

Newsletter Date
February 2024

Stanwick Primary Newsletter



We have had a great start to 2024 at with the children returning from their Christmas break full of enthusiasm and ready for the new term.

We would like to welcome two new members of staff to the team, Mrs Drage, Teaching Assistant who is working with Year 6 and Mrs Smith who is our new Administrator in the office.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to FoSS for their outstanding efforts in raising funds for our school. This year, they have supported with the cost of the pantomime, purchased the school Christmas tree and paid for the Explorer Dome visit – all of which has truly enhanced the educational experiences of our students and there are lots of other exciting opportunities planned in for the rest of the year too!

Furthermore, I wanted to inform you that FoSS are actively seeking additional volunteers to join their team. If you or any other parents are interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Friday reading sessions continue to be popular and it is lovely to see so many children, parents and carers enjoying this shared reading opportunity. Staying on the reading theme, don't forget our Book Swap store at the front of school, you may find some new reading material you would like.

The school clubs are thriving, the choir now has children from years 5 and 6 whose amazing voices are often heard during choir practice. Book club, running club and the lunchtime sports sessions are equally as popular generating lots of enthusiasm from all those taking part. The afterschool basketball, football and hockey sessions are lots of fun and currently fully subscribed, we are keeping a note of other children who are keen to sign up in case spaces become available.

The last week of term included the ProStrike event which encouraged lots of cheering on of friends and staff by all of the children. It was a really successful fun raiser with £1848.50 being generated for school funds. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful support.

The coming term will see Year 3 residential, this is already causing lots of excitement for those taking part, everyone else is really looking forward to hearing all about it too.

After Easter we are planning to move to Lunch Ordering process from WisePay to Arbor, we will keep you posted on the changes, in the meantime please continue to use WisePay. There are updated menus ready for you to book your meals for after the holidays, please remember to do this by Wednesday 21st February.

Thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated. We would like to wish you a happy and safe half term break and will look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 26th February.

Coming up Next Term

26th February

School opens to children and staff

1st March

Y1 and Y2 trip payment is due

6th March

Y3 Parent Evening for Children with Learning Plans

7th March

World Book Day Breakfast and activities

11th-13th March

Y3 Residential

13th March

Parent Evening for Children with Learning Plans (other than Y3)

15th March

Y2 Sharing Assembly
Red Nose Day

19th and 20th March

Ladybird Class Parent Evenings

19th and 21st March

Year 1 – 6 – Parent Evenings

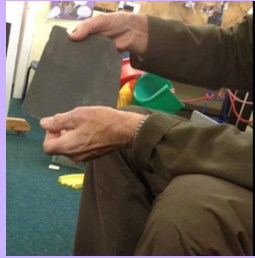
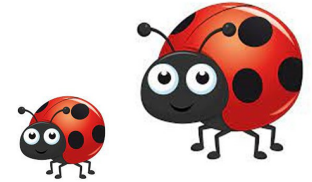
28th March

School closes

1st April

Ladybird and Y4 trip payments are due

Ladybird Class



The Ladybird Class has had a fantastic spring term! We have all learnt, shared and researched so many new things for our topic 'Long Ago' We kicked off our topic with lots of visitors sharing how we grow from being in mummy's tummy to being born, growing to a toddler, a child, an adult and then a grandparent. We loved looking at and sharing our own baby photos and seeing how much we have changed and grown over the last 5 years. We have had lots of visitors in Ladybird class to share their experiences of their past and what they remember. We have been able to learn all about toys, cars and games, from the past and it has been so interesting! A big thank you to everyone that came into visit us! We then used our new knowledge of the past to set up our very own class museum and have become museum tour guides for the visitors in our classroom. Thank you for all of your hard work at home too – we have loved sharing all of your interviews with relatives and the research that you have all been doing - it has made the learning really personal for the Ladybird class.

Our school value this term was 'Perseverance' and the Ladybird Class have this in abundance! We have persevered with so many activities and challenges such as completing a variety of tricky jigsaws, building shapes with marshmallows and spaghetti and persevering when climbing trees or building a river during our outdoor learning session – we have had to persevere as this takes a long time to dig out and have had to come back to it each week. One particular skill that takes a huge amount of perseverance is being able to put on your own coat and do up your own zip. We know this is such a tricky life skill and it has been lovely to watch the Ladybirds gain independence.

In phonics this term we have not only been learning new digraphs but we have also started learning our very first TRIGRAPHS! We have been reading lots of new words and even reading full sentences! The Ladybird Class have been working so hard at home and at school to develop their phonics knowledge and early reading/writing skills.

Ladybird's have blown us away with their deep understanding of maths. This term we have worked hard to understand the number 5 – what it looks like, matching correct amounts of objects, seeing 5 in different ways and we have started to recall the number bonds to 5 and explore what these look like in a variety of ways. One of our favourites was being 5 speckled frogs on a log and watching as each one jumped into the pool! We have also been learning all about weight, height and length. We have been learning and using our new mathematical vocabulary indoors and outdoors. We have been using a variety of different resources to measure weight- we became human scales and was able to feel what it's like for something heavy to be in one hand and something light to be in the other -we even made our scales balance. We took our new-found measuring skills outdoors too – we each took an elastic band outdoors with us to wrap around different natural objects – we noticed that the heavier objects made the elastic band stretch but the lighter ones didn't.

The Ladybird class have not been put off by the change in weather and wrapped up warm to explore the wintery weather and effects that this has on our environment. We have loved finding huge chunks of ice and dropping them from different heights to see how they shatter – we have been mixing the mud with the ice cubes to make our very own iced coffee shops too! We have really enjoyed our weekly outdoor learning sessions and welly walks.

We have loved experimenting with different materials to make different sculptures. We started using paper to sculpt papier mâché bowls. We learnt how to dip the paper in glue and how to mould it around the different shapes. We then moved onto sculpting our very own clay bowls.

Ladybird class celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Dragon and enjoyed a real treat from Tastebuds Chinese takeaway who very generously provided lots of delicious food and Chinese New Year. A huge thank you to them. Such a busy busy term!



Squirrel Class

It has been a great start to the Spring Term for our super Squirrels! They have been working hard and learning many new things. They are loving our topic of Bright Lights, Big City finding out about the City of London.

In Geography, the Squirrels have enjoyed looking at the different London landmarks and using Google Earth to work out where London and Stanwick are located within the UK. We also loved seeing all the fantastic topic homework which has been coming in with the children to share with the class during Show and Tell on a Wednesday afternoon!

In Science, we have been learning about seasonal changes and how things change over time. We found out the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees and learned how an apple tree changes during each season. We are looking forward to finding out lots more as we continue our learning next term!

In Maths, we have been securing our knowledge of place value in numbers to 20 and have enjoyed exploring lots of practical resources to do this. There are some great mathematicians within our Squirrels!

The children have been working hard in English to remember their capital letters and full stops and have also begun to look at where to use question marks and exclamation marks as part of their writing. This term has seen us begin to spend more time working as a whole class, in preparation for when the children move up through the school.



Mrs Pearson and Mrs Robinson have loved getting to know our fantastic class this term. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Evans after her adventures in another



Fox Class



Foxes have had an incredible term! They have shown increasing independence and really embraced this term's value 'perseverance'. We are all so proud of them! We have loved exploring our value of the term in our PSHE and outdoor learning lessons. Foxes loved persevering to create natural weaving out of twigs, leaves and string. A real

highlight this term was the 'Explorer Dome' visit! Foxes applied their knowledge of habitats from last term's science as we entered the 'Environment Dome' which was truly incredible! Our geography topic 'Coastline' has been a real success and the children have adored learning all about the coast. Foxes have loved learning about the features of the coast such as arches, bays and seawalls. One of our favourite geography lessons this term was showing the impact of erosion in our outdoor learning lessons. We used sand, stones, twigs and water to show how the sea and waves erode cliffs over time. We have also loved learning about Saltwick Nab, the RNLI and how to stay safe at the coast. A huge thank you to you all for your support in helping your children produce AMAZING homework. We have been blown away by the standard of homework and the confidence and knowledge your children have shown when presenting their work. Well done Foxes and families!

The children in Fox class have continued to show a real love of all things reading this term. We have loved reading 'The Hodgeheg' and the children have learnt lots of new vocabulary in this text. A real highlight of our days has been reading Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' after lunch. Foxes desperately want us to keep reading the next chapter once we have finished and it is so lovely to see their excitement!

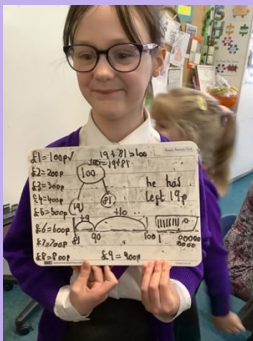
Foxes have enjoyed their wider curriculum lessons this term. As I have previously mentioned, geography has been a real hit this term and I have been amazed at the knowledge the children have acquired. They have loved learning and human and physical features of the coast – particularly Whitby Bay! Foxes loved taking their learning outside and creating and drawing their own maps of our outside area. They used their knowledge of compass points to guide their friends around using their maps. In our science lessons, Foxes have been learning all about the uses of materials. We have learnt to name objects, their properties and their uses. Foxes have loved the number of experiments we have taken part in such as bending, twisting, stretching and squashing a range of materials, testing paper and generating and testing scientific questions regarding shopping bags. In our art lessons Foxes have enjoyed using a range of materials in our unit 'Flower Head'. We have explored shape, form and texture and created some incredible pieces of artwork!

In English, Foxes have written brilliant coastal setting descriptions. We have learnt to use commas in a list and expanded noun phrases to make our writing even more exciting! Foxes have worked hard to remember the differences between nouns and adjectives this term and we are so proud. Foxes have also learnt about the story of Grace Darling and used this to inspire their own adventure sea narratives. We have lots of budding authors in Year 2! Spellings have been a real focus this term and Foxes have truly embraced our value 'perseverance' and have been working so hard. Keep it up Year 2!

Foxes continue to love maths and a real highlight of this term has been starting to learn our 10 times table. There is a real buzz in the classroom after lunch when it is times table time and the children have really embraced this! We have also worked hard on learning all about money and multiplication and division including using arrays, multiplying by 2, 5 and 10 and dividing by 2, 5 and 10. We have used our knowledge of doubling and halving and odd and even numbers to help us with this.

What brilliant term! Miss Holmes and Mrs Carter are so very proud of all the children in Fox class! We cannot believe that we are halfway through the year already! Thank you for all your support in helping your child with their learning, it means a lot to us.

A special mention to Mrs O'Keefe who has been working in Fox class this term. The children have loved learning from Mrs O'Keefe and will miss her and her amazing teaching lots next term! Thank you so much Mrs O'Keefe for the memories! Miss Holmes and Mrs Carter are very proud of our Fantastic Foxes and hope that all our families have a restful half term break.



Hedgehog Class



Year 3 have made a great start to 2024. Our topic this term is rocks, relics and rumbles. We have learnt so much about the layers of the earth and the features of a volcano. We have been really impressed with the children's thirst for knowledge and wanting to find out more through independent research!

The class have enjoyed reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' in their Guided Reading sessions which has linked well with our Topic work. They have worked on a variety of skills including exploring a range of vocabulary, inferring information, making predictions and summarising parts of the text.

In English, the children have produced some very imaginative adventure stories and have loved publishing and sharing them. We are now focussing 2 lessons a week on spelling and grammar. It's been great to see the children's learning is supported at home by completing the Ed Shed assignments set each week. In our grammar lessons, we have been cementing our understanding of word classes – nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. We have enjoyed getting outside to find and demonstrate these.

Moving on to length and perimeter in Maths, we have had some great opportunities for practical learning, with the children measuring various objects in and out of the classroom using metres, centimetres and millimetres.



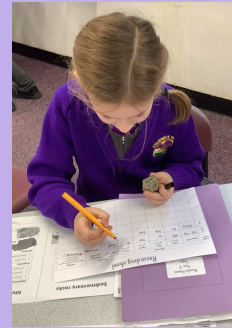
In PSHE, we have been thinking about how we can achieve our own dreams and goals. The children created their own challenges and thought about the steps they needed to take to succeed. At the end of the term, it was great to assess how well we did and how this achievement made us feel.

In computing Hedgehogs have loved creating algorithms for their sprites. We have focussed on creating loops and jumping games. Perseverance has been shown throughout as sometimes we needed to go back and check our algorithms are correct! In PE, the children have thoroughly enjoyed tag rugby and Boccia which has also given us some opportunities to practice our Maths skills, measuring distances from the jack to calculate the score.

In Outdoor learning we have enjoyed practicing our spellings using chalk, creating a volcano using natural resources and making our own rock pets! Many of the children have remembered to bring their wellies in weekly if they are not kept at school so that we are able to access the field when working outdoors – great job!

Mrs Corp and Mrs Bird have been very impressed with the pieces of homework which have come in to school including some impressive research about different types of volcanoes and some wonderfully creative models. We have loved watching videos of some of our Hedgehogs who have exploded their own volcanoes at home. We have even enjoyed a demonstration of a seismograph created to measure an earthquake in our class!

Mrs Corp and Mrs Bird are incredibly proud of our year 3 Hedgehogs and how hard they have worked. We are looking forward to continuing this into the next exciting term which lies ahead.



Badger Class



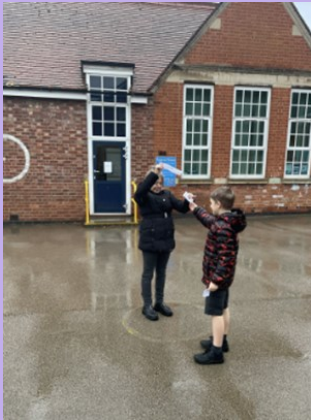
Spring has definitely sprung into action for the Badgers this term. We have had so many exciting opportunities for learning and I love the fact that so many of the children have taken this learning further, by producing such a fantastic range of homework; from maps to paintings, from booklets to PowerPoints. It has been a pleasure listening to them presenting them to the class for 'Show and Tell', so a huge thank you for supporting this consolidation of their learning at home.

During this term, we have again taken full advantage of our wonderful surroundings, and have taken our learning either out onto the field or playground, even in the pouring rain. We have been landscape artists, particles in solid, gas and liquids and used our detective skills to identify different word classes, to name but a few. We will continue to take advantage of our outdoor space, so please ensure that your child has suitable footwear and clothing in school at all times.

The children seem to have really thrown themselves into our 'Misty Mountain and Winding River' topic, and have really enjoyed reading our 'Horrible Geography – Raging Rivers' book. They especially enjoyed getting maps out and learning how to read the contour lines to understand which were the highest peaks, or where a river started and ended. We were also incredibly lucky to have been able to have a visitor in, who was a real-life explorer, to share their pictures and stories of some of the exciting rivers and mountains that they had crossed or scaled. I was very impressed with how many incredible questions they had for them, demonstrating that they had really taken on board what we have been learning.



During English lessons, the children have impressed me with their persuasive texts, on why walking in the mountains is good for you and their character descriptions of a mountaineer. As a class, we are really focusing on handwriting, spellings and basic grammar during our English lessons. If you are able to support this during any written homework that your child is doing, this would be hugely appreciated. Edshed is a great online tool for helping them to practise their weekly spellings. It is important that they do this, as they will be tested on a random selection of these, at the end of each half term.



During Maths, we have covered Multiplication and Division, Perimeter and Fractions. All of these have relied upon the children's secure knowledge of their times tables. I am so proud of how the class have been doing with TTRS - I can really see an improvement in the children's quick recall of them. I am pleased to say that for the NSPCC Number Day TTRS competition this term, out of 22,268 classes, Badgers placed 3994th, which is an amazing feat, considering some of the schools entered were secondary schools.

I would also like to say a massive thankyou to Isher's family for helping us to end our Sikhism topic for RE, on a huge high. It was amazing for the children to be able to experience and share first-hand what it is like to live as a Sikh. If you feel that you are able to add any real-life experiences or knowledge to any of the wonderful upcoming topics that we will be covering, then please do let me know. It creates many wonderful memories for the children to take forward in their learning.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful half term and look forward to seeing all of the children return with the same enthusiasm and zest for learning that I have seen this term. Things have really started to click for the children and their hard work is really starting to pay off. Keep it up Badgers!

Owl Class



In year 5 we have been learning all about Growing. We have focused on the importance of farmers, here and abroad, as well as the impact of importing and exporting food. The children have written amazing non-chronological reports about allotments and have also written diary entries as farmers, using lots of topic specific language they have learnt over the term.

The children have also been working on their ICT skills, using the chrome books to research seasonal vegetables and how these can be used to make delicious soups. They have also used the chrome books to investigate light and shadow in their Art lessons. This involved taking pictures in nature and converting the pictures to black and white, to focus on the shapes and tones of their subjects.

We have also been growing onions from seed in our classroom, and soon these will be planted in the community gardens at the Pocket Park.

In Maths, year 5 have been working really hard on their understanding of fractions; adding, subtracting, multiplying and converting these to decimals, using tenths, hundredths and thousandths.

We have really enjoyed our busy term and look forward to continuing our learning together.

Well done Year 5!

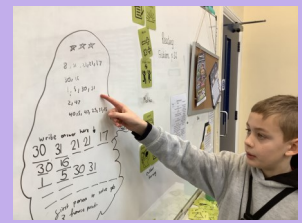


Eagle Class



The start of the Spring term has been fantastic in Year 6! We have all enjoyed getting stuck in with our new topic 'Frozen Kingdoms,' which has included learning about the successes and potential failures of different explorers. We enjoyed our wow day at the beginning of the term, which included an iceberg experiment, investigating the effect of sea salt on fresh water ice. We additionally created animal classification diagrams in outdoor learning. At the start of term, we were fortunate to welcome two artists from Fermyn Woods, who have been recently awarded funding from Northampton Community Fund to on a project exploring the themes of Climate Change. The artist workshops supported our class to create artwork and animations that will inform a Climate Change toolkit, which will be launched at a number of family celebration events in Spring 2024 at Irchester Country Park and Oundle.

The children absolutely loved creating stop-motion animation and lots of them downloaded the app at home to create some more! Outdoor learning was also used in our Maths lessons, when we used resources we could find outside to create our own algebraic expressions. In PSHE, we have been looking at our dreams and goals - not only for ourselves but for the World around us. We have had some amazing in-depth discussions about how we can help improve the lives of others. The class have been coming up with some great ideas for supporting local charities. Watch this space! Art lessons have been a favourite with the class this term, as we researched Inuit soapstone sculpture and the children each created their own sculpture of a polar animal using a block of soap. They have made some great pieces! This term has also seen the start of our involvement in The Whole Child Project, in which some of the class were part of a whole-day workshop writing the script for our section of the performance. We are looking forward to all the other opportunities which will come our way as part of this, including song writing! Year 6 have been excellent helpers with the Ladybirds and some members of the class have gone out of their way to support their buddies' love of reading; what brilliant children we have in our class!



Sunrise and Sunset Clubs



Sunshine club have had a very busy start to the new year, alongside our usual activities we have been creating super group art pieces, with everyone getting their chance to add to the huge pictures. After school club made their own mini pizzas for snack, they were very popular, so we hope to try some other food activities very soon.

Please remember to book your place on Arbor in plenty of time, we are now regularly meeting our number limits especially for the morning sessions. Finally... if anyone is looking to re-home a car playmat/carpet or a toy kitchen, please could you consider donating it to club, they would be very gratefully received.



We very much enjoyed celebrating Number Day across the school on Friday 2nd February. We loved seeing children across the school in their costumes, raising the profile of Maths and numbers in the wider world. Classes engaged in a variety of Maths related activities, including designing and playing their own maths games, using natural resources to measure and compare measurements of objects found outside, solving maths mysteries and buddying up to support the maths learning of younger children in the school. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your support with this event.

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

February

16th – School closes for half term

26th – School opens to children

March

6th – Parent Evening for Y3 Children with Learning Plans

7th – World Book Day Breakfast and activities

11th – 13th – Year 3 residential

13th – Parent Evening for Children with Learning Plans (other than Y3)

15th – Red Nose Day

15th – Year 2 sharing assembly – 3pm, Year 2 parents/carers invited to watch

19th and 20th 3:45pm onwards – Ladybirds Parent/Carer Evenings

19th and 21st – 3:45pm onwards – Y1-Y6 Parent/Carer Evenings

28th – Closes for Easter break

April

15th – School reopens to pupils

18th – FoSS School Disco

23rd - Year 5 swimming begins

26th – Mini Marathon event

26th – Year 1 sharing assembly – 3pm, Year 1 parents/carers invited to watch

May

6th – Bank holiday – school closed

10th – Year 4 Bikeability

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

22nd – Foundation class school trip

School Calendar 2023/2024 continued

June

3rd – School reopens to pupils

3rd – Year 1 Phonics window opens

3rd – Year 4 Times table check window opens

5th – Year 1 and Year 2 school trip

5th – Class photographs

10th – 13th – Year 6 Bikeability

21st – Year 5 sharing assembly – 3pm, Year 5 parents/carers invited to watch

25th Year 4 school trip

July

3rd and 4th July – Transition Days

8th – 9th – Year 6 Whole Child Project

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

17th – 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

