



NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

Motivate Educate Nurture



Wear a SCARF to school day

What does your scarf say about you? SCARF values (safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship) are a way of life at Stanton, and they help keep us mentally healthy.

This week has seen the Stanton community participate in **Children's Mental Health Week**. The theme this year was 'Let's Connect'. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. For more details you can visit: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

At Stanton there are lots of opportunities to develop meaningful and rewarding connections – you could be a buddy to a younger child, join a club, represent your peers on school council, participate in a team sport, or volunteer to help in the community. One of my favourite times of the week is when the whole school come together to sing songs – this week the children learnt Let's go Fly a Kite and they certainly sung it with gusto!

It was a joy to welcome some special visitors including teachers from other schools to take part in a Maths Open Morning. As a Maths No Problem accredited school, we support other schools to teach mixed age classes. We were very proud to of how the children spoke to the visitors with confidence and passion about their maths learning at Stanton.

This term also sees the launch of our new project to develop our on-site Forest School. We are all very excited and we hope you will join in the Match box Challenge and other events next term.

Finally, please make sure you read all about our exciting World Book Day plans including decorating a hat, as this could be a fun thing to do over half term.

Thank you for all your support this term and we wish you all a lovely half term break.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Matthews

Head of School

Safer Internet Day

The children took part in a range of activities and showed excellent awareness of many of the issues surrounding internet safety during our Internet safety Day on 7th February. Joining many schools and other organisations in raising understanding of who to talk to should they encounter things that worry them while online.



After a whole school assembly, children in Amazon and Rhine audited their current understanding with a number of online surveys. The results of these surveys will now

populate our planning and delivery of Internet safety lessons across the school year. Children in every class took part in several fun games and discussions. Here are some of the children in Darling playing a game about internet safety.



House Captain Update

This term the House Captains have been busy planning pancake races for the first week back and an Easter competition – look out for details after half term!

Points for Term 2 - Well done Birch!

Ash – 234

Birch – 244

Oak – 212

Sporting Update



It has been a busy term with children from both Rhine and Amazon attending multi-skills sports events; the students enthusiastically received these events. Many thanks to the parent volunteers who enabled us to attend the sporting trips at Hardenhuish and the Chippenham sports dome. Amazon class recently worked with Wiltshire cricket to develop some key coordination skills for cricket, which will stand them in good stead for later in the year as we have been chosen to participate in a 'Chance to Shine' cricket programme. We will continue to work with Wiltshire cricket across the school to develop student enjoyment and excellence of this sport.

Well done to the four Rhine students who took part in the Chippenham schools dance festival on the 6th Feb. I heard they delivered a very polished performance!

Finally, a group of Rhine students have been working on their netball skills in after school club with Ms Hyde in preparation for a schools netball tournament on 3rd March. I was impressed with their positional play and how well organised they have become in just a few weeks.

Mr Carter – Sports Lead



World Religions Day

We began with a whole school assembly to think a little about what religion is and why it is important to learn about different religions. This was then followed by lots of activities. Mr Priest came in to make traditional Easter biscuits. He told us about the link between using cassia oil and the embalming of Jesus Christ. Later, we learned how Buddhists create amazing sand mandalas that represent the universe, and we had a go at making our own nature mandalas. We listened to the story 'Bracelets for Bina's Brothers' by Rajani LaRocca and made bracelets similar to ones that Hindus give each other during the festival of Rakhi to show others that you will look after them. After learning a little about the traditions of Hanukkah, we made our own dreidels and enjoyed playing the game together. Finally, we had a visit from Mrs Gleed who did a Baptism Godly play. We learned that in Christianity, when people are baptised, they are welcomed into the church and begin their journey with God. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such an engaging and memorable learning experience.



Forest School

Forest School News

Despite the cold, wind and rain, we have still managed to get out and enjoy our time at Forest School. Here is a little of what we have been up to this half term...

What can we find in the Winter



Ice inspired nature mandalas



Creating our own snowy owl and making a nest for them



Building tent shelters

Learning to assess and take risks



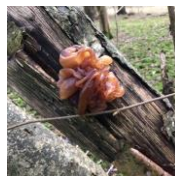
Building tipis



Digging for dinosaur bones



Noticing new and interesting things growing in our environment



Eco Council



After the success of Switch off Fortnight, the Eco Council are eager to get the school involved in more Eco Campaigns.

This week the Eco Council delivered an assembly to the school to launch the Nature in a Box challenge, aimed to get everyone exploring nature over the half term as well as raising money for our new Forest School.

The 6th-12th March is Waste Week 2023, aimed to educate young people about the importance 're-use' plays in protecting the environment. The Eco Council are very keen to get involved in this campaign, to encourage

everyone to give and find new homes for unwanted things, rather than throw them out or buying something new. So, please put aside any unwanted toys ready for a 'Toy Swap' next term.



Hi everyone,

We hope your children all enjoyed 'Break the Rules' day today - we've heard so much excited chattering in the playground all week about it, which was so lovely in the run up to the day. Our main fundraiser

this term is the Nature in a Box Challenge – see email.

Your child should now have brought home their matchbox for this sponsored challenge over the February holiday and we've set up a Just Giving page to collect the sponsorship money. We hope you enjoy some family nature walks together, hunting for tiny treasures wherever you might be over half term!

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stantonforestschoo>

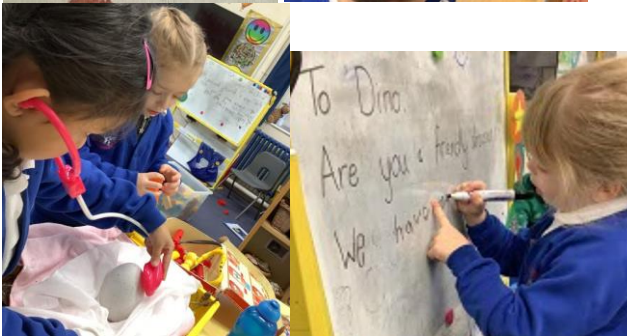
Our next event is a pop-up Story Sweet Shop at the end of World Book Day on 28th Feb, so have a great holiday and we'll see you then!

Best wishes, Yvonne and FOSS

Darling Class Update

We have had an exciting term exploring Dinosaurs. The children's imaginations have demonstrated immense creativity creating wonderful opportunities for learning through their play and explorations. It would be impossible to cover everything we have done this term in one newsletter, so here are a few highlights.

Dinosaur Break in - We opened the door to our classroom one morning and to our amazement, a dinosaur had not only broken in and left muddy footprints and caused a mess, but had also left us their egg and a note asking if we could look after it...



Becoming Palaeontologists – after receiving an exciting email from a village resident, whose dog had escaped into the school playground and dug up bones, we got to work and investigated for ourselves ...



Dinosaur Reading – Our love of dinosaurs and reading were a match made in heaven...



Amazon Class Update

If You Were an Engineer, What Would You Do?

What a fun-filled, exciting and inspiring term we have had! This term, Amazon Class have transformed into mini-engineers, learning about the many roles engineers play in our past and current world and the processes that they follow in order to design, invent, build, test and improve.

We started our topic by exploring what we thought an engineer was and what they did. The children had a whole array of interesting ideas about engineers, from people who shovel snow to people who look after animals! As a result of the many learning



opportunities we have experienced this term, we are confident that the children now understand the important role of an engineer!

Taking a step back in time, we explored some of the very first inventions, looking at photographs of the first telephone, stone wheel and bicycle. Moving back to the current time, we worked together to make wind turbines, having a go at designing, building, testing and lots of problem solving along the way! We then explored how we could try our hand at inventing to, by entering the Primary Engineering Competition.

We were so excited to get started by identifying a problem and

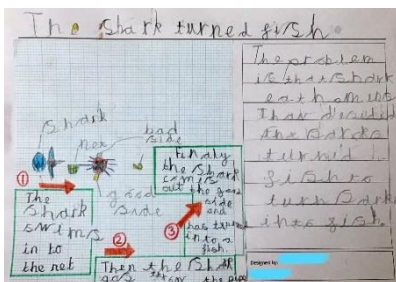
then inventing something to solve this problem. We were blown away by the children's kind, empathetic and ingenious ideas- engineers in the making! Now that we have completed our designs, we welcome you to explore our engineering gallery which shall be open in the school hall on Monday 20th February between 3 and 3:30pm. If you cannot make this time with your child, our gallery shall also be displayed when you attend Parents' Evening in the first week after half term. Our competition entries shall be sent off following this and we shall await the results around May time!

Our topic was greatly enriched by our class trip to Cameron Balloons, to learn all about the different roles engineers have in creating hot air balloons. We had the best day, clambering into balloon baskets, exploring the inside of a partially inflated balloon envelope, testing a



burner and finally building our very own hot air balloons to test the theory that when heat is added to a balloon it rises. We are all greatly inspired to become engineers too! Following our trip, we used our DT skills to begin making our very own Paper Mache hot air balloons which we hope to finish after half term.

Linked to our topic this term, we have been exploring two wonderful books- The Story Machine by Tom McLaughlin and Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty (a SSQ Reading Spine book). We have thoroughly enjoyed these wonderful books and have used our learning to write our own



innovated engineering stories.

In science we have been learning about the human body and being us! We enjoyed using our senses to explore a vast array of fruits and vegetables and arranging them into groups using our different senses. In maths we have been using our practical mathematical skills to measure height and length, using our learning to solve mathematical problems. We couldn't be prouder of Amazon Class's achievements this term and can't wait to share our learning with you at Parents' Evening.

Please visit our blog to find out more about the exciting things we have been learning about during the term:
[Amazon Class Blog.](#)

Rhine Class Update

Rhine's topic of the term has been **Invaders and Settlers**. This included an immersive day out at Wiltshire Museum. They examined artefacts and evidence to discover what life was like in Anglo Saxon times. This included dressing up and handling some rather large and heavy weapons. One of the highlights was visiting the new Anglo Saxon gallery.



To support this work our class text has been reading Michael Morpurgo's reworking of the old English poem Beowulf. The children have studied the various techniques used in the retelling and tried to use them to write their own sequel to Beowulf in a legendary style.

In Science we have continued to learn about materials and their properties finding out which materials are good insulators and conductors, which materials are soluble and insoluble and looked at how to separate mixtures through processes like sieving and evaporation. We also explored which changes to materials could be reversible or irreversible.

In RE children have been finding out what a sacred text is and learning about the sacred texts relating to each major religion. They have created their own Powerpoint with a partner to teach the rest of the class about a sacred text. In Computing, the children have been learning how to code simple games using Scratch and have all encountered success and begun to store their finished projects in their own school scratch account, which they can also log in to, and use at home.

PE sessions this term have been sensibly based inside and we have been working on gymnastic skills and also spent some time using the apparatus which got the children very excited.



For our DT project this term we have been looking at designing and making our own juggling ball. Mr Ed Shire the chair of governors who enjoys juggling and learning circus skills in his spare time kindly supported us with this. He came in to demonstrate some juggling and the children were spellbound by his skills.



In French, we read Le Petit Chaperon Rouge and learnt Head, shoulders, knees and toes. This was great fun!

Please visit our blog to find out more about the exciting things we have been learning about during the term

Dates for next term

Date	Class	Activity/Event	Notes
Half term holiday	All	FOSS 'Nature in a Box Challenge'	See the email from FOSS for all the details. Please use this link to collect your sponsorship money: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stantonforestschool
Mon 20 th Feb	Term 4 Begins		
Mon 20 th Feb	Rhine	Lacrosse Club	3pm-4pm
Tues 21 st Feb	All	Nature in a Box Challenge'	Please bring in and hand to your class teacher.
Tues 21st Feb	All	Parents Evening	If you cannot make the appointment, please do let us know
Wed 22 nd Feb	Rhine	Football Club	3pm-4pm
Thurs 23 rd Feb	Rhine	Netball	3pm-4pm
Thurs 23 rd Feb	Amazon	Gymnastics Club	3pm-4pm
Thurs 23rd Feb	All	Parents Evening	If you cannot make the appointment, please do let us know
Thurs 23 rd Feb	Rhine	Netball Club	3pm-4pm
Tuesday 28 th Feb	All	World Book Day	See email for details
Tuesday 28 th Feb	All	FOSS Fundraiser Sweet Shop	From 3pm
Tuesday 28 th Feb	Rhine	Stay & Read	Postponed – new date to follow
Wed 1 st March	All	Trip to Story Museum	See email already sent
Thurs 2 nd March	All	Book signing by Sophie Cleverly	In the library after school from 3pm
Thurs 2 nd March	FOSS fundraiser - Rags to Riches Please leave bags in the playground on the morning or drop into school before this date		
Friday 3 rd March	Y5&6	Netball tournament	More details to follow
Mon 6 th March	Amazon	Stay and Read	More details to follow
Thurs 9 th March	Year 5	Taster Day at Hardenhuish	More details to follow
Tues 14 th March	Darling	Stay and Read	More details to follow
Tues 16 th March	Choir & piano	Performance to parents who are in choir or are learning to play the piano – 2pm – more details to follow	
Tues 21 st March	All	Church Service at St Giles - pm	More details to follow
Mon 27 th March	Year 6	Bikeability	Please see email for details
Mon 27 th March	Year 5	Cricket tournament	More details to follow
Wed 29 th March	Year 5	Taster Day at Sheldon	More details to follow
Friday 31 st March	All	Easter Egg Hunt	More details to follow
	END OF TERM 4- Children can be collected at 2pm		
Monday 17 th April	TERM 5 STARTS		