

Strathmore

NEWSLETTER

A great start to 2025

The children have settled into school really well since coming back after our recent break and it feels like this half term has flown by!

We have successfully started our new reading and phonics scheme, Little Wandle. Children and staff are really enjoying the books in particular and teaching phonics. If you missed our updates or workshops please visit our school website under the Children tab and the Curriculum page.

We hope you enjoy the February half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 25th February.

The Strathmore Team

Nursery News

This half term we have been learning about who helps us. We had a visit from Sophie Hoppenbrouwers who talked to the children about being a dentist and how to keep their teeth healthy. The children really enjoyed using the big toothbrush to practise teeth brushing!

We used our early reading skills to recognise signs of shops we might find in Hitchin. We used our fine motor skills to paint and cut out shops to make our own map of Hitchin.

We continued our pen discos which are helping to develop our fine motor and mark making skills. We have been drawing spirals, arches and joined arches.

Over the last two weeks we have been learning about Lunar New Year which finished with the children performing a dragon dance to their families. The children worked really hard to prepare, they made a dragon, created a paper chain snake and practised a rhythm on the drums and percussion instruments.

What's been going on in Reception?

Australia and Antarctica have been learning that not all heroes wear capes. We have been learning about the many different people in our community who help us and we have had some visitors come in to tell us more about their important jobs. We have been lucky to be visited by Dr Robin Brown who told us about his job as a neurologist and Dr Andrew Brown who came to explain what his job as a dentist entails. Both of these visitors have children in Reception. On Thursday 13th we are having a visit from a police officer and on Friday 14th another parent, Mira Schauble is coming to tell us about work as a Dance Movement psychotherapist. During these visits we have been supporting the children to ask the visitors questions.

The children have loved further increasing their phonic knowledge through our Little Wandle sessions and they continue to impress us with their reading and writing. The Numberblocks continue to enthuse us during our maths sessions and our learners are applying their mathematical learning in their child initiated learning.

We have been getting ready for Spring by preparing a site for a pumpkin patch in our garden and last week the children planted some basil seeds, to compliment the onions we are growing. Over the coming weeks we will continue to plant seeds to keep indoors until the risk of frost has passed.





What have we been exploring in Year 1?

What a fantastic first Spring term we've had! As you know, we kicked off the term by revisiting Christmas and performing our Nativity for you. I'm sure you'll agree that the children were absolutely amazing—not only in their artistic talents but also in their patience for so many rehearsals before the performance!

In English, we've had many opportunities to hone our writing skills, focusing on basic punctuation and using contractions like 'and' to enhance our sentences. Our key texts included *Ravi's Roar* and *Ruby's Worry*, where the children did a remarkable job of writing with empathy. We wrapped up the term with some poetry, which provided lots of laughter!

In Maths, we began by exploring place value up to 20, learning how numbers from 11 to 20 can be represented as a block of 10 and some ones. At this stage, it's crucial for the children to understand that, for example, 15 can be split into 10 and 5 ones, and that a Ten and 5 ones also make up the number 15. We are now progressing to Addition and Subtraction within 20, building on earlier learning as the children explore addition by counting on from a given number within 20.

In Science, we've been exploring the Seasonal Changes we experience in the United Kingdom. We've looked at how these changes impact us, as well as nature and animals. We're excited to continue this topic after half-term when we'll be conducting some hands-on investigations outdoors!

At Forest School, the children have been having a blast, and it's wonderful to see how their imaginations are running wild in nature. Many are independently tying knots and building dens, while others are crafting bows and arrows to hunt for the hidden monsters in the bushes!

What has our journey been in Year 2?

North and South America have been learning all about non-fiction texts this half term, focusing on the story of The Big Blue whale to create their own Non-Fiction text about an animal of their choice. In Maths the children have been learning all about money! We have been working hard to identify coins and notes, carrying out simple additions to calculate how much money we have and how much money a group of items costs. The children have so enjoyed learning our Zero to Hero song and performing it to the school, building our confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems "just like that"!

In Art we have been exploring the shape, form and texture of different flowers. The children particularly enjoyed looking at sculptures by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. We have created drawings, paintings and collages based on flowers.

In R.E. we have been exploring the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and sharing our thoughts and feelings about miracles. The children have enjoyed learning about how the festival of Hanukkah is celebrated and creating their own dreidels too.

In Geography we have been learning about The Coastline, and how to navigate a map using a compass. We have also been learning about how to keep ourselves safe on the coast and about the process of erosion.



Wraparound

Children have been writing about their New Year's resolution, what they would like to get better at or what they want to achieve.

For the Lunar New Year children enjoyed making lanterns.

We also made a display on 'What makes me feel loved'. Lots of messages were shared, eg. "My dog", "A hug", "My family", "Planet earth".

Children have been busy baking cupcakes and called them 'love cakes'.

The children are thoroughly enjoying their time during wraparound, they are independently selecting their own activities and interacting amongst each other.



