



NEWSLETTER

Issue 16

Motivate Educate Nurture



As I reflect on this term, I am truly amazed by the children's growth and development. **Nurturing** their personal growth alongside their academic achievements remains at the heart of what we do. This term, we welcomed the local community into school as part of Remembrance, fostering connections and shared experiences. The choir also enjoyed a wonderful afternoon singing at a local care home, followed by drinks, biscuits, and confident conversations with the residents.

Other special events included Darling Class's performance of *Eddie the Penguin*, where every child spoke with clarity and passion. Their infectious smiles lit up the stage, and it was a joy to witness their developing confidence and enthusiasm. Rhine Class were given the incredible opportunity to spend two days at the Cotswold Water Park (thanks to Winnie's Dad), participating in outdoor activities including paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing and archery. It was amazing to see the children build their water confidence, achieve personal goals and supporting each other. These moments and opportunities prepare children for life beyond school and as I continue to show families around, they are consistently amazed by the breadth of opportunities on offer.

Finally, as this year draws to a close, on behalf of the whole Stanton community, we would like to thank you all for supporting the school.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Matthews
Head of School

Next term's value



Congratulations



We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Anderson had a baby boy, Ezra, who, despite arriving earlier than expected, is doing well. Luckily we managed to say a special goodbye during assembly the week before.

Ezra joined us for Christmas Jumper Day and we were treated to a visit earlier this week.



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, and a special thank you to Mr. Anderson for providing our beautiful Christmas tree, which has brightened up our hall and looks amazing with all the children's decorations.



Staffing



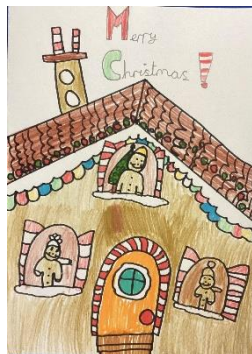
We said a very fond farewell to Mr Stapleton this week who has been an invaluable part of the Darling Class team but also contributed a lot to sport throughout the school. In his leaving assembly the children shared their memories from playtime games, after school clubs and cooking times. He is a man of many talents!

Good luck Mr Stapleton and I think there will be a few people coming to eat at the café and say hello.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Martin to the team, who is teaching in Amazon Class from Monday to Thursday while Mrs Anderson is on maternity leave. Mrs Martin has thrown herself fully into life at Stanton at probably the busiest time of year. Mrs Martin is a very experienced teacher with a passion for English and drama. She is especially looking forward to Amazon class's performance at Easter.



House Captain Update



This term the House Captains organised the Christmas Card Competition. Well done to this year's winners whose cards were sent out to friends of Stanton.



points this term and Birch for overall points

Points for Term 2 – Well done Oak for the most

| HOUSE | ASH | BIRCH | OAK |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|
| TERM 2 | 591 | 604 | 605 |
| OVERALL | 972 | 999 | 992 |

End of term Church service

Thank you to Reverend Sharon for making us feel so welcome as we came together to reflect and celebrate the Christmas Story. It was a lovely service and the singing was amazing!



Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner

Thank you to all the everyone for your generosity on Christmas Jumper Day – we raised just over £150 to purchase gifts for a local charity that supports homeless families and victims of domestic abuse. Thank you to FOSS for Christmas crackers and Gerogie for our delcious Christmas lunch.



Amazon Class take part in 500 Word Story Competition



Amazon Class were delighted to be presented with their BBC 500 Words Story certificates today, for taking part in this highly acclaimed story writing competition.

The competition promotes the joy of simply allowing children to write freely, creating stories that they themselves would love to read.

The children thoroughly enjoyed allowing their imaginations to take over, writing a vast array of interesting and exciting storylines which they then loved sharing with each other.

Darling Class Perform Eddie the Penguin

Darling performed the most incredible showstopper performance of 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the Day' to our friends, families and all those dear to us. The story saw Eddie and friends on the mission of a lifetime to save the planet and spread the message that our planet needs some help. The children made us so exceptionally proud of their efforts; by their confident performances when delivering their lines and along with amazing singing and brilliant costumes, very proud. Well done Darling Class.



Winter Concert



It was a joy to welcome you to share what the children have been learning this term. The event showcased the pupils' remarkable musical talents, ranging from a Christmas mash up, songs composed and performed by the children and an upbeat ukulele set.

The children captivated us with their brilliant individual and group performances. Well done to all that took part and a BIG thank you to our music teachers -Mrs Howarth and Mr Dunn for all her time and effort. A superb performance!



Keeping Children Safe

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and having a well-earned break from school. While this period will hopefully be calm, festive events can be busy and we must take precautions to safeguard our mental and physical health. Please see below for some tips for maintaining safety both online and offline

At the National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
 Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Establish screen time boundaries, monitor websites and encourage children to engage positively online. Use parental controls to manage content boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement of digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
 The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, heaters and electrical decorations. Review home fire safety plans and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency, avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
 More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road congestion and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to safety rules. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risk on busy roads.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
 Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Check restaurant menus, consider labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any dietary needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or epi-pens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
 Cold weather and seasonal gatherings can increase the spread of viruses like the flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Promote hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with schools on about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
 Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distraction driving, pedestrian safety and implement weather can complicate road safety. Knowledge pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
 Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if misused. Inspect lights regularly, Christmas tree ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place lights on small levels and all torches and candles are never left unattended. Taping lights to curtains and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
 Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Sticking to gift safety standards and one age-appropriate gift can be a good rule to many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure only toys devices have passed standards, testing regulations around toy gift use and discrediting packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
 Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decisions. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Exchange activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
 Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modeling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert
 James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventive strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

[#WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

Source: [See full information at en_gd_36 page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season](#)

[@wake_up_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 8.12.2024

Sporting Update

It has been a very busy term for sport, with an event almost every week.

Chippenham Sports Partnership Events



On Friday 8th November years 3 and 4 attended Hardenhuish School to participate in a multi skills festival. All children took part in a carousel of activities where they rotated around different stations focusing on different running, jumping, throwing, balancing and co-ordination movements. The parachute station was a big favourite.

On Friday 15th November year 2 went to Abbeyfield School for a Footie for Fun Festival. This event was packed with a variety of football related skill stations, designed to inspire creativity, teamwork, and enjoyment. After an energising dance warm-up, the festival then flowed into a rotation of engaging activities, each one focused on building different footballing skills such as passing, dribbling, shooting, and agility. Whether it was tackling an obstacle course, perfecting penalty kicks, or practising precision passing, there was something for everyone to enjoy and learn from. Our year 2s certainly enjoyed this morning of football!

Also on Friday 15th November, a boys football team from Rhine attended Stanley Park to participate in a football tournament. The matches were played in a round robin format, allowing every team to compete against each other. The team had 7 matches throughout the afternoon, resulting in 3 wins and 4 losses. It was wonderful to see players of all abilities coming together, showcasing their skills, and embracing the true essence of football.

On Friday 29th November the girls from years 1, 2 & 3 travelled to Abbeyfield School to take part in a girls only football morning. The event began with a lively warm up to the iconic Lionesses song before moving onto eight fun filled stations, each designed to introduce a new skill or technique in a playful and engaging way.

Throughout the event, it was heart warming to see the smiles, teamwork, and determination from every participant.



On Friday 6th December Darling Class attended Hardenhuish School to participate in a Festive Multi Skills Event. They completed a range of fun winter themed games and activities, which everyone enjoyed.

Netball League Matches

This term the Stanton teams have participated in four netball league matches at Devizes Leisure Centre, winning all four matches.

SSQ A Vs. All Cannings: After a nail-biting start to the match the team began to find their flow as the match progressed. They showed great determination and excellent composure in a very physically demanding match. The final result was a 9-2 win.

SSQ B Vs. Trinity: SSQ B very quickly found their rhythm and worked well in all areas of the court to switch quickly from defence to attack. The final result was an 11-0 win.

SSQ A Vs. St. Joseph's A: The team started their scoring early on in this match, moving the ball with ease throughout the thirds of the court to the shooting circle. The team displayed excellent teamwork during the match, working together



seamlessly. It's fantastic to be able to mention that all members of the team scored during this match. The final result was a 23-0 win.

SSQ B Vs. St. Joseph's B: The competition during this match was close, with many moments of tension for both teams. Our team worked hard and remained determined. With goals from Rory, Emily and Saoirse, the final result was a 3-1 win.

A huge well done to all the children who have played in these matches - the hard work at netball club and determination to succeed is really paying off.



Drumba Launch

This term has seen the introduction of drumba to Stanton. Drumba is a mixture of movement, music and drumming which aims to contribute to a healthy active lifestyle by improving and maintaining fitness and developing fundamental movement skills such as co-ordination in a fun and engaging way for everyone. On Tuesday 3rd December we were lucky enough to welcome Adam and Alick from the drumba team to run workshops for all classes - lots of fun was had by all! During this academic year all classes will have a block of drumba lessons as part of their PE lessons.



PE Lessons



To align with events run by the Chippenham Sports Partnership, Rhine have had weekly football lessons as part of their PE this term. They have been working on a range of physical skills such as dribbling and passing and they have been developing their understanding of the importance of teamwork as part of the sport. In addition, Rhine have been participating in gymnastics lessons focussing on pair-work, flexibility and creativity.

Amazon Class were lucky enough to be the first class to experience their drumba lessons. They have quickly developed their knowledge and drumba skills, learning a range of basic to complex combinations of moves as well as enhancing their fitness and stamina. They have

also participated in a block of football lessons to work in conjunction with the events delivered by the Chippenham Sports Partnership.

Darling Class have been enjoying their yoga sessions. They have been developing their balance and mastering new yoga poses each week through adventurous yoga stories. The class have also been completing a personal challenges unit which has focussed on running, jumping and stretching techniques.

FOSS UPDATE

Hi everyone,

We've had a great first term and was so pleased with the Winter Fayre. It was so great to see all of the FOSS team's hard work come together. Thank you so much for all your donations and coming along to enjoy our event. The team worked so hard to make it all come together and it was so lovely to see the children enjoy themselves at the Fayre.

A big thank you to the wonderful local businesses that kindly donated prizes for our raffle. What a great prize list! We are happy to announce we made almost £800 at the Winter Fayre!

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to your generosity, FOSS was able to contribute towards the school's purchase of new Chromebooks! These devices will provide our students with vital tools to enhance their learning, access resources, and develop essential digital skills. This achievement would not have been possible without your donations and participation in our fundraising efforts.

We will have the Christmas non uniform day on Friday 20th December, the last day of term. The FOSS team will be in the playground to collect suggested donations of £1 if you are able to contribute. We're looking forward to seeing the children looking very festive!

As you may also know, this has been my first term as chair of FOSS!

I would like to say a huge thank you to Yvonne, our outgoing FOSS Chair, for her incredible dedication and leadership over the past few years. Under Yvonne's guidance, FOSS has achieved remarkable success in supporting our school. On behalf of the entire school community, thank you, Yvonne, for your tireless efforts, warm spirit, and the countless hours you've devoted to making our school a better place. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and look forward to your continued presence as a valued member of FOSS.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas,

Sally and the FOSS team



Darling Class Update

Throughout this term, the children have been busy learning their lines and practising their performance of The Bethlehem Bake Off. We focused our oracy this term on learning how to project our voice to be heard, together with the use of precise articulation to be understood by others. We brought our learning of these oracy skills into our performance, making for an outstanding show that we hope you enjoyed watching just as much as we enjoyed performing.

It has certainly been a very busy half term and one which has flown by – apt perhaps given our Topic has been 'Take Off!'. A big thankyou from us for all you support at home, we wish you and you families a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Bristol Aerospace Museum – We began the term, with a trip to Bristol Aerospace Museum. The children were able to climb on-board Concorde, look at planes through the ages, including some military planes, as well as take part in a flight workshop. It was wonderful way to spark the children's interests before we learned in more detail about the life of Amelia Earhart, how historians have gathered information from the past, as well as how engineering feats have changed planes through history; including the fact that Concorde has a temperature sensor at the end of its nose which feeds back to the pilot's controls and then the pilot knows to slow down if the nose reads above a certain temperature, otherwise the plane will start to melt!



Abbeyfields Festive Fun – The children had a fun morning at Abbeyfields school taking part in Festive games and activities.



Kites - Lots of you might have noticed the wonderful kites we have displayed in our classroom. The colours and patterns are fabulous!



Phonics and Writing – The children have come on so much with their phonics and writing this term. Reception children now know 25 sounds and are working so hard using these sounds in their reading and writing. They particularly love playing find the word – they are each given a picture and they have to find the matching word that has been hidden around the room. Year one have produced some lovely pieces of writing, looking at using more complex descriptive vocabulary, inspired by the story The Polar Express.



Forest School – Whatever the weather, we have still enjoyed being outside for Forest School. One of our favourite activities this term was making fireworks from clay and crepe paper; launching them into the air and setting ourselves challenges that increased in difficulty – can you get it through the fork in the ash tree? Can you get it over the branch of the sycamore tree?

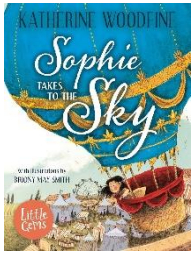


Amazon Class- Term 2,



Amazon have been having a fantastic time this term investigating flight with our topic 'Take Off'. We started the term with our brilliant trip to the Aerospace Museum in Bristol. The children got to go on Concorde, explore different fuselages and make their own planes.

We really enjoyed playing with the clocking-in machines, trying on flight gear and eating our lunch underneath Concorde. The workshop was fascinating as we learnt how expensive Concorde was and how it was able to fly so fast. Did you know, they had to slow the plane down as otherwise it got too hot due to air resistance? We all enjoyed the trip and would love to go back.



In our writing, we thought about the feelings and emotions experienced by the lead character of 'Sophie Takes to the Sky' by Katherine Woodfine. We've taken a thrilling journey through the fayre, climbed on board the hot air balloon and soared up high with Sophie. We also wrote some exceptional diary entries exploring her changing feelings and setting descriptions.

In the last two weeks, we have learnt about the lives and achievements of the Wright brothers. We have created biographies, organising information in chronological order.

In our topic, we had a brilliant time inflating hot air balloons, investigating The Montgolfier Brothers and their first foray into flight. Next, we explored Amelia Earhart and her final journey around the world and recently, we have been learning about the Red Arrows and Concorde with Mrs Martin. It is absolutely wonderful how far flight has come in such a short time!

During our Science sessions, we have been investigating forces. We have tested different vehicles and considered thrust, friction and gravity, experimented with fans for air resistance, balloons for electrostatic force and up-thrust force in water. We played tug of war to discover tension force and have just started to explore magnetic forces. We are looking forward to finishing this piece of learning by using our chosen force to make an object float!

In DT, Mrs Hitchcock has helped us too make some super kites, decorating them using block printing. She also helped us to make some excellent bird puppets too. Thank you so much Mrs Hitchcock!



In art, we continued the bird theme by designing and creating blocks to print bird images, which we used to make beautiful Christmas cards.

Mrs Martin joined us for the last two weeks of term and she has been very impressed with us so far! We are looking forward to learning with her for the rest of the school year.



It has been a super term, and we are sure the next one will be just as exciting, with a new year and a new topic.

Well done Amazon Class!

Rhine Class- Term 2

It was a super start to the term for Rhine with two days of action packed activities at Cotswold Water Park which enabled the children to take on challenges, to grow and have fun together and of course make lots of happy memories. They took part in canoeing, paddleboarding, archery and kayaking. To watch a video of the highlights click [here](#).



With a wet and windy autumn, Rhine class managed to get outside for sport most weeks but this term also saw them develop their gymnastic skills. They began by focusing on balance - one the fundamental skills which helps develop their motor skills, strengthens muscles and improves co-ordination. They worked with partners to create counterbalances. This also helped develop collaboration as partners had to make sure they knew their role, so they were able to balance safely.

After this we created sequences and explored balancing on the apparatus.



We have had a super term in Science with a visit from Mr Vannerley who showed us how we can filter water. We learnt that when you put dirty water in a container the dirt will fall to the bottom and also that we shouldn't put anything other than toilet roll down the toilet as it clogs it up – making a hard substance which then clogs up the drains. The Water Companies do not appreciate having to clean/filter certain waste products!

We also took part in the James Dyson STEAM Challenge. The project helped to develop the children's understanding of engineering and science principles in a practical and enjoyable way. From creating a balloon powered race car to making a paper clip float on water, the challenges encouraged everyone to work as a team. Great fun!



In English we thoroughly enjoyed reading the Boy in the Tower, lots of the children read ahead so our prediction work was fun! In case you haven't read it – it is an apocalyptic story about plants taking over the world. The children then wrote and published their own amazing apocalyptic stories – we hope you enjoy reading them.

One of the things we did is Art this term was to develop the technique of bleeding with watercolours, which we then used to create Winter scenes and our Christmas Cards.



