



# NEWSLETTER

## Issue 11

Motivate Educate Nurture



It's been an incredibly busy 2024 so far! There has been plenty happening both inside and outside of school as this newsletter celebrates. A real highlight for the school has been our Young Voices choir performing at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham in front of thousands of people. What an incredible example of our school ethos this is.

This term we have had a focus on learning about how to keep safe with visits from St Johns Ambulance and special workshops from Wiltshire Council teaching the children to become safe independent road users. This week has also seen lots of activities in which we can have positive mental health.

I was also privileged to watch some of our netballers play their last league match of the season, at Devizes. It was an enthralling match, so much that I forgot to take any photographs. The children have developed so much as a team and a huge thank you to Miss Hyde for coaching them and organising all the matches.

Finally, please make sure you look out for next term's class newsletter before we return to school with all the information on next 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

Next term's value



## Keeping Children Safe

### Safer Internet Day

This week as part of Internet Safety Day, the children thought about how we can work "Together for a better internet". The whole school had an assembly and discussed some of the ways using the internet has changed in the last few years and what they like to do on the internet. We also discussed some of the dangers and how we can keep ourselves safer as well as who we can turn to if we need help. All classes took part in some activities in their classrooms ranging from how the internet can be used to influence us to how we can stay safe when watching videos or playing online games.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonline-safety.com](https://nationalonline-safety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PERSUASIVE DESIGN ONLINE

'Persuasive design' refers to the techniques that companies employ to influence our thoughts and behaviours when we're on the internet. These approaches can be spotted on websites, in apps and even as part of some video games. Persuasive design means that this content has been deliberately presented in a way that's intended to encourage you to spend your time or money (or both). These methods often prove highly effective at keeping people engaged and invested for longer than we might expect.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### POTENTIAL ADDICTION

In the digital world, persuasive design can make certain activities more addictive and harder to walk away from: some people may begin to feel anxious or irritated without access to their device or their favourite app, for example. It can also often leave users feeling isolated, as - if they spend most of their time on social media - they may start to find it difficult to talk to other people in real life.

#### MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Scrolling online or gaming without regular breaks is proven to be harmful to our mental health. The constant bombardment of news stories (many of them negative), images and influencers' posts can create sensations of unease, uncertainty and FOMO (fear of missing out). Young people can get so immersed in this environment that they become less likely to spot misleading posts.

#### PROLONGED SCROLLING

Social media can draw any of us - regardless of age - into a continuous pattern of refreshing our screen, following posts and links down rabbit holes or reading countless comments made by others. This aimless scrolling can eat up time which could have been spent on more productive activities. It could also lead younger users into areas of the online world which aren't age appropriate.

#### SENSORY OVERLOAD

Repetitively scrolling, clicking on links or playing games can create an unending stream of new information and visual stimuli. Put it this way: social media isn't exactly renowned as a carefree, chilled-out environment. Such overstimulation can become too much for young people to handle, resulting in sensory overload and causing them to feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted.

#### COSTLY ADDITIONS

Video games sometimes display offers for downloadable content or loot boxes which can be bought with real money. While these 'microtransactions' temptingly promise to improve a player's gaming experience, most of the time they are money sinks. Young people in particular, excited by the chance of enhancing their game, could spend quite a sizeable sum very quickly indeed.

#### PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

Hours spent sitting and scrolling means far less time moving around and getting exercise: hardly ideal for a young person's physical health. Additionally, prolonged exposure to the light given off by a phone's screen can lead to eye fatigue and discomfort, especially if viewing it in the dark. Extended phone use before bed can also impact on sleep quality, affecting mood and energy levels over the following days.

## KEEP SCROLLING

## WANT TO WIN

## 27 new posts

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ESTABLISH LIMITS

Talk to your child about setting some time limits on how long they can use their phone, tablet or console in the evenings or at weekends - or perhaps how often they can go on a specific app, game or website. You could also decide to involve the whole family in creating this shared screen time agreement, making things fair (and healthier) for everyone.

### ENCOURAGE MINDFULNESS

Acknowledging any addiction is key in overcoming it - and compulsive scrolling is no different. If anything mentioned in this guide sounds familiar, it could help to have an honest, open chat with your child about how much time they spend online. Get them to think about how often they scroll through social media aimlessly or habitually open it up whenever they have a spare moment.

### NIX NOTIFICATIONS

Stop knee-jerk responses at the source by turning off push notifications and alerts. Whether it's a gaming notification or a social media update, these not-so-gentle reminders are designed to catch our attention and lure us back to our device. Switching them off - or even deleting any particularly intrusive apps - can help prevent your child from being reeled back into the online world.

### MAKE A CHECKLIST

Considering a list of relevant questions can be an effective way of helping children figure out why they're scrolling on certain sites or consuming particular pieces of content. A checklist can prompt young people to ask themselves if they're learning anything or benefiting from this activity - or if they're wasting their time. Taking a step back can sometimes help us to see things more clearly.

### Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.

**The National College**

**NOS National Online Safety**  
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## St John's Ambulance Visit

We were visited by a team of St John's Ambulance responders, to learn all about the important and lifesaving work that they do every single day.

Each class took part in a workshop, learning how to put each other into the recovery position and what to do in the case of an emergency.

We were curious to explore the inside of an ambulance and learn about the crucial equipment on board and how it may be used.

The children asked lots of important questions and have acquired skills they may need to use in the future.



## Children's Mental Health Week

This week has seen the Stanton community participate in a range of activities as part of Children's Mental Health Week. Thank you to everyone for the donations towards local charity Wiltshire Mind – if you have not donated yet it's not too late, please do so on School Money.

Congratulations to all the children that took part today in Stanton's Got Talent! It was wonderful to see all your impressive talents and witness such confidence and **courage**. Well done making your voices heard and celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. Deciding who should win was a big challenge for the judges, however, after much deliberation, the Golden Onions went to Patrick, for solving three Rubix cubes, Imogen, for singing beautifully and Rosalie for a very expressive monologue from Matilda!



## House Points

This term the House Captains have helped to organise Children's Mental Health Week. Next term they are planning pancake races for the first week back and an Easter competition – look out for details after half term!

HOUSE	ASH	BIRCH	OAK
TERM 3	225	257	240
OVERALL	945	965	1001



Hi everyone,

*Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets for our Dyson V15 raffle and congratulations to the lucky winner drawn by Mrs Matthews - ticket 163! We raised £366 from the raffle which is fantastic. And our secondhand uniform and cake sale also raised just over £100 - thanks to everyone who donated cakes and uniform, and also those who came along to buy. We are hoping to have the uniform sales once a term now that we have two volunteers looking after it all - Lisa and Roz did a great job of making a 'uniform shop' in the library. They will be collecting uniform throughout the year so please do donate items when your child has finished with them. All money raised by FOSS goes towards projects at Stanton school and every little bit adds up to cover essential costs. Next term, we are looking forward to organising the FOSS Easter Egg hunt and a popular non-uniform day is coming up, so look out for further announcements!*

*Have a great half term everyone.*

*Many thanks, FOSS*



## Sporting Update

In Darling, Reception have been doing a gymnastic unit in PE focusing on bouncing, jumping and landing. They have shown that they can jump in different ways, demonstrated good control when taking off and landing and used the floor imaginatively to work independently and with a partner. They have especially enjoyed using the apparatus to travel and put together sequences of movements.



PE lessons have largely been inside this term with Amazon learning Dance with our specialist dance teacher, Miss Amy.



Amazon have also worked with Miss Hyde on a unit called personal challenge which is focused on agility, core strength, fitness and fun.



Miss Amy has also been helping 10 of Rhine class prepare for the annual schools dance festival held at The Neeld hall in Chippenham recently. The group represented the school brilliantly and produced a very polished performance on the night; well done to all of the participants.

Miss Hyde has been running the very popular after school netball club and the team have played two more fixtures this term in Devizes.



Rhine class have been taking swimming lessons in Chippenham with many of the children rapidly gaining increased confidence and new skills. On Fridays, they have braved the winter weather to work on some tag rugby, with a coach from Chippenham rugby coming in to support their learning.



Next term, there are netball and tag rugby tournaments for Year 5 and Year 6 to compete in.

## National Storytelling Week



As part of National Storytelling Week, during assembly our librarians shared snippets from a selection of our wonderful, new books, to try to tempt everyone to delve into a new read from our library. These are books that were so kindly purchased from our wish list by our school community last term. They shared the power of storytelling and it has been super to hear so many stories being told and shared throughout the school this week.

Our team of librarians have also been working on creating the Read a Rainbow challenge in the school library, choosing the very best books and organising them into a rainbow by the colour of their front cover. They are challenging every child to read a new book from each colour of the rainbow over the coming terms. Will you read a rainbow?

## YOUNG VOICES 2024



This term the Stanton choir travelled to the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham for the much-anticipated Young Voices concert. They were blown away by the enormity of the arena.

The rehearsals began and the sound of 5,500 children singing in unison was absolutely incredible. Mrs Howarth has been preparing the children since September and the programme included a Matilda Medley, Moana Mashup, Arirang,

River Deep - Mountain High, Today is Going to be a Great Day and a 2024 Pop Medley.

The children also had the surprise chance to sing along with some Coldplay classics during the concert, which was especially powerful and moving. There were also some incredible guest performances from artists including Nandi Bushell and MC Grammar as well as Young Voices regulars Urban Strides. The pupils all sang with energy, enthusiasm and drive and the audience even had the opportunity to get involved with a 90s club classics dance-off - a special highlight for both staff and parents!

In the evening, they performed to an audience which included family members. All the children sang and danced their hearts out, making it an amazing and unforgettable experience to be part of.

The pupils all agreed that the event was absolutely fantastic, and they can be proud of the wonderful way in which they performed and conducted themselves throughout the day. Special thanks to all the staff who accompanied the trip and in particular to Mrs Howarth who has been busy preparing the children since September.

[Click here](#) to watch our video for highlights



## Darling Class Term 3, Light & Dark

Rocket design – The children really enjoyed hearing about Laika the Russian dog who went into space to orbit the earth. The children designed their own rockets and then used junk modelling to bring their designs to life.



Innovation and Cooperation – Having and exploring your own ideas and involving other people is a fantastic skillset that is demonstrated beautifully in the early years. How does this work? What will this do? Allowing children the time and freedom to explore these questions with accessible resources provides a fantastic platform for their inquisitive minds, communication and cooperation.



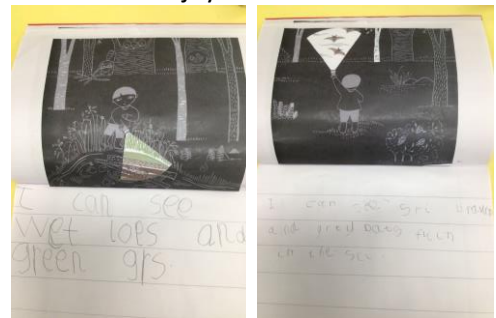
Look Up! We have shared numerous fiction and non-fiction books about the night sky, as well as some of the myths and legends surrounding the naming of some of the star constellations. We had a go at creating some of these ourselves.



Secret message writing – there is nothing more exciting than writing and reading secret messages!



One of the books that we have enjoyed this term is the wordless picture book 'Flashlight' by Lizi Boyd. An absence of words enabled the children to become the storytellers as they described what they could see in with the flashlight. This was a wonderful way to introduce the children to adjectives, as they added descriptive detail to what they could see; with the end result a beautiful class book for us all to enjoy!



Ambulance Ready – The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the St John's Ambulance volunteers and were fortunate to be able to see inside the ambulance as well as learn what to do in a medical emergency.



Fine Motor Fun – Each week there is a fine motor challenge set up for the children. Manipulating objects, threading, wrapping are all fantastic ways to build up children's fine motor muscle movement, which supports their writing.



## Amazon Class- Term 3, Arctic Explorers

Amazon Class have enjoyed another fantastic term of learning during our term 3 topic, 'Polar Explorers'. Our learning has whisked us away to the polar regions of our globe, exploring what life is like for the animals and communities living in these glacial environments.

In geography we have learnt about how the distance from the equator impacts the temperature and climate of a country. We have used maps and globes to find the coldest parts of the world and compared the Arctic and Antarctic regions. We were amazed to discover that Antarctica is the world's largest desert as it has such little rainfall each year. We have also loved learning about the polar animals that inhabit these regions, including how they adapt to the extreme temperatures.

We have used several wonderful books in English, including; Penguin Huddle, Emperor of the Ice, Iceberg and Poles Apart, all of which

have inspired our writing this term. Our super iceberg descriptions were packed full of new vocabulary, our story innovations were teeming with alliteration and our penguin fact files were filled with information!

Learning the skills of oracy has been a real highlight of this term. This is when we learn the skills of talk so that our voices can be heard and valued by others. We have been thinking about using effective pronunciation, pace and volume, as well as using talk sentence stem

and providing reasons for our ideas and opinions. We have enjoyed debating many different topics, such as; Which would be the three most important items to take to Antarctica? Lots of different views and opinions on this one!

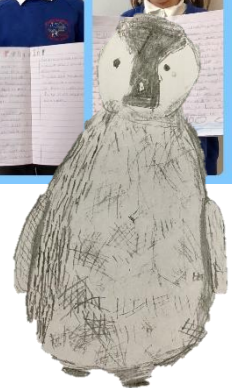
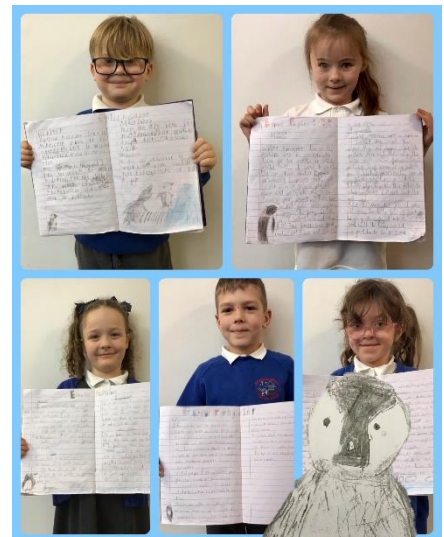
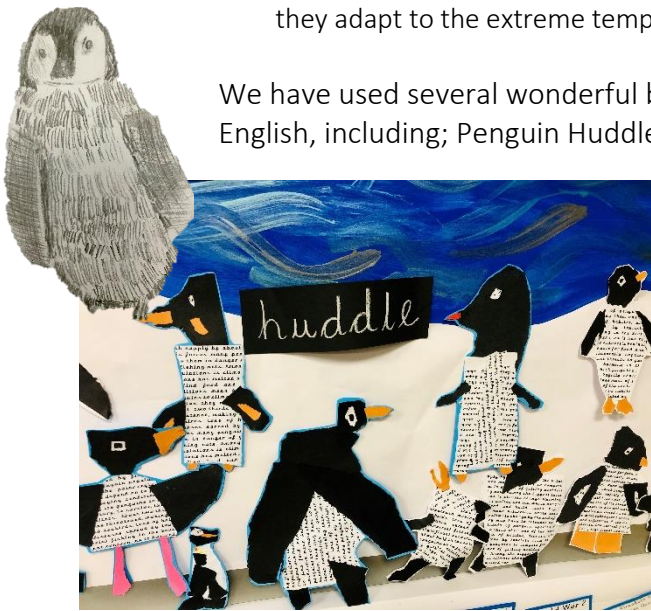
We enjoyed welcoming our grown-ups to Stay and Read this term, delving into the book 'Penguin in Peril' and using this exciting, mystery-themed storyline to create missing penguin posters. We thoroughly enjoyed showing our grown-ups all of the impressive grammar we have been learning this term to use in our writing.

In art we have been perfecting our skills of sketching, hatching and shading. We used these techniques to observe and sketch baby penguins. We

have also been learning about the term 'collage' and using this to create ripped paper penguins and collaging a Northern Lights scene.

We know how important it is to keep fit and PE this term has been great fun- raising our energy levels whilst doing circuits with Miss Hyde and learning dance moves with Miss Amy. A super start to the spring term.

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 Term 3, Mountains

Rhine Class have enjoyed another fantastic term of learning during our term 3 topic, 'Mountains'. With the only way to learn about mountains, the class set off on an eight day trek to Everest Base Camp (virtually!) It was rather a bumpy flight from Katmandu to Lukla where we began our journey, but we all arrived safely. We then headed to Phakding, a small village, situated in a beautiful valley where we crossed a huge suspension bridge – luckily, we didn't meet any animals on our crossing. As we continued to climb, we had the most amazing views.



The slopes became steeper and the landscape rockier. It was very important that we had rest days to help use reduce the effects of altitude sickness. Finally, we reached Everest Base Camp with altitude of 5,364m. It is located at the foot of the Khumbu Icefall and were rewarded with spectacular views and a highly nutritious mountain bar (made by the children!) Along the way the children developed their fieldworks skills by collecting, analysing, measuring data and recording in their geo-jotters.

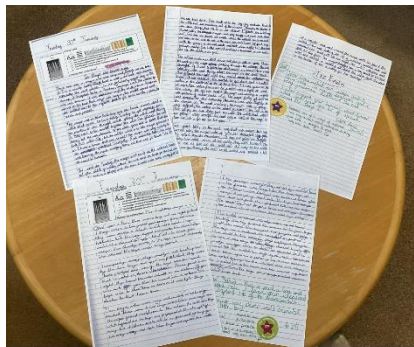


In art we studied work by Georgia O'Keeffe was an American Modernist Painter. Many of her paintings were produced by looking closely and imaginatively at the world and included mountains. We examined the way she used colours to make a statement then created our own painting using her style.

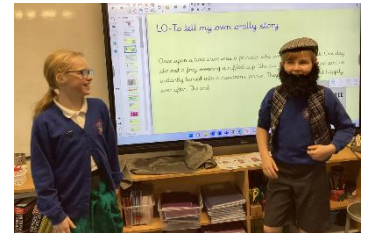


Year 5 & 6 have been thoroughly engaged in a collection of Grimm Tales, adapted by Philip Pullman.

From the quests and romance of classics such as 'Rapunzel' to the danger and wit of such lesser-known tales, 'The Three Snake Leaves' and the class favourite Hans-my-Hedgehog, the children have reading and re-reading these of wicked wives, brave children villainous kings. Through the began by orally telling their own analyse of the language, structure across many of the their own Grimm tale, full of learnt, they created a superb



enjoyed tales full and sequence of learning, the children story using props, followed by characterisation and common story tales. Finally, the children wrote gruesome deaths and lessons to be collection of tales.



Year 3 & 4 have been working with the story Weslandia a tale about a boy who is comfortable being different and who creates his own civilization. This has allowed us many opportunities for class discussions during our oracy debates and also to cover a number of our writing and grammar objectives as we produced a guide brochure to the Weslandia civilization on such topics as crops, sport, technology, numbers and language and also clothes and fashion.

Computing this term has been a coding project set around a spooky house where children have learnt to code characters so that they appear animated: moving from position to position, disappearing and reappearing and also combining sound and speech bubbles. If you wish to have a look you can ask your child to log in to their Scratch account at home and show you their project.



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