetings. For more information about OPAL, please visit <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

**Trees on our site** - we are required to undertake tree surveys every 5 years through Herts County Council in order to maintain our trees on the school site. Our recent survey highlighted a number of trees that were unsafe and needed to be felled or killed. We felled some trees at the beginning of the year and unfortunately the trees have continued to grow more forcefully than expected via the roots and this is damaging pathways. This means we now need to kill some trees instead of simply felling. In addition, the amount of leaves from trees close to the building is also causing issues with drainage on the roof. We have had surveys completed related to this and for future capital bids linked to roof repairs or a replacement roof. However, there is a possibility that trees close to the building may also have to have tree surgery in order to be able to maintain other costs such as roof repairs, drainage, repairing current water leaks, etc as the building is not designed to effectively drain run off water and there are limited drains around the school, all which become filled with leaves and debris very quickly.

**Drain works** - in 2021, at the same time as applying for a new boiler, we requested support with repairing and maintaining our drainage around the school. This work is currently being undertaken. This should be completed in the next 3 weeks but it is having an impact on parking for staff, parents, clubs etc.

## Class reminders (when relevant)

**All classes** - please be aware that TAs will be on the gate to welcome your child. Teachers will be in class completing early morning work and settling pupils inside the classroom. Teachers will be at the gate at the end of the day. If you would like a conversation with teachers, please contact the office to arrange this. Thank you.

**Google Classroom** - if you do not have access to your child's Google Classroom or need some support with this, please speak to the office.

## Upcoming dates for parents / carers to be in school

Parents Writing Workshop - Tues 5th Nov at 9:10am. This will be a follow up to the phonics workshop in September, an opportunity to ask any phonic related questions and learn how you can support your child to learn to write.

## FOSSA events

A huge thank you to FOSSA, Strathmore Pyros fireworks team and to all the volunteers for a fantastic event this weekend. We know this takes up a lot of people's time, energy and is very stressful when fire is involved but we know that our families thoroughly enjoyed this and we are incredibly grateful for you all.



Wraparound updates / FAQs		
General upcoming	Week beg 4th Nov	Reception tours begin for prospective parents
	Tues 5th Nov	Parents Writing Workshop
	Tues 19th Nov	Book Fair hosted by Next Page Books 3:15pm
	Fri 22nd Nov	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 trip to cinema (Luton Cineworld)
	Fri 29th Nov	Occasional Day (school closed for all)
	Fri 6th Dec	Decorations Day (non uniform)
	Fri 13th Dec	Reception biscuit decorating - 2.30pm in the hall. Parents and carers welcome.
	Tues 17th Dec	Year 1 Christmas performance 9.15am and 2pm
	Wed 18th Dec	Christmas lunch in school and wear Christmas jumper (optional)
	Fri 20th Dec	School finishes 1.30-1.45pm
	Mon 6th Jan 2025	Children return to school. Please note Wilshire Dacre children return on the 7th.