

Newsletter Date
December 2023

Stanwick Primary Newsletter



The first full term of the new academic year has been a busy one! As always, we have been amazed to see the children so engaged in their activities and enjoying the wonderful opportunities that they have had over the past weeks.

There has been a real buzz of excitement around school as we have approached the Christmas break, with the Christmas performances, the whole school pantomime and our fabulous Christmas lunch on Tuesday. Thank you to our friends at FoSS for their donation of Christmas crackers for the tables.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the Christmas productions to support the children. They have enjoyed performing them immensely and we hope that you have enjoyed watching them perform for you. We are so proud of their impressive talents!

Just a reminder that lunches for next term are available to book on WisePay and the deadline for ordering for the first week back will be the evening of Wednesday 27th December 2023.

As always, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support, it is so appreciated. We wish you a very happy Christmas and send you our very best wishes for the New Year.

Coming up Next Term

3rd January
Training Day

4th January
School opens to children

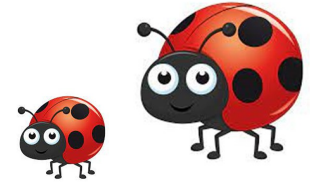
23rd January
Explorer Dome visit to school for all year groups

1st February
Year 5 and 6 residential final payment is due

16th February
School closes for half term



Ladybird Class



Another busy term for the Ladybird class. To launch our new topic of 'Marvellous Machines', we all had a hunt for a machine in our classroom and in our homes. We made popcorn using a popcorn machine, we whizzed up a smoothies with our smoothie machine, we felt the force of the leaf blower machine and so many more. We have been blown away by the incredible machines that you have all been making and bringing into school! The Ladybird class and their families are super creative and resourceful. Thank you for all of your support and hard work that went into making these!



As our topic moved onto "Starry Night" we all enjoyed (and got very excited about) meeting at school in the dark! We brought our torches/lights and even light up gloves as we went on a walk around Stanwick in the dark. We spotted the different lights, noises, noticed how the temperature had changed and we even laid down on the playground to spot some more shining stars, constellations and even tracked a satellite!



Ladybird class have loved experiencing the change from Autumn to Winter during our outdoor learning sessions. We have started to spot that the trees are becoming bare and the temperature has started to drop. We have spent our outdoor learning afternoons, building dens for nocturnal animals, stamping on the frosty grass and finding whole chunks of ice! To warm ourselves up we have had the opportunity to experience a bonfire and sparklers. All of these experiences have supported us to learn lots of new vocabulary and offered the opportunity to discuss how to stay safe around bonfires and fireworks. We even had a special visit from a grandparent to show us how to make a hedgehog house for Mr Pricklepants! I wonder if you can spot it on our back field?



A particular highlight of the term (and the year) was seeing the children singing and dancing so confidently on the stage during their Christmas show. We were all bursting with pride as our shining stars and angelic angels took to the stage and remembered the words and actions for our Christmas songs.



In our Maths sessions this term, we have been learning lots of new vocabulary. We started off learning all about 2D shapes, we can name lots of different shapes and talk about their features too. We have been learning the differences between a square and a rectangle, what makes them similar and what makes them different? We love spotting different shapes and discussing their different features on our weekly welly walks and outdoor learning sessions.

In our Jigsaw sessions this term we have been celebrating difference and similarities. We have been having discussions as a class about how we are all different but share some similarities. We then celebrated how different or similar our families are. We used our profile sheets to share with our friends and discuss who lives in our homes and what activities we enjoy doing with a family member.

Squirrel Class



What a brilliant term we have had in Year One. Our Super Squirrels continued their learning on their 'Childhood' topic, with the focus being on what childhood was like in the 1950s. In Geography they have been learning the difference between human and physical features of the world. They really enjoyed exploring Stanwick, when they went on a walk around the village to identify local landmarks and record the human and physical features of our village.

The children have really embraced the Rainbow Challenges this term and have impressed us with the perseverance and teamwork they display when completing these. From Fireworks Phonics to Father Christmas in the Finger Gym, we have had lots of fun incorporating seasonal events to excite and engage the children in their learning.

Squirrels have loved their English lessons this term, where they have been learning how to write instruction on how to make a jam sandwich. They have been using a range of time connectives, imperative verbs and learning why it is important for instructions to be written in a clear and sequenced way. A highlight of this topic was getting to make their own yummy jam sandwich, which they enjoyed eating with their friends at breaktime. Their final Gold Writes have blown us away, what fantastic writers they are!

In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction within 10. They have continued to work on their number bonds to 10, and have worked systematically to identify and record all the different number bonds. They have been identifying the parts and whole of numbers, using a range of different resources and activities, and recording these in part-whole models. They have been writing their own number sentences and have used "First, Now and Then" stories to link these number sentences to real life situations. The children have shown great enthusiasm and determination in our maths lessons, and it has been lovely to see their confidence grow as we have worked through this topic.

Squirrel class continue to love their daily reading for pleasure time, where they are currently listening to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Dr. Seuss. All the children are fully engaged and listen beautifully whilst the story is being read. They are fantastic at adding actions and sounds to go with the story when asked to, and this really brings the book to life. We loved our fortnightly library visit so much that it has been changed to weekly. So please ensure that your child has their library book in their bag every Tuesday if they wish to change it.

Mrs Evans, Mrs Chadwick and Mrs Walker have loved seeing the fantastic homework that the children have brought in this term to share with the class. We have also been impressed with the maths homework that the children have embraced completing every fortnight. Keep up the great work Year 1!

I think you will all agree that another highlight of this term has been *The Twinkly Nativity*. Our Super Squirrels worked extremely hard to learn the words and actions to go with their songs and they shone like stars throughout every performance.

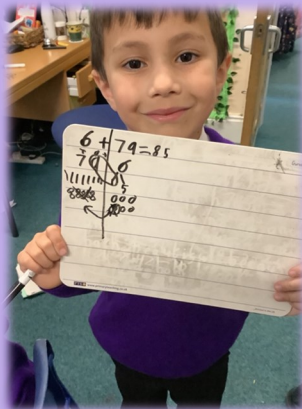
The Year 1 Team are very proud of our Super Squirrels and we hope they all have a fantastic Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year.



Fox Class



Wow! What a brilliant term we have had in Fox class. This term our Fantastic Foxes have really enjoyed continuing our topic 'Movers and Shakers' and learning lots about activists. We loved making our own placards and learning about Malala, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankurst, Ghandi and so many more! Foxes enjoyed acting out the scene of Rosa Parks on the bus. We loved taking our chairs outside to create a 'bus' and showed great maturity in discussing very grown-up topics. A real highlight this term has been learning our Christmas nativity 'The Twinkly Nativity'. As we are now in Year 2, we had the very important role of playing the main characters, learning all the songs, and narrating the show. Miss Holmes and Mrs Carter are SO incredibly proud of the hard work all the children have put into learning their lines and saying them with such confidence. Thank you to you all for your time, efforts, and support in this. It doesn't go unnoticed, and it is greatly appreciated! All your children truly shone on the stage, and we have got lots of natural performers in Fox class!



There is no denying that the children in Fox class LOVE reading. It has been a term full of all things reading and our daily reading lessons truly are a highlight for all. We have loved reading Marv and the Pool of Peril and there is a real buzz every morning when we are reading the next few pages and finding out what Marv has been up to!

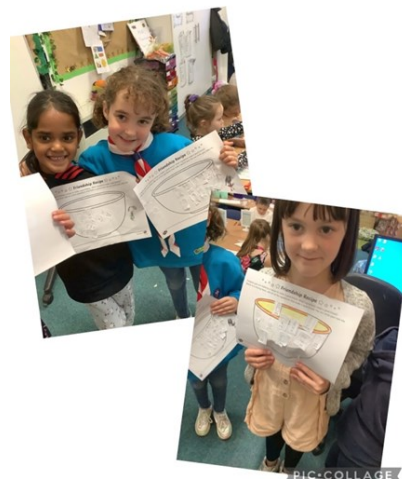
Foxes have enjoyed their wider curriculum lessons this term. In geography, we have learnt all about the equator, Northern and Southern hemispheres, the characteristics of the United Kingdom and compass directions. Foxes loved drawing their own compasses during outdoor learning and collecting data about the number of vehicles that pass our school. We love to take our learning outdoors! Foxes have enjoyed comparing the United Kingdom to Somalia and have created some incredible work in the lessons. In our science lessons we have been learning about habitats. Miss Holmes knew the Foxes would enjoy this as we have so many children passionate about animals, but she has been truly wowed by their knowledge! Lots of budding scientists in Fox class! In our art lessons we have shown amazing sketching skills through drawing still life objects.



In English, Foxes have really enjoyed reading 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. We enjoyed learning about using apostrophes for contractions, rhetorical questions and emotive language. We pretended to be another object of stationery in the classroom and wrote some very funny persuasive letters! To finish the term, we wrote brilliant Christmas-themed acrostic poems. Foxes continue to love maths and have show great perseverance when things have got tricky. We have worked so hard during our addition and subtraction topic and learning lots of new methods such as adding by making 10 and exchanging when adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. We have been LOVING our shape unit of work and have been really impressing everyone in school with our incredible shape knowledge!



Miss Holmes and Mrs Carter have been AMAZED every week with the standard of homework the children are bringing in for their show and tell. Our wow wall has been bursting at the seams with the brilliant work. Thank you for all your support in this. What a fun, busy and amazing term. Miss Holmes and Mrs Carter are so very proud of all the children in Fox class! We would like to wish our lovely families a wonderful and restful Christmas break filled with lots of memories. See you in 2024!



Hedgehog Class



Our hard-working Hedgehogs have spent this term learning about the different Ages and we have been focussing on the Bronze and Iron Age. We have been comparing the different ages and learning about their new discoveries and developing ways of life. The children have been so engaged, really inquisitive and wanting to learn more.

In Geography, we enjoyed learning about the different layers of the earth. We made 3D versions to put it into context and we learnt many facts about the different layers and their purpose. We have also looked at plate tectonics and used maps to identify different continents, countries and capital cities. Yet again, we were so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and love for learning.

In Maths, we have been learning how to use the column method to add and subtract with exchanging. This will also help us when we move on to other units, where we will need to put the methods into practice when attempting word problems. We have started our unit on multiplication and division and we have focussed on making equal groups and sharing.

Within our English unit Mrs Corp has been focussing on writing diary entries and Mrs Bird on persuasive writing. We have been improving our writing by using fronted adverbials, punctuating speech and making sure we are using the resources around to help spell the year three and four common exception words and apply them in our independent writing.

We have been extremely proud of the Hedgehogs with their class assembly and their Christmas performances. They have made us very proud and it has been a pleasure for them to show and share all of their great learning with you. We love to see their personalities and performance skills shine!

As always we love to take our lessons to the outdoors and are looking forward to taking advantage of what we have around us to bring our learning to life!

Have great Christmas break and bring on the next half term!



Badger Class



Well, what an awesome term Badgers have had! It has been absolutely jam-packed with lots of fantastic learning experiences and I couldn't be prouder with how the class have tackled each one. As always, we have made the most of our wonderful outdoor learning environment, so if you have not done already, please ensure that your child has wellies and a suitable coat in school. This means we can take full advantage of the field, even on the wettest of days.

During our English lessons, we have learnt how to write a Norse Myth and a set of instructions on how to train a dragon, which was linked to our class read. I was super impressed with all of their gold writes. I just wish I could find a dragon to train, to test them all out!

In Maths, we have been concentrating on multiplication and division. I can really see an improvement in our times table knowledge due to the hard work the children have put into TTRS. This in turn has made our Maths learning so much easier! I was so proud of the class, when we took part in the School Rocks competition! Badgers came 1701th out of 29,977 classes, which is an amazing feat!



Our Invasion topic, has really allowed us to immerse ourselves in the world of Vikings. We have learnt all about the first invasions on Lindisfarne and then how the Vikings came to settle in Britain. I can tell that the children have really enjoyed this topic, as the amount of homework they have completed is incredible, so thankyou for supporting this at home. We have also been looking at how the Vikings made clothes through weaving and have produced our own looms and woven masterpieces, in our Design and Technology lessons.



During Science, we have been learning about, and experimenting with, sound. We had lots of opportunities to take our learning outside to test how and how far sound travels. The children especially enjoyed the cup and string telephone!!

The children have also really enjoyed our topic in RE this term, where we have been exploring the Buddhist celebration of Kathina and what it means to be generous. I am hoping that the children have completed their pledges of generosity at home, by being generous with their time and love.

It just leaves me to wish you all the most wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year from myself and Mrs Nottage and we look forward to seeing the children in 2024, relaxed, refreshed and raring to go again!

Owl Class

What an exciting term it has been! The children have been very busy working with pneumatic systems in DT, which has proven to be a challenge that the children have really risen to.

We have also been investigating our local area using Ordnance Survey maps and Google Maps to understand about different transport links and settlements, and linking this back to our Ancient China learning.

We have been investigating the impact and effects of different colours in our learning about the Sikh festival of Holi. The children then created their own Holi characters that looked as if they have been involved in Holi!

The children have written wonderful rags to riches stories in English, following the life of a poor peasant farmer, who becomes a King or Queen. The children put so much effort into their planning and writing and I am so very proud of them!

We have some more outdoor learning planned for the next term, so please make sure your child has wellies in school that they can change into when needed. Well done Year 5! You all deserve an amazing Christmas.



Eagle Class

This term has been a brilliant one for Year 6. We are so proud of how hard the children have been working across all our lessons. We have completed our History lessons on our topic of Maafa; the children have had some fascinating discussions and debates about decisions people made in the past and how laws have changed the lives of people in Britain today. We have thoroughly enjoyed our class text, "*Journey to Jo'Burg*" as well as our Reading for Pleasure text, *Holes*. The children have got very annoyed with us when we have stopped reading at a cliffhanger and they are desperate to know what happens next! We have enjoyed completing some lessons outside, particularly our lesson role playing acts of rebellion - I wonder why the children enjoyed it so much?!

We have discovered that Eagles are fraction whizzes! They have worked exceptionally hard on improving and extending their fractions knowledge and we have seen their confidence grow so much in recent weeks. One of our students even taught Mr Bosworth a thing or two in tutoring one week!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in PE lessons this term as we have been studying Dance - we have covered jumps and leaps, the Haka, street dance, and showing contrasting relationships through group dances. The children have enjoyed performing to each other. There is something special about a group dancing to music together.

The children have been showing off their vocal abilities in our music lessons. They have especially been enjoying rehearsing for our Christmas performances in the church and have chosen the songs themselves! Our PSHE topic 'Celebrating Difference' has led to some excellent conversations about ourselves and others and has provided an opportunity for the children to debate ideas in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

We have also enjoyed spending time with our buddies this term including sitting with them on the trip to the pantomime; what a special treat for everyone.

We cannot believe that Christmas is here already and we wish you the most wonderful time with your families. See you in 2024!



Sunshine Club



Children in the Sunshine club have been having enormous fun this term with lots of activities in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

The children had a wonderful time decorating the school Christmas tree, and there was great excitement for the chocolate advent calendar. The children have enjoyed playing lots of games and mixing with children from different year groups.

As you will be aware, we are making some changes to our Wrap Around care provision from 1st January, please familiarise yourself with the new processes and terms and conditions.

The main changes are:

- Parents need to book their children into the session via Arbor prior to the session starting. The club will no longer be able to take children into the session that have not been booked. This is to ensure that the staff child ratio is correct and turning up at the session, we cannot guarantee their will be space available.
- In case of an emergency (and dependent on club numbers) a child may be able to attend the club at the discretion of the Principal.
- Sessions once booked cannot be refunded unless 48 hours' notice has been given to the School Office.
- There will now be a limit of 30 spaces per session.

The Sunshine club team would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

If you have any safeguarding concerns over the holiday, please contact Mr Bosworth on **07851 259332**.

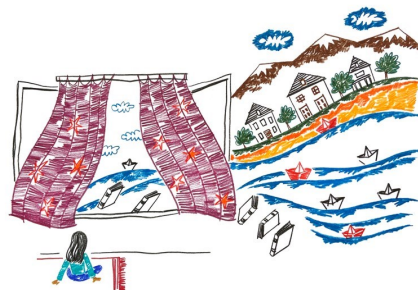
Alternatively, for other external safeguarding organisations, please [use this link](#) or contact;

- **MASH:** (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) – Telephone **0300 126 7000**
– select 'Option 1'
- **Designated officer**– Telephone 01604 362993
email: LADOConsultations@NCTrust.co.uk

Other information or support can be found here;

[Parenting and relationship support - Families and carers \(nctrust.co.uk\)](#)

[Hanni and the Magic Window | Childnet](#)



School Calendar 2023/2024

January

- 3rd – Training Day
- 4th – School opens to children
- 23rd – Explorer Dome visit to school for all year groups

February

- 1st - Year 5 and 6 residential—final payment is due
- 16th – School closes for half term
- 26th – School opens to children

March

- 7th – World Book Day Breakfast and activities
- 11th – 13th – Year 3 residential
- 15th – Year 2 sharing assembly – 3pm – year 2 parents/carers invited to watch
- 19th – 3:45pm onwards – Parent/Carer Evening 1
- 21st – 3:45pm onwards – Parent/Carer Evening 2
- 28th – Closes for Easter break

April

- 15th – School reopens to pupils
- 23rd April Year 5 swimming begins
- 26th – Mini Marathon event
- 26th— Year 1 sharing assembly – 3pm – parents/carers of year 1 invited to watch

May

- 6th – Bank holiday – school closed
- 10th - Year 4 Sharing Assembly – 3pm – year 4 parents/carers invited to watch
- 13th – Year 6 SATS week
- 19th – 22nd – Year 5 and 6 residential
- 24th – Family Fun Afternoon – 1:30pm – 3pm – all families invited
- 24th – School closes for half term

June

- 3rd – School reopens to pupils
- 3rd – Year 1 Phonics window opens
- 3rd – Year 4 Times table check window opens
- 21st – Year 5 sharing assembly – year 5 parents/carers invited to watch

School Calendar 2023/2024 (continued)

July

3rd and 4th July – Transition Days

10th – 9:30am – Sports Morning – parents/carers invited to watch

12th – End of year reports come out to parents

15th – 3:30pm – Parent Report Discussions

16th – Foundation Graduation – 2pm Foundation parents/carers invited to attend

19th – Year 6 end of year Assembly – 2:30pm – year 6 parents/carers invited to attend

19th – School closes for summer