



The Grapevine

Spring 2022



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Head's Space

The national and world situation creates uncertainties, complexities and anxieties. The war and civilian deaths in Ukraine should prompt us to pause and reflect. I can't help noticing that, in contrast to that war, our approaching school break starts with the beginning of Ramadan and finishes with the end of Lent and then with Easter – times of reflection, prayer, abstinence, good deeds and hope. As a collective, we in Auriga are focussed on enabling access, equality, tolerance and respect and meeting the needs of our pupils.

It is especially the disadvantaged and those with additional needs who are unable to escape, and our thoughts and actions are with them.

Very many of you individually and collectively have been taking action: as you know, Strathmore Parent Anna Bouriak who has family in both Ukraine and Russia, and wanted to do something to help those affected by the unfolding humanitarian disaster in the region, has been fundraising for The British Red Cross Society, a member of DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee).

And in Twickenham, the Prosperity Ukrainian Cafe & Restaurant have continued to collect and transport donations of essential aid. Their restaurant is at 59 York Street, Twickenham is open to receive your donations between 11am and 6pm Monday to Sunday. We are asking for tinned food, but any non-perishable easy to cook food stuff would be greatly received. More information can be found on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ProsperityUA/> and a short video about the ongoing work at Prosperity can be found through Instagram - search for Prosperity Cafe and Restaurant.



That community mindset of wanting to make things better is a reflection of our school community and everyone's efforts to make school life as normal as possible, two years after we went into the first lock-down.

Friends of Strathmore School have definitely been busy with helping make areas of school better: the new meadow has been sown and the soft-play room has had a makeover both of which you can see in this Grapevine. Thank you to Jane Curzon and Fariba for being the inspiration and driving forces for these projects. Indeed, this edition of The Grapevine is full of lovely images of your children out and about in the community which, as you know, is a key element of our curriculum. I have been especially delighted to hear of parents joining the classes on education visits: it's been lovely to see you in school and out of school! And again, we have had almost 100% attendance at Annual Reviews and the number of families uploading videos onto Earwig is growing - thank you for taking such an active part in your children's education.

And the Government has finally acknowledged that "navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people and their families". You will be aware that the long awaited SEND Review has finally been published. It is fair to say that details are still awaited but I would urge you all to read "SEND Review - Right support, Right place, Right time" ([publishing.service.gov.uk SEND](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/SEND)) and take part in the consultation:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-review-division/send-review-2022/>



So we shall see how things are going to be better for us all at Strathmore but before that there is the holiday to come. So, whether you are going to start fasting, finish not eating chocolate, staying local or travelling afar, I wish you a fantastic time and leave you with information on a possible place to visit

I appreciate that not everyone drinks or approves of alcohol, and some of you may be abstaining just now, but I came across Ignition Brewery, a Social Enterprise Company, that trains and employs adults with learning difficulties to brew and serve ale. <https://ignition.beer/>

So, if you are interested, pop over to Sydenham! Responsibly, obviously!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Iwan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Message from the Chair of Governors

By John Watkin

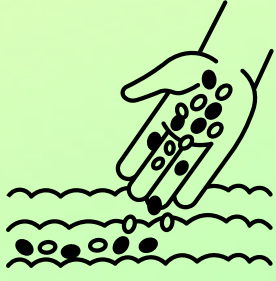
I and the Strathmore Board of Governors would like to offer our sincerest congratulations to Ivan Pryce on his new appointment to Chief Executive Officer of the Auriga Academy Trust. We think this is well deserved and we are very pleased that we will still be able to work with him in the future.

Ivan's appointment means that there is now a vacancy for the position of Headteacher here at Strathmore. I and the Trust will begin the process of finding the best possible replacement for Ivan and we will be placing an advertisement very soon.

Best wishes,

John Watkin
LGB Chair
Strathmore School





Strathmore at the Russell

By Sarah Hurtado

What a term it has been - we were badly affected by Covid at the start of 2022 but we are ending the term with positivity and excitement about new projects. We have a new playroom and a new meadow at our Russell Campus – both of which are going to bring us great joy!

Our student council at the Russell Campus took part in the final stage of preparing the new meadow that has been beautifully planned by Jane Curzon, the chair of FOSS (Friends of Strathmore School). Jane has worked with Fariba, one of our parents, and the Royal Parks staff, to transform an overgrown patch of land adjacent to our playground into a meadow in memory of Sophia, one of our learners who was at Strathmore. This project is in collaboration with our co-located school, the Russell School, and eight of our learners joined children from the Russell School to throw seeds on the ground to start the development of the meadow in preparation for the summer. It was a lovely sunny day and lots of fun was had by all. We cannot wait now for the seeds to grow, and we can get out into the meadow and enjoy the space to reflect and learn. Thank you Jane, Fariba and the Royal Parks staff for your support.

The playroom was designed and created by an incredible team, also helped by Jane. More information can be found in this edition of The Grapevine.





Strathmore at St Richard Reynolds

By Eleanor Bukht

We have had lots of wonderful experiences over the Spring term on our @SRR campus, and whilst the world is experiencing another bleak chapter during the Russian war on Ukraine, we are very grateful and appreciative of having a safe space for our learners to continue to access free, personalised education.

The @SRR School Council, led by Renata, welcomed Jane (Safeguarding Governor) to a meeting where they discussed how they felt at school and who they could ask for help if they needed it.

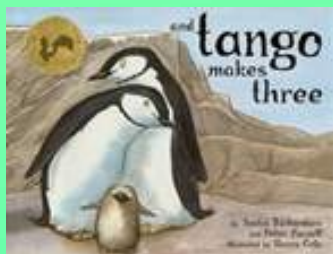
Jane also spent time with our staff to ask them about procedures and the values seen at our campus. Jane will use her visit and the learners' views as part of the Safeguarding Audit information she presents back to the Local Governing Board.

The School Council were kept busy with another visitor, this time organised by Helen Baldwin, Phoenix class teacher. Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham) joined Andromeda, Vega, Mira and Pegasus classes to celebrate International Women's Day and answered pertinent questions regarding her secrets to success: she likes a healthy, balanced breakfast; she has worked hard over a number of years to reach her current position and yes, she does indeed like trains. Penel Cummings, Andromeda class teacher, led the assembly which taught us that people who identify as girls and women as very capable of success in lots of roles that have historically been dominated by cis-het men. We learnt what #BreaktheBias means, and we all came away supporting the idea that equality for all is a very good thing and benefits everyone!

Sometimes, these ideas can be big and scary and we might feel powerless to have impact in our own daily living. Here are some small things we can do to help break many biases we are faced with in society, just through expanding our children's reading and film materials:

- Look for stereotypes in favourite and familiar books / films – they are worth talking about, if only to be reminded that they don't represent "all".
- Look for tokenism; this is where there is "one only" – it may be a tokenistic nod to people with disabilities by including one person who is a wheelchair user, or one person from a minority ethnic group, whilst there is over-representation of white, able-bodied, neurotypical, cis-heterosexual characters.
- Look for invisibility – the lack of characters in a story is also a powerful, subliminal message of who is and isn't important to society.
- Look for the balance of power in the relationships in the books: are white cis-het men often the heroes whilst women and people of colour exist to provide supporting roles? Do people with disabilities have to perform extraordinary acts to be valued?

We don't have to disregard everything we have enjoyed until now, but we do have a responsibility to think about what messages we might be promoting and how this is shaping our learners' views, actions and self-esteem. Please share any ideas you have about how we can become more inclusive at Strathmore, and we'll keep sharing with you!





Strathmore at Grey Court

By Adrianna Martyr

The Spring term has been busy and bustling with our learners finishing the end of their assessment cycle and preparing for annual reviews.

86% of learners (22 out of 25) at the Grey Court campus met all their EHCP outcomes, which is credit to their hard work but also to the resilience and support from our teachers, class teams and therapists who have worked extremely well together to support all learners.

The attendance to annual reviews has been excellent this year and we have received very positive feedback from families about the progress of the learners at our campus. We are always striving to improve, so feedback has been well received and acted upon.

In the midst all the very unsettling events that are happening in Europe we have made our goal to continue to be positive and do the best we can to continue to engage our learners in positive experiences and support them to continue to make progress towards their goals.

Highlights at Grey Court

- Learners in Y10 and Y11 have started a new Preparing for Adulthood module called 'Household tasks and self-care' in the flat to generalise their life skills in a different setting.
- The Volunteer Inclusion Programme (VIP) with Y12 learners from Grey Court school is in place.
- Café Vanilla continues to be a great work experience opportunity for our learners and the staff have introduced a cashless system that is supporting learners with their progress in maths.
- Learners from all classes are having one phonic session a week at Newman House.
- All learners are taking part in community-based sport activities including spinning at the Hawker Centre, PE sessions at Reflections, swimming at GC hydro pool.
- Singing assembly has been successful and learners enjoy sharing songs on Tuesdays.
- Sophie, our newly appointed playleader, has made a very positive start and she has been setting engaging activities for the learners in the playground.







Family engagement

By Lauren Crew,

Assistant Headteacher at Strathmore at St Richard Reynolds Campus

Wow! Another term of annual reviews has drawn to a close. It was lovely to see parents/guardians virtually and in person, as well as to connect with Social Care and AfC to discuss our amazing learners and their progress. I couldn't believe it had been a whole year since the last round!

Parental engagement within Strathmore has soared in the last term:

100% of parents/guardians attended annual reviews

85% of parents/guardians have logged into Earwig

19 parents/guardians have uploaded a record (photo/video) onto their child's Earwig profile.

Shout-out to our top parent-contributors: Tony and Jo Horgan

Why is it important for you to login to Earwig?

- To see videos and photos of your child progressing
- To use as a talking point if your child is unable to tell you what they have been doing at school
- For your own knowledge/training on the Specialist Strategies we use at Strathmore – this could support you with communicating and playing with your child at home

Why is it important for you to upload observations to Earwig?

- This is a good talking point for our class teams to use if the children are unable to share what they did at the weekend
- To see videos and photos of your child progressing and generalising skills in a different place
- To see skills the learners may not display in school

We are hoping for the Earwig team to finish making their Parent App soon, to make uploading and viewing records even easier!

Remember, if you need any support with logging in to Earwig, contact Natalie Arciero (School Family Worker).





Delphini class



- In Delphini Class we love exploring materials, being creative and getting messy!

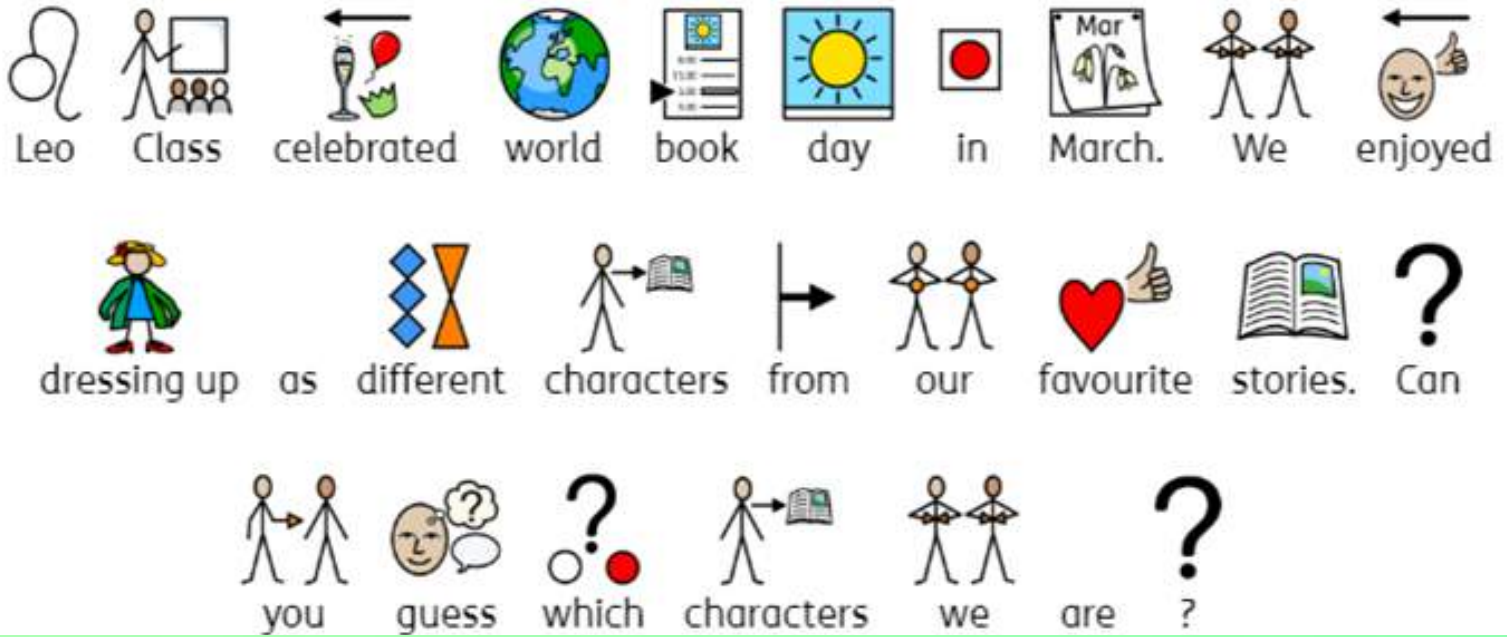
During table time we created sensory bottles/bowls using a variety of materials such as water, glitter and pompoms. We showed our preferences by reaching for preferred items or using communication methods to choose. We showed engagement whether focusing on our own bottle or by watching what our teachers/peers were doing. Some of us used funnels to pour objects into our bottles and we worked on using our pincer grip to pick up items. We are all working hard to share our space and resources with our peers. 😊

We welcome Chidalu to Delphini Class, who joined us in February.





Leo class





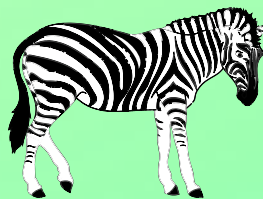
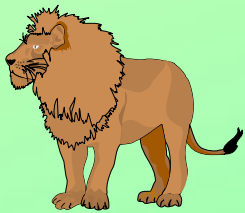
Hercules class



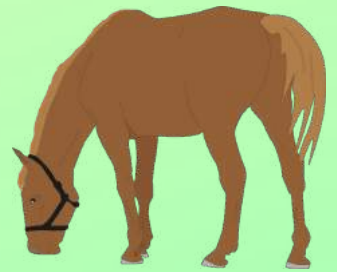
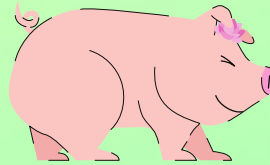
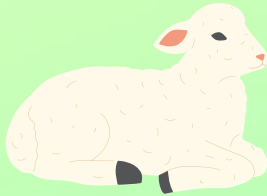
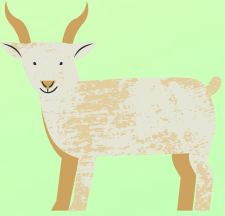
This term some of Hercules class learners have been on two trips!
One to Marble Hill Park with the whole class and Leo class.

For the other trip some learners from Hercules go to Sainsburys on Friday mornings using public transport. We have a shopping list for our learning areas and collect the resources needed from the shop. One of our later shopping trips was a list of snacks to take to the Zoo to have our lunch and picnic there. It is very exciting choosing our own healthy snacks!

Hercules class are very excited to go to the Zoo at the end of term as our topic has been roar and explore and for Spring term we have been focusing on wild animals!



Luna class



This term Luna class have been out and about. We went on a special trip to the theatre with Phoenix class. Later in the term, we went to Hounslow Urban Farm with our year 1 Russell School friends. We enjoyed seeing the goats, sheep, pigs and horses. We also had weekly trips to Marble Hill Playcentre with Perseus and Phoenix classes. We are getting to know lots of our friends on campus and across campus!



Learners have really been enjoying our trips to Holly Lodge in Richmond Park. We entered the nature trail where we explored some sensory boxes related to birds. There were many activities to help us explore bird feathers and natural materials to make bird nests. Some of us made some lovely bird feeders too.

Luna class are very excited to go back to Holly Lodge for some more sensory exploration at the end of this term as our topic Roar and Explore draws to an end.





Maths and Communication morning at the Russell campus

The Russell campus had a Maths and Communication morning this term. This was an opportunity for all classes to engage in new activities, generalise skills in a new environment and have some fun! Our Speech and Language Team also joined in for the morning fun!



Some of the Maths activities included:

- Counting animals
- Finding animals in a ball pit
- Puzzles and games

Some of the Communication activities included:

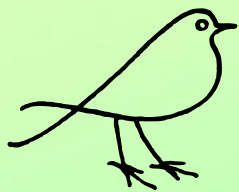
- Silly sentences!
- Animal colourful semantics
- A Makaton story and game
- What's in the bag?



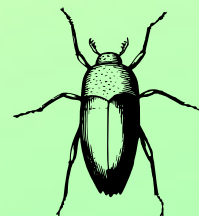
This was very successful and every learner who attended was engaged and tried something new.

Well done to all the learners in Hercules, Leo, Luna and Delphini class!



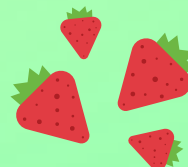


Andromeda class



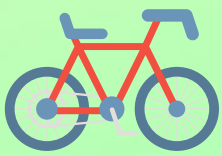
This term Andromeda class have been making bug hotels and bird feeders in our construction area. This week we went to Sherland Road Community Garden to hang our bird feeders and lay our bug hotels. During the next two weeks we will be making bird houses to later hang at Sherland Road.

We also observed signs of spring and recognised daffodils and learned what strawberry plants and hyacinths look like. We are looking forward to the summer when perhaps we can pick some strawberries!





Capella class... use of playground



1. In the first picture, we can see Klara fully engaged, with a hand on each side of the parachute jumping around. This activity is so good as it makes every learner bond together, because they are holding the same parachute and are all within the same vicinity.



2. Klara is also seen in the second picture on a bike. This is also a great session that Klara participates in because it works on her bike ability and her sense of co-ordination, avoiding obstacles and making sure both of her hands are in control of the bike and the bike isn't controlling her.



3. Hajra can be seen in the third picture with a big smile and on the swing. This is great for Hajra because it gives her a chance to get out of her wheelchair and experience some of the playground equipment.



4. Qasim is seen in the fourth picture on a bike, looking at the camera. Bike sessions are essential for Qasim because he is so close to using pedals, having managed to master his ability to balance on the bike independently and push the bike to make it move. The playground is also a space for Qasim to regulate and calm down, taking himself to a corner to do so.

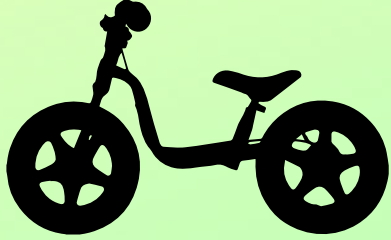


5. Max is seen in the fifth picture on a trike. This is a good message, and it shows us that Max is determined and wants a chance to get out of the classroom and participate in the same activities as he sees his peers engaged in.



6. The last picture shows Xintong coming down the slide. This is good because Xintong is usually corner-bound in the playground but this shows us that she has been exploring more and more of the playground. We can see other students in the picture too, which tells us that Xintong's tolerance for other learners in the same space as her has improved, not only for the classroom but in the playground too.





Nova class

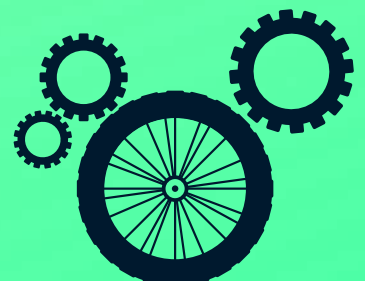
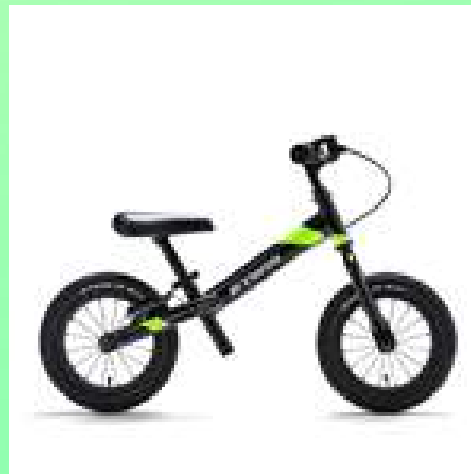


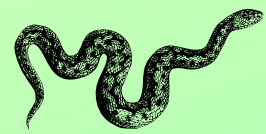
BALANCE BIKES

Nova have been using the balance bikes every week and expanding their skills, learning how to push the bikes, glide on the bikes and use pedals to use the bike independently.

Nova class love going on the bikes each week and we can see the progress they have been making over the year. Lots of our learners can now mount the bikes, use their feet to push themselves along and tolerate wearing helmets.

We would encourage any parents to borrow the bikes during the holidays to support the learning in school and develop independence and life skills at home.





Perseus class... trip to the farm

Phoenix and Perseus learners had a great day out at Hounslow Urban farm.

Everyone was very excited to meet the different farm animals. A highlight was feeding the goats who were particularly hungry!

The group were able to touch a range of exotic and farm animals, including lizards, snakes and a goose!



It was wonderful to see our learners generalising their communication to make comments and requests in a new environment, as well as having a fun day out with their friends.



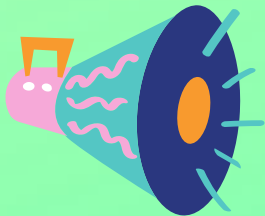
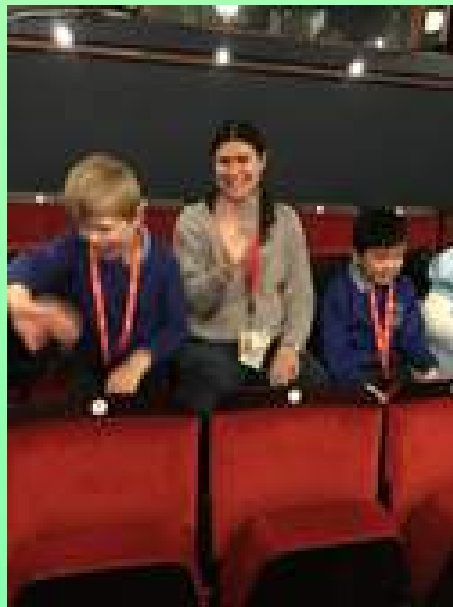
Phoenix class (with Luna class) at the theatre

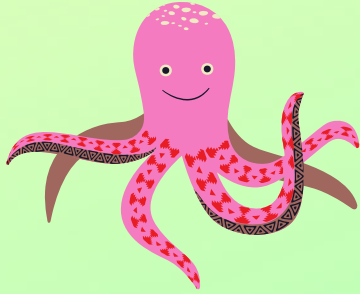


Phoenix and Luna classes have been learning about Cinderella in the learning zones and literacy lessons.

At the beginning of Spring term, we went to visit the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to watch a performance of Cinderella. It was great to be able to apply the learning that we have done in school at the theatre.

The group particularly enjoyed listening to the music, watching the different coloured lights and seeing the puppets.





Vega class



This term Vega have enjoyed getting creative in all the learning areas and in lessons. They have been doing lots of cooking in the independent living area making pancakes and toasties and following simple recipes.

In art we have enjoyed our class 'under the sea' theme and created our own world book day costumes. Everyone looked fabulous. 😊





Aquila class

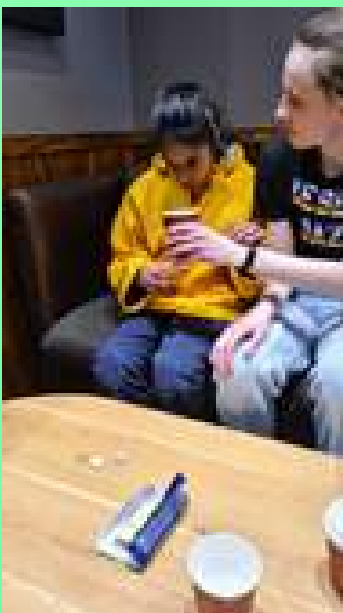


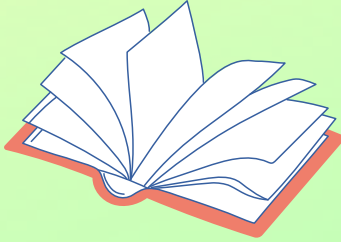
Following our theme for this school term on Roar and Explore, in Aquila class we focused for Spring 2 in farm animals, routines, sounds, textures and care.

Our students went to the Hounslow Urban Farm on March 4 and they all enjoyed looking for different animals. We also had our animal encounters where they could also touch and see a wide range of reptiles and insects.

In Aquila class we noticed that our students struggle to try food and drinks that are unfamiliar. To help our students try new things and continue working on their targets when out in the community we have started visiting a coffee shop close to our campus. This trip helps them to be more active since there is a ten-minute walk each way, promotes mental wellbeing, and encourages the development of peer relationships.

At the coffee shop they can choose to have a hot or cold drink and some salty or sweet treats. 😊
Some students - namely Zunaira and Joey - have not let us forget about the trip!





Mira class



During



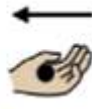
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In



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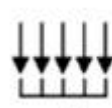
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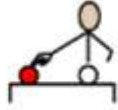
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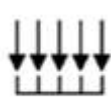
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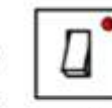
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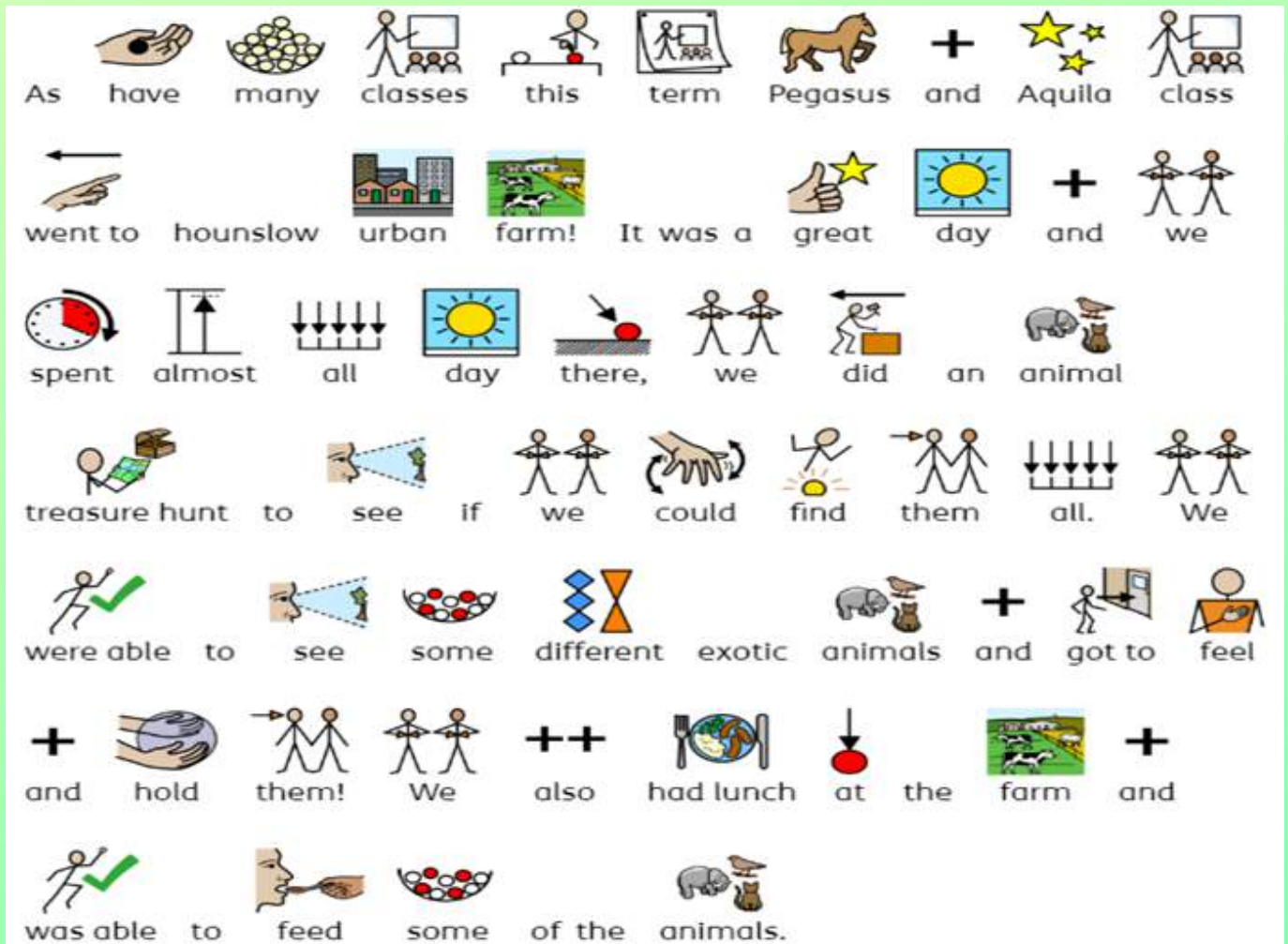
favourite



books.



Pegasus class





Playtime inclusion at the Russell campus

This half term Leo and Hercules pupils have been welcoming some pupils from the Russell School to join in with our playtime activities.

We have been playing tag, listening to music, using the building blocks and making new friends.

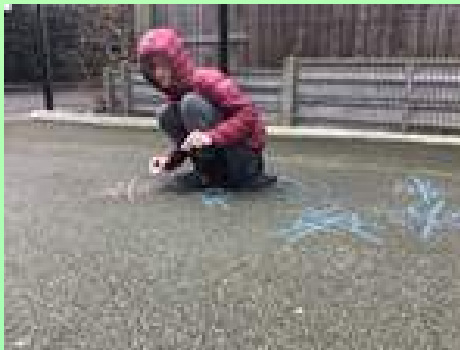




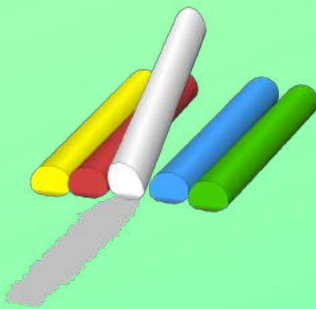
Playful playtimes

We have recently recruited four new Play Leaders to join the Play Leader team. This means that we're able to get the learners involved in lots of play opportunities across all three campuses during lunchtime.

Look at how engaged our learners have been during their lunch breaks:



Chalks



Hopscotch



Colouring



Books



Parachute games



Sensory tray activities, some with a competitive element

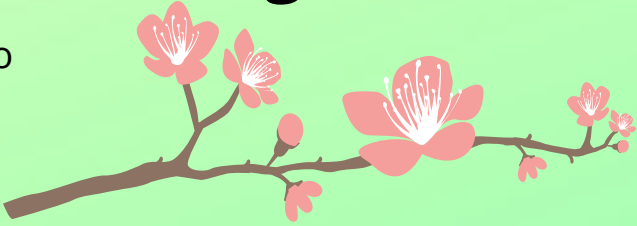


Ball games



Family support and wellbeing

By Natalie Arciero



Spring is here! The days are getting longer and hopefully warmer. Cherry blossoms, Easter bunnies, egg hunts, Spring equinox, Holi festival, Nowruz, chocolate, fairies. Whatever your celebration or festival, it is a time for fresh new beginnings.

Some highlights this term:

- Families joined the virtual E-Safety workshop hosted by Peter Cowley from Achieving for Children. Lots of you logged on and notes were taken on how to set parental controls and brush up on our knowledge of keeping safe online and supporting children with SEN online.
- A group of Key Stage 4 Families along with myself attended the RUILS information session about preparing for the next stage after Strathmore and applying for colleges. Your feedback on this session was that it was really informative and that 'knowledge is key'. Please contact me if anyone missed this session and wants the notes.
- Strathmore Family Information Sessions are under way hosted alongside Skylarks charity and our therapies team. Keep an eye out in our newsletter or paper flyers for details.
- Family Worker drop-in sessions held at Café Vanilla every Friday have been an opportunity for families to meet for a coffee and a chat served by our Mira class team. Some of the support has been – freedom passes, taxi cards, blue badge applications and PIP forms. Just to note if you require DLA application support this requires a longer session and will need to be booked with me.

As you know, I work with families on an individual case basis too (not all lives are the same). Strathmore School endeavours to support families wherever possible or find an organisation that can! Do not hesitate to get in contact – narciero@strathmore.org.uk

As always, remember to keep an eye on your borough's local offer page for updates on clubs and events this Easter break.


AfC Info website: Kingston and Richmond SEND Local Offer

Synergy (hounslow.gov.uk)

Wandsworth's SEND Local Offer: THRIVE Wandsworth

Happy Easter

Natalie, Strathmore Family Worker





School Council

Russell Campus

The student council voted for the activities they wanted to do for Valentine's Day at the Russell campus. They chose to make a friend out of Play-Doh and make handprints of them and their friends. They were also dancing to songs about friendship.



SRR Campus

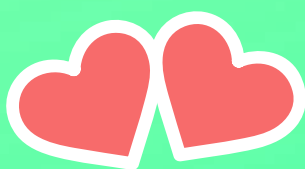
The members of the school council enjoyed meeting with one of the governors (Jane Curzon) They talked to her about how they feel about the school and who they should talk to if they feel sad or worried.

The student council also gave a tour across the campus to MP Munira Wilson and governor John Watkin who joined our learners for the assembly celebrating International Women's Day. They also showed our school to GCSE students from SRR school and had a short meeting with them, during which they all enjoyed talking and eating biscuits made by Andromeda learners.



Grey Court campus

At the Grey Court campus the students voted to have a Valentine's Day themed party where they listened and danced to music and enjoyed eating the different party foods. The students also made Valentine's Day cards for their friends and family while taking part in the party.



New soft play for the Russell campus

After half term the Russell campus learners had a surprise when they went to the soft play room!
Over the holiday our much-loved and used soft play room had a revamp and looked very different.

A BIG THANK YOU to **Jane Curzon, FOSS and the Victoria Foundation** for providing the funds to do this project and the staff involved in planning, designing and getting the equipment installed.

The new space and equipment will give our learners more opportunities to improve their physical development, work on their OT and Physiotherapy targets. As well as having a fun space to do Intensive Interaction and Communication sessions to name a few, the possibilities are endless.

Some comments from our learners already were:

Wow such
fun!



It's
beautiful!!





Family Easter at St Peter's Church

Sunday 27th March

9.30 am Mothering Sunday Communion Service, with gifts to give to those who nurture and care for us.

Friday 15th April, Good Friday

10.30am

A 40-minute all-age Family Service, with hot-cross buns and activities.

Sunday 17th April, Easter Day

9.30am

All-age Communion followed by Easter egg hunt

St Peter's Church, Church Lane, off Petersham Road, Petersham TW10 7AB

T- 020 8940 8435 M - 07786 958514



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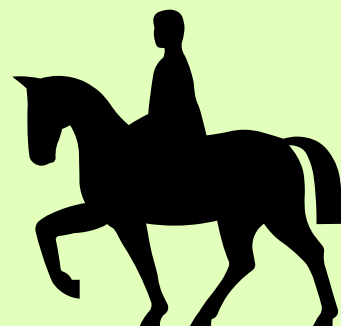
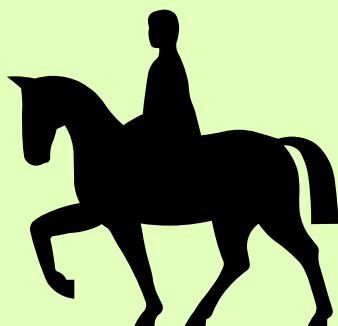
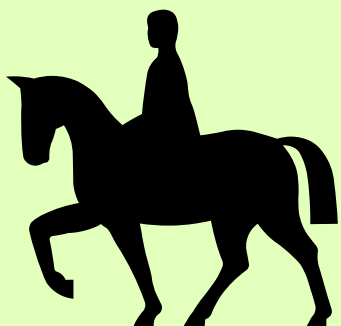
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Female Para Talent Event

3:30-5:30pm

Friday 8th April 2022

at Fulham FC Training Ground

Fulham FC Foundation Para Talent Hub in partnership with the FA are pleased to offer a great opportunity for aspiring female footballers with a disability to showcase their talents and learn more about the England Para Football Squads and FA Para Football Talent Pathway.

Females aged 7 to 16 years, with any form of disability including those with Cerebral Palsy, Visual Impairments or Blind and Hearing Impairments are invited to take part in this free taster session at Fulham FC Training Ground, Motspur Park, KT3 6PT.

If you would like more information about this session please do get in touch with Katy Shephard, DisAbility Development Officer by email on kshephard@fulhamfc.com

Female Pan DisAbility Football Programme

Weekly Sessions start on Saturday 23rd April 2022

and will take place at Fulham FC Training Ground on a Saturday morning:

9am to 10am for females aged 5 to 16 years

10:10am to 11:30am for females aged 16 years +

With the first session on the 23rd April 2022, Free as a taster session, before the weekly block starts the following Saturday. Charged at £5 per session.

If you have any questions or queries please contact:

KATY SHEPHARD

DISABILITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB FOUNDATION | TRAINING GROUND | MOTSPUR PARK | KT3 6PT

TEL: 07827 957837