



NEWSLETTER

Issue 15

Motivate Educate Nurture



What a fantastic start we have had to the new school year. A huge thank you to FOSS for enabling us to take part in an inspiring model making workshop run by Aardman animation. The children have used their models to make some super stop-motion animations which fortunately (unlike the Wallace and Gromit animations) did not take years to make! These opportunities really enthuse and broaden children's learning experiences at Stanton.

This year as a school we have identified several areas for development. These include developing our STEM provision, implementing strategies that promote good mental wellbeing of pupils and staff, collaboration with local schools to share good practice and ensuring we continue to provide an ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of the children. Please look out for more details throughout the year on the progress we have made and ways you can support us especially with our STEM provision.

Our new 'Forest Friends' outdoor learning sessions for pre-school children have been a success and the numbers have steadily increased. A special thank you to Mrs Breen, our forest school lead for these creative and fun sessions and all her homemade treats which have helped to make new families feel welcome. These sessions are running next term, and we do hope that numbers will increase. We have flyers in the office, if you can share these with local friends or groups that would be hugely appreciated. I have also had the pleasure of showing round 15 prospective families for Reception 2025 and will be continuing to do this next term. If you know any children due to start school next year, then please get them to book a visit - recommendations from parents of the school make a difference.

It has been a slightly longer term, but the children have worked hard, and it has been a pleasure to see them showing perseverance, resilience and empathy. Our ethos 'to motivate, educate and nurture' continues to be at the heart of everything we do as we build a strong, supportive community that lifts one another up.

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



At Stanton School we ensure that all of our staff are well trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas.

As we start the year, I would like to remind you all that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority.

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away. Details of who to contact and our safeguarding policies can be found [here](#)

New House Captains

Huge congratulations to our new House Captains. At Stanton leadership roles develop progressively and advance to school-wide responsibilities for older pupils. These roles are seen as opportunities for service rather than status, encouraging students to think of others and contribute to their community. The focus is on nurturing young people who are outward-looking and mindful of their future roles in the world.

We have had 2 meetings already this term and they have lot of exciting things planned for the year. This week they led their first assembly where they introduced themselves and the challenge for half term. To create a model tree for their house.



Points for Term 1 – Well done to Birch House – it was so close!

HOUSE	ASH	BIRCH	OAK
TERM 1	363	376	371

School Council



We have had a super first term and have elected a new school parliament. The new councillors have taken responsibility for different areas of learning within our school and are very excited to get started! Our new team are:

Sports: Sonia, Dakota and Aurora. The Sports Team will be responsible for keeping the playground toys tidy, reporting any broken or missing toys to Miss Hyde and helping Miss Hyde when needed.

Eco: Elijah and Ernie. The Eco Team will help to keep our school tidy and protect and enhance our natural habitats. They will help with clearing the pond area, doing litter picks and helping Mrs Breen when need with the forest school area.

Librarians: Patrick, Mabel and David. The librarians are responsible for keeping the library tidy, identifying any damaged books, making book recommendations and helping Mrs Anderson when needed.

In addition to their above roles, our councillors will be helping me to plan events for the school, leading assemblies, feeding back meeting information to their classes and taking feedback from their classes too. They are the voice of our children, and I know that they are incredibly excited to start planning some fun activities in Term 2, starting with Anti-bullying Week, so watch this space! Mrs Todd PSHE Lead

Amazon Fundraiser for the RNLI

As part of Amazon Class' RE this term, they have been thinking about how we care for others. They designed a fundraiser, selected the activities that they wanted to run, how much they wanted to charge, researched the charity they wanted to support and then manned the stalls. They chose to hold a book and used toy sale, boat pong, a magical magic show, an art competition and splat/soak the teacher!

Now that I am dry, I can reveal that they raised a whopping £127! Well done and thank you to all the children and parents for helping to run the event and all the Stanton families for coming to support it.

Amazon will announce the winner of the art competition next term.



Harvest

We had a wonderful time celebrating the annual Harvest Festival in our local church The Gauzebrook Group of Churches, with each class showcasing creative displays and sharing songs about Harvest.

A huge thank you to all the families for their kind donations which will go to Doorway Wiltshire in Chippenham to help out our local community.



Hi everyone,



I really hope that your children enjoyed the non-uniform day today and thank you so much if you were able to donate a bottle of something in exchange. FOSS will be using those in a future fundraiser. As you know, we have had a restructuring of FOSS this term. We have adopted a new constitution which governs how the charity is run and we have welcomed a new Chair to lead the way - Sally Hitchcock. I wish her all the best in this role in FOSS and she has a strong team around her for future fundraising and events. This is the last newsletter update from me, so look out for news from FOSS next term. I hope you all have a well-deserved October break.

Best wishes

Yvonne, and the FOSS team

Sporting Update

Friday 4th October - Young Officials

Some of our Y6 pupils (Angus, Ethan, Grace, Megan and Saoirse) went to Sheldon and Hardenhuish School to learn about and practise being sporting young officials. They had the opportunity to step into leadership roles as umpires, referees, and playground leaders. The event highlighted the skills, teamwork, and confidence of our young athletes, who performed brilliantly in each role.

Friday 11th October - Hockey Festival

Stanton took a team to Sheldon School to participate in their annual hockey festival. It was a lovely afternoon and there was a great atmosphere. The team used all of the skills that they had been working on in their PE lessons and did brilliantly, winning all of their matches (2-0, 5-0, 4-0, 3-0). Everyone showed great sportsmanship and together had to decide upon a player from their own team to receive a medal for showing the values of the Chippenham Sports Partnership, which was very difficult when everyone was so good at showing them. Together, they decided that Emily should receive the medal - well done Emily! A huge well done to the whole team for their achievement - it really was a team effort!



Friday 11th October - Golf Festival

The rest of Rhine class went to a golf festival at Chippenham Golf Club. After enjoying lunch in the clubhouse, the children headed to the driving range where they had the opportunity to use the Top Tracer technology. They learned important techniques while tracking the distance of their shots, making it an engaging way to develop their golf skills. The festival offered a great introduction to the sport, combining technology with hands on learning in a supportive environment. It was great educational experience and fun for all the children.



Friday 18th October – Multi skills



Year 1 and 2 participated in a multi skills event at Hardenhuish School. It involved a dynamic and engaging morning designed to introduce the children to a wide range of physical activities and sports. The goal is to develop fundamental movement skills in a fun and supportive environment. By providing a variety of challenges, this event encourages children to improve their physical abilities and confidence, setting the foundation for lifelong participation in sports. During the event, the children participated in multiple activity stations, each focused on a different skill set. These stations included: relay races that promote teamwork and speed, obstacle courses to enhance coordination and balance, throwing and catching challenges for hand-eye coordination and jumping and running drills to build agility and endurance. Lots of fun was had by all!

Darling Class- Term 1, Animate It!

What an amazing start to this school year we have had and hasn't the term flown by! The children have settled into the routines of the school day very well and it has been a joy to see them pick up old friendships and build new ones, within the class and school. We have been sharing some quality texts this half term that has inspired our work and play across the curriculum. Here is a little of what we have got up to...

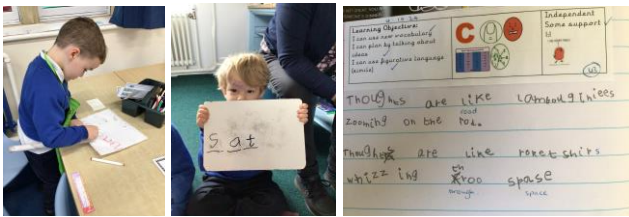
Outdoor Fun – We have been thoroughly enjoying our Friday afternoons at Forest School. We have been observing the changes in the dragonfly nymphs from the pond, each week, watching as their wings develop and body shapes change. The children have used their imagination and created their own games and engaged in role play scenarios, including cafes, the olden days, chocolate factories and army camps.



Phonics Workshops – Thank you so much to all of the parents who attended our Reception and Year 1 Phonics workshops; the children certainly enjoyed sharing activities that we do in our phonics lessons with you and hopefully it was a valuable insight into how your children are learning their phonics and how this translates into reading and writing and how you can support with this at home.



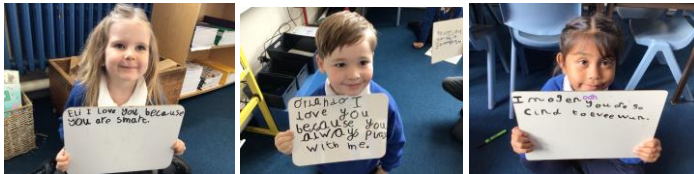
Writing – Whether we are just starting out with our writing, or getting more proficient, we are enjoying writing in our play, in our phonics and from inspiration we have taken from stories and poems that we have shared.



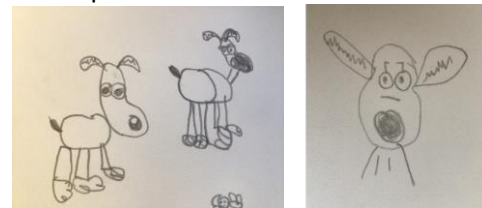
Taste-testing - We all had great fun fruit tasting after we read the book *I will NEVER not ever eat a tomato*. Reception made fruit kebabs and were brilliant at cutting the fruit independently.



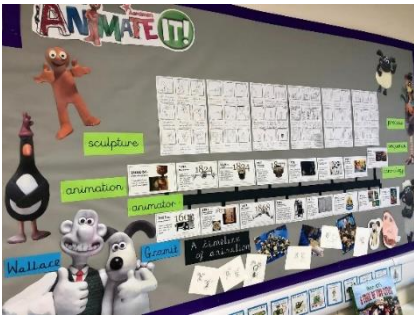
Phonics Year One have been working hard in Phonic and English sessions to write sentences. Friendship is really important in Darling Class and so we really enjoyed writing sentences about what we loved about our friends.



Art - During our topic of Animate it we have enjoyed exploring the work of Aardman and having a go at drawing Gromit ourselves. We started by following a step by step drawing guide and then drew him independently which produced some fantastic sketches.



Amazon Class- Term 1, Animate It!



What a wonderful start to the year we have had with our first new topic, 'Animate It!'

We have enjoyed learning about the history of animation and were fascinated to discover that the very first examples of animation date back to the cave paintings during the Stone Age and were also depicted on ancient Greek pottery. Learning about chronology, we have explored how animation has evolved over the

years, becoming the creative entertainment that it is today. Children created their own Zoetropes and tried their hand at creating clay models for animation during our workshop run by Aardman animators.



During art, we have been refining our observational sketching skills, observing and sketching Gromit in

different positions to show movement and the impact of changing light and shadow. We have also thoroughly enjoyed designing our own detailed Gromit dogs for the Aardman Trails that are often showcased in and around Bristol. In music we have been exploring the rock genre, learning about the rhythm and beat of a particular song, together with exploring what happens when we change the tempo. We have explored and experimented with different instruments and notes. It's been one musically noisy classroom on a Wednesday afternoon!



Fitting with our animation topic, we started our English this term with a unit on animation storyboarding, when

the children created their own Aardman storyboards using Wallace, Gromit and other well-known characters. Our second unit introduced the book 'Pinocchio by Pinocchio', adapted and written by Michael Morpurgo. Pinocchio has proven to be an interesting character and the children have been fantastically eloquent whilst debating his choices throughout the book. We have finished this unit by mapping out and writing our very own chapters for the story, creating new settings and characters for Pinocchio to meet.



During our oracy sessions, the children have been focusing on ways to shows we are listening and actively engaged in conversation with one another, together with the use of higher-level sentence stems now that we are becoming more experienced with the skills of talk. During our reading skills sessions, Year 2 have

been refining their skills using books written by the talented Nadia Shireen, whilst Year 3 have been devouring 'The Nothing to See Here Hotel' series with a very keen interest to explore these superbly bizarre books further.

In science, we have been making our own pinhole cameras and learning about light. The children have really enjoyed playing with shadows and light sources! During computing this term, we have been making short films using Aardman Animate. The children have really loved this free app and have made some super short films that we will share with you on our website in due course! A super start to the year, Amazon Class!



Rhine Class- Term 1, Animate It!



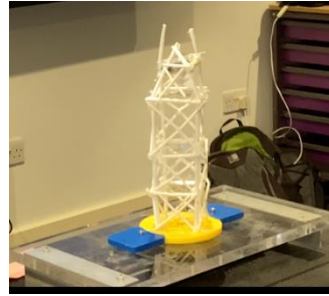
We started the term by creating self-portraits in the style of Chuck Close to brighten up our cloakroom and I hope you agree they are very striking! You can view them all [here](#)



In geography we focused on volcanoes and the children created some super fact files on famous volcanoes – ask them what they know - I think you will be impressed!

Next term we will be learning about earthquakes and to launch and enhance our learning on this topic we took part in a theme day – ‘On Shaky Ground’ at We the Curious. They put on their engineering hats and designed and created earthquake resistant buildings.

These were then put to the test using a special machine from Bristol University which replicates the vibrations of various earthquakes – whose was left standing?



In English we studied two historical fiction books based on two natural disasters which inspired the children and helped them understand the effects of these disasters on people and the environment. They created some very informative newspaper reports with quotes from survivors, which demonstrated their understanding of how they would have felt.

Maths has focused on place value, so that we have secure foundations to build on this year. We have begun looking at written methods for the 4 operations and evaluating the best method to solve the problem- my favourite part. There has been lots of work on estimating and checking with the inverse operation to ensure accuracy. They have also learnt that knowing your times tables is so important in the more complex calculations and with fraction work too. Year 4 have been especially looking at patterns in the times tables and learnt some strategies for working out and aiding recall as they get prepare for the Year 4 times table check at the end of the year!



In art we studied a artist print of the famous volcano -Mt Vesuvius. Andy Warhol created a pop art style print, which the children used as inspiration for their own designs. They transferred them to print and built up the layers showing understanding of complementary colours – they look very effective.

Our computing this term was to create animations using our models from the workshop. You should have seen some of the things Feathers got up too! We hope to share these with you soon.



Well done Rhine Class. We are so pleased with the way Rhine Class have settled into the new school year and especially their enthusiasm for learning.