

The Grapevine Summer 2022



Mijols Panxhi, from Buongiorno cafe in Heath Road, Twickenham, came to meet the Strathmore School Council and brought some Italian ice cream and cakes, ready for summer.

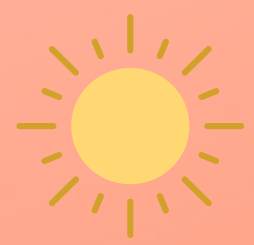
Contents



Page 3:	Head's Piece
page 4:	A poem for Ivan
Page 5:	Message from the Chair of Governors
Page 6:	Strathmore at the Russell
Page 8:	Strathmore at St Richard Reynolds
Page 10:	Strathmore at Grey Court
Page 12:	Specialist Strategies
Page 14:	Goodbye!
Page 15:	Delphini class get messy
Page 16:	Leo class
Page 17:	Luna class
Page 18:	Hercules class
Page 19:	Hercules and Delphini class allotment visits
Page 21:	Andromeda class
Page 22:	Capella class
Page 24:	Nova class
Page 25:	Perseus class
Page 26:	Phoenix class
Page 27:	Vega class
Page 28:	Aquila class
Page 29:	Mira class work experience and leaver's lunch
Page 30:	Pegasus class
Page 31:	The new Astra class at Darell
Page 32:	School council
Page 34:	Family Support and wellbeing
Page 36:	Primary Pentathlon
Page 37:	St Mary's Sports morning
Page 38:	Swimming
Page 39:	Panathalon Gala
Page 40:	FOSS BBQ
Page 41:	FOSS Colour Fun Run
Page 42:	FOSS Ham Fair
Page 43:	FOSS Official Opening of Soft Play room at Russell
Page 44:	FOSS Meadow update
Page 45:	Ideas for outdoor activities



Head's piece



We've certainly had our dose of sunshine recently!

I know it has been hard for so many of you and your children and it really has been exceptional. Which, I suppose, is something we are familiar with – not the heat but the fact that we have had two years of things being exceptional! Which is why the return of some of the familiar activities has demonstrated that we are moving forward. The most recent has been the return of the FOSS Family BBQ. With the last event having been held in 2019, there were many families who had not had the opportunity to enjoy this summer highlight and the feedback was very enthusiastic. There are far too many people to thank them all individually although Jane Curzon, wearing her Chair of FOSS badge, again deserves a very loud and long round of applause.

The BBQ was a reminder that despite being on three different sites, Strathmore is one large family. It is my privilege to be the one person who gets to visit all the classes in all of the different parts of school which means I get to see most often how all of the Strathmore staff share the same commitment to using the specialist strategies, share their encouragement and eagerness to support the pupils. And that enthusiasm and use of specialist strategies means Strathmore is continually full and having to turn away families whose children desperately need a place at school. Which is why we have agreed to expand a little further in September.

You'll recall the public consultation that was sent to you recently regarding the proposed new provision at Hampton High and at Darell. More than 85% of responses were in favour of opening new provision and in September there will be a new Infant class within Darell Primary School in North Sheen/Kew. The class will be led by Amy Upton who has been teaching most recently at Russell campus and before that taught in our Grey Court campus. We've been in discussions with Darell leadership for some time and have a very positive relationship going back a few years: we know that the new Astra class will be warmly welcomed by Darell and the parents are delighted to be joining the Strathmore family. There's no news about the Hampton project as that is sitting with architects and planners, and we will bring you updates when we receive them.

Of course, Astra class is not the only change taking place at school over the summer. As usual we say goodbye to pupils and staff who are going on to new challenges. Zane, Hajra, Hinata, Wayne and Sophia have been at Strathmore for a collective 34 years, joining in 2012 (Zane), 2014 (Hajra, Hinata, Wayne) and 2018 (Sophia). With Hajra, Hinata, Wayne and Sophia going to Great Oaks College and Zane to Orchard Hill, all of this year's leavers will re-join other former Strathmore students and I know that friendships will be re-kindled. On other pages you'll see the staff who are moving on and I add my thanks to them for all their huge efforts for Strathmore learners. I sometime joke that we are aiming to have a part of Strathmore in every Richmond school (although that would be no joke to try and run) but, with staff who have learnt and developed the Strathmore Strategies, when they go into new schools they share a bit of Strathmore further than just Richmond. I hope they won't spend hours in their new staff rooms actually saying "Well, at Strathmore we did...." but, equally, I hope they think it!

And I can't ignore that amongst the staff moving on is me! Although I am not going far, and I am not really leaving, but the letters and emails will have another name at the bottom, Sarah's. It has been a privilege to have been Headteacher at Strathmore since January 2010 and to have seen your children, and the whole school community, grow. Whilst I won't see you as often as before, I can promise that I will be visiting and watching with close interest how Strathmore continues to develop and grow under Sarah's leadership. It's an exciting time!

And as we all travel a bit further than perhaps last year, I will thank the staff again for their dedication to school and the pupils. Whatever the challenges faced, they have resolutely returned to school each morning ready to make sure that school is open so that all of the pupils have the most fantastic and imaginative learning experiences. I am very proud of them all.

I want them, and you, to have a really happy summer break. For everyone, whatever you do and wherever you travel, please do it safely so we can regather in September – together.

Best wishes for the summer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah', with a horizontal line underneath.

Poem for Ivan

**Ivan is going to be CEO of the Auriga Trust
Ivan is going to change the job
Ivan has worked so hard in Auriga Trust
I am going to miss him when he does some school work
And I also going to miss him when he came to my classroom
He wears a shirt and a tie
Ivan likes presents
He comes by bike
Good luck**

By Haydn Smith



Message from the Chair of Governors



By John Watkin



Dear learners, families and staff,

As we reach the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable summer break. You definitely deserve it!

For most schools, 2021-2022 has been the year in which everyone finally returned to their classrooms after the pandemic. But not here, because you never left them! Throughout the Covid lockdowns, you have heroically kept going and we governors are very aware, appreciative and proud of this. I especially want to thank all of the staff at Strathmore, who have worked incredibly hard, not only to keep things going but, amazingly, also to innovate and improve many aspects of the school, notably assessment and literacy.

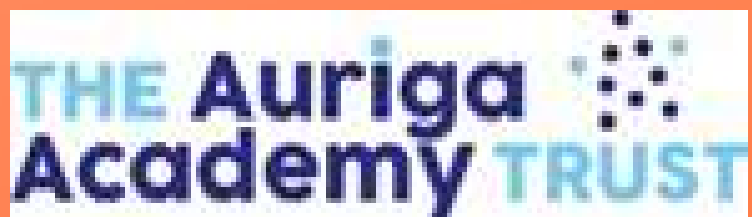
Changes are being made in the Auriga Trust. Most significant to us is that we, the governors of Strathmore, will now be free to focus on the most important things, the experiences of the learners. All of our work from September will be about the quality of education, how the learners progress and how well they are kept safe. I, for one, really look forward to this.

And, as you will know, we have changes in the leadership of Strathmore. Huge congratulations to Sarah and Lauren, our new headteacher and deputy. We very much look forward to working with you both next year. Sadly for us, though, Eleanor is leaving us; I'm sure you will all agree that she has done an amazing job at St Richard Reynolds. Thank you so much, Eleanor, and the best of luck in Berkshire, your home county!

Once again, have a wonderful holiday and we will see you in September.

Best wishes,
John Watkin

LGB Chair
Strathmore School



Strathmore at the Russell

By Sarah Hurtado

Our school vision focuses on supporting our learners to be prepared to become active contributors to their communities and there are many examples of how our class teams put this into action over the last term. Our Educational Visits offer has continued to grow and shows how important it is for our learners to extend their learning from the classroom into the outside world.

Thank you to all our families who joined us on trips in the community and to those who came to sessions led by Natalie Arciero, our amazing Family Worker and to 'Stay and Play' sessions led by class teams. We had visits out to local parks, swimming pools, farms, shops, supermarkets, the Rose Theatre, cafés, horse riding stables, tennis courts, the Olympic Stadium, cinemas and restaurants. The children have accessed public transport and used our school bicycles, adapted trikes and scooters to get to their destinations.

Our staff also had a community visit to Kempton Park where they took part in a Colour Fun Run and raised a huge amount of money for the school which will be used to buy extra resources for the children.

Thank you to all our class teams for making these trips and events happen and a special 'shout out' to Louise Ross and Annabelle Warrior, our PD Lead and swimming teacher.



Our annual Strathmore Family BBQ was back in July and was the biggest and best it has ever been. It was fantastic to see our community together, enjoying incredible food prepared by the BBQ Team and having lots of fun on the bouncy castle, in our Grey Court Campus playground with face painting and music making it an incredibly successful event. Friends of Strathmore School (FOSS) organised the event and did a wonderful job. I would like to thank Jane Curzon, the Chair of FOSS and her FOSS Team for all their hard work. We look forward to more family events in the new academic year.

Finally, I want to extend my thanks to our incredible staff team who work very hard to ensure that your children have the best education they could possibly have. They are dedicated and committed to their role and this was clearly evident in the end of year appraisal presentations. I am proud to be part of the best team and look forward to the opening of our new satellite class, Astra, situated at Darell School in September and to the new academic year and the changes it will bring.

It goes without saying that I will miss Eleanor but wish her the best in her new school – our loss is certainly their gain and she will continue to spread her magic to others. Wishing you all a very happy summer break, Sarah.





Strathmore at St Richard Reynolds

By Eleanor Bukht

I'm sad to write that this will be my last Grapevine submission before I move to a new Special School in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the learners at Strathmore for letting me be part of their amazing world and teaching me to look at things from a different angle. Some of my best days have been when observing a new skill being trialled independently or when a learner has initiated some communication or when a routine has finally fit in to place. Pure magic.

The type of people I work with are a very unique group; they find the hope in the challenging moments and always approach learners with kindness. The generosity I have experienced between staff (including the amazing Admin and site team), learners and families has been really humbling, particularly given the many international crises we hear about daily.

I am so proud to have been part of a team that have written a whole new curriculum, implemented new strategies to teach Maths so that every learner is applying number knowledge in a meaningful way and particularly this year, to have seen how powerful the Little Wandle (Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme) has been in supporting young people to read for pleasure and for information.

Attending the teacher appraisals was a privilege; what it confirmed was that our staff know your children inside out and they have so many wonderful examples of learning and progress across the year. The teachers have committed to promoting learner independence, engaging with you (the families) and always having communication at the heart of everything we do. The teaching staff live and breathe the Strathmore vision and I am confident that the new School Leadership Team will continue to lead Strathmore to its most successful chapter so far.

In my farewells, I want to recognise the colleagues I have worked closest to in my final year:

Ivan – the big boss; he trusted me when he appointed me 6 years ago and has shared his tricks of the trade and vision for an inclusive local community that I will take with me into all future roles.

Adriana – starting off as AHT at SRR campus before moving to GC and teaching me how to embrace tricky conversations and lean into vulnerability with the aid of our hero, Brene Brown. Adriana is a humble, generous and kind colleague and a child-centred leader.

Lauren – the AHT at SRR most recently, and soon to be acting Deputy Headteacher. In the face of any challenge, Lauren can help me find both the humour and the openness to share and ask for help. She took to the role with such competency and professionalism that it felt like she'd been doing it for years. It has been wonderful to see her reflect and grow into such an outstanding leader with sound pedagogical knowledge and creative ideas. An excellent replacement Deputy Head!



Sarah – the colleague who has propped me up in the face of a global pandemic, who always has time for me and whom I trust entirely. She is inspiring, knowledgeable, forgiving, sharp, clever, motivated; a hugely resilient leader and the right choice to take Strathmore forward.

She has shown me how to build strong, transparent and supportive relationships with families and learners to promote outcomes, which is the foundation of an outstanding school. You couldn't ask for a better person to be steering the Strathmore ship in September 2022.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey. I have learnt the most important lessons whilst at Strathmore and will be forever grateful for the whole community. Together, we are changing the world, a small step at a time.

Love, Eleanor



2016

2022

Goodbye and thank you to Eleanor

Eleanor, we wanted to thank you for everything you have done for Strathmore since you started with us in 2016. You have had a huge impact on learners and staff and we will really miss you. Wishing you lots of luck in your new post! They are very lucky to be gaining a colleague and leader like you.

E – Expert

L – Leader

E – Exceeds expectations

A – Amazing

N – Never gives up

O – Outstanding!

R – Respectful

Strathmore at Grey Court

By Adrianna Martyr

Looking back at all the achievements our learners have accomplished this year, it is hard to imagine that only a few months ago we were restricted by the pandemic.

We are still yet to fully understand the impact on mental health this global episode has had on all of us, in addition to the unsettling worldwide events and the challenges that we face in our local areas. We are however a thriving campus and, as a school, we haven't stopped aspiring high for our learners and reaching the goals we set out to achieve at the start of the year.

Our learners show that they enjoy reading and some of them have made excellent progress in phonics. They also applied the skills they learnt in the classroom out in the community, and we had families joining us on trips this term.

Sensory Stories, Attention Autism and Intensive Interaction are amongst the most impactful specialist strategies used this year and the learners have made progress in their communication.

Highlights this term:

Artist Gwen Ramsay led a successful Arts Day in June to celebrate self-expression and creativity and we'll see display posters around the campus in September showcasing the work of the learners.

Sports day was a great experience with families attending the event and excellent organisation from our PE lead Louise Ross. Class teams were incredible at supporting learners and encouraging them to join in and learn a new skill.

Inclusion continued and we hosted work experience students from GC and ViPs throughout the term as well as after-school bike club. Our learners visited the canteen, Newman House and the allotment.

I wish all the learners, families, and staff a restful and re-energising summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all back in September!

Adriana





Goodbye!



Pennel

Andromeda .class teacher who has been such a big influence with implementing phonics. Pennel is looking forward to a shorter bike ride to school



Sarah

10 years at Strathmore, being a fantastic role model and helping implement and lead so many new initiatives. A new career in Speech & Language Therapy awaits.



Oana

A Champion of students, and never going to just go with crowd, Oana has promoted the Makaton sign of the week and is flying home to Hunedora!.



Helen

From TA to HLTA to Teacher, welcoming the first Reception children to SRR campus and achieving her Masters! Helen is moving back to "God's Own Country"!



Silvia

Helping learners and families outside school as well as in, Silvia has been active promoting the wellbeing of all staff. Addressing her own Silvia will also enjoy a much shorter commute.



Eleanor

Leading Strathmore into Twickenham was just the beginning.. Impression after influence after impact has followed - in school and wider. Eleanor is returning to Berkshire and in doing so, creating a huge gap.

Each and every one of you have made the *biggest* difference to everyone in the Strathmore School family.

Looking back will make you dizzy at your achievements. Thank you, enjoy your next adventures and remember us.



We are special...ists!

By Lauren Crew



This year, one of our School Development Priorities has been embedding our Specialist Strategies into the classrooms to support learners' communication and regulation. Some of the Specialist Strategies we use are:

Attention Autism, Makaton, ALD boards, Fun with Food, TEACCH, Intensive Interaction, visual timetables.

As well as our own in-house training, we have provided staff with accredited qualifications in the following:



20 staff members = TEACCH

14 staff members = Attention Autism

11 staff members = Makaton level 1

All permanent staff = Team Teach Level 2
(and more!)



As a result of these trainings, we have seen a range of impact across the school...

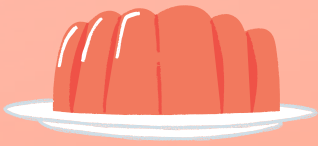
Challenging behaviour incidents have reduced by a massive 56%!!! Our learners are more regulated, achieving more and the school environment is even more settled and happy! All learners in Bands 1-5 have made accelerated progress in the Expressive and Receptive Communication frameworks.

Whole-school communication EHCP data has improved over the last 2 years. As a result of Specialist Strategies being an SDP focus for 2 consecutive years all classes use appropriate individualised strategies for their learners resulting in more learners achieving a 4 (achieved) or a 5 (exceeded) in their EHCP targets for communication/independent living. Where learners have not made expected progress, interventions including Specialist Strategies have been put into place.

HLTAs have raised their profile across all 3 campuses and we are working coherently as one big team. Thank you HLTAs! 😊







Delphini Class get messy

During the summer term Delphini class have had a daily adult-led session of messy play. We have been exploring a range of textures (wet, dry, sticky) with our hands or toys. Messy play provides us with the opportunity to explore and become comfortable around a range of textures without showing any aversion.

In the sessions the textures have included food and non-food items, such as cereals, cornflour, jelly, soil, and sand. We have all developed our confidence during these sessions and are now happier to explore them in different environments.







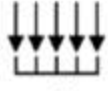





Leo Class



 In  May,  Leo  class  collected  donations  for a  local  Food  Bank.

 We  delivered  the  donations.  We  weighed  and  sorted  them  with

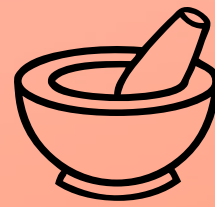
 the  help  of the  lovely  volunteers  at  Vineyard  Community Centre.

 Thank you  to  all  those  who  helped  with  donations.





Luna Class



Luna Class have had a wonderful summer term and have been very creative! We have been working hard to secure and consolidate our skills within the local community.

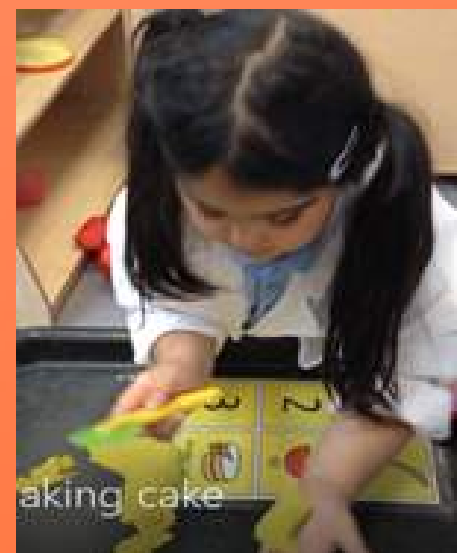
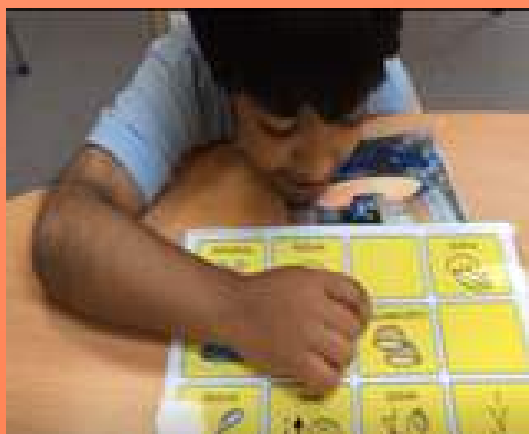
Some of us have been to visit Café Vanilla at Grey Court and exploring Sandy Lane Park in our local community. We have been using our timetables and visuals to communicate and make requests with people we see in the community.

We have been having fun playing the role of a chef. We have: created toppings for pizzas in our role play area; practised filling and rolling tortillas in our exploration area; made cakes and ice creams using kinetic sand and coloured sand. Our favourite activity has been grinding and squashing fresh herbs and spices using a pestle and mortar.

We have been looking very closely at artwork by Italian artist Archimboldi used food to make unusual faces. We thought they looked funny and made our own food faces!

Luna class have been amazing at sharing space with their Russell friends in the playground weekly. The class team are very proud of each learner and how much they have matured throughout the year, consolidating their learning in and out of the community.

Well done Luna Class for an awesome term!





Hercules Class



Hercules Class have had a wonderful summer term and have been out and about! We have been practising and generalising our targets in the local community.

We have been to visit Costa in our local community and Café Vanilla in Ham library. We were working on our communication skills of following timetables and communication with people in the community.

We had fun at Battersea Park Children's Zoo with Perseus class. We got to see lots of animals, follow a map and have fun in the adventure playground.

We have been shopping to the local Sainsburys to buy items for our picnic which we take to the allotment on a Thursday afternoon.

Hercules have been fantastic on trips this year and the class team are very proud of each learner and how much they progressed and generalised their skills.
Well done Hercules Class for a wonderful term!





Hercules and Delphini Class allotment visits



This term some of Hercules class and two buddies from Delphini class have been visiting our allotment at the Russell Campus.

We have been digging and weeding our flower beds, then planting herbs, onions and potatoes which have started to grow, but our favourite thing to do was lots of watering and getting very messy.

When all the hard work was done, we were able to practise our motor skills on the tree fort.







Andromeda Class



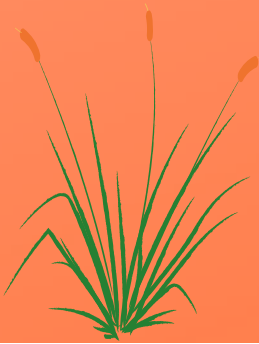
Andromeda Class have had a jam-packed summer term full of trips out in the community.

They have enjoyed developing their tennis skills at Sheen Tennis Club.

The students have also been shopping for ingredients to make toasted sandwiches. They have practised paying for items and checking that they have the correct change.

Some learners have also used journey planners to plan journeys using public transport.

They then enjoyed observing nature and identifying plants and trees at Marble Hill Park.





Capella Class

Through the recent spring term and new summer term, Capella class have been attending Marble Hill play centre.

From the first picture, we can see Simeon, a learner who struggles to adapt to new surroundings, sitting on a chair having his snack. Simeon, previously, would always protest even leaving the bus, but now, Simeon is somewhat confident and comfortable when attending trips, especially Marble Hill, a place with new faces where he has had time to familiarise himself.



In the second picture we can see Klara on a rope and tyre swing. Klara has always been confident in trips outside of Strathmore, but, hasn't always been the most confident in trying out different equipment and sharing a playing space with other learners. But, over both terms at Marble Hill, Klara has seemingly adapted a better understanding of different pieces of equipment and has even has learned to share a playing space with a learner, in this case, the paddling pool with Qasim.



In the third picture, we can see Jalal on the same rope and tyre swing used by Klara. Jalal has been enjoying his trips to the play centre where he developed his gross motor skills further and followed verbal cues to try large play equipment. He benefitted from prolonged movement breaks and also made some interactions with learners from other campuses to improve his social skills.



In this picture, we can see Qasim in the distance with a member of staff attending parachute play. Qasim's ability to engage in play with others has drastically improved, Qasim is confident when playing with an adult and as you can see in the picture, Qasim doesn't feign from initiating play. Marble Hill has benefited Qasim because it gives him a space of freedom to both explore and regulate if needed.



In the picture Xingtong is standing and looking back at the iPad. Xingtong doesn't refrain from exploring new spaces. In the very same picture we can see Angela, our class teacher, holding a wooden roll, where after both Xingtong and Angela engaged in a small game between themselves. Xingtong is also very independent and doesn't refrain from exploring new spaces. Outdoor experiences have really given Xingtong a chance to be able to understand the outside world and soon enough Xingtong is due to go to Tesco with a staff member to purchase a few necessities for the class.



In the picture with bikes, we can see Max and Adam on a two-person bike. This is fantastic to see because it shows that the outdoor experiences really give learners a chance to participate in activities the rest of the learners would. Max benefited a lot from that outdoor trip, not only because he was on a bike, but, the exercise, the fresh air and a change of environment was a great experience for Max.



Finally, in the last picture we can see our Hajra on a wheelchair-customized bike receiving assistance from a TA in Capella. For Hajra, this is amazing to see, considering Hajra is unfortunately wheelchair-bound and doesn't get the same chance as other learners when it comes to bikes. This is a great experience for Hajra because it was a chance to feel what other learners experience when on the bike, for example, going at a faster speed, a slower speed, going on a rocky path, a smooth path and much more.





Nova Class love to explore...



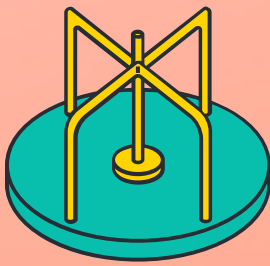
....the local playground.

Nova class have been visiting Holly Road playground every week for the summer term. We go as a whole class and walk all the way!

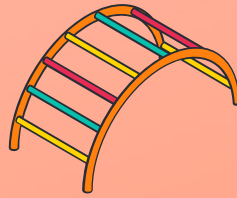
Nova class have been learning about road safety, crossing the road, staying with the group and learning to wait. The children have also been encouraged to listen and look for cars on the road and check when it is safe to go.

The children have loved being in the playground and exploring all the equipment. The slide, spinning chair and swings have been the most popular.



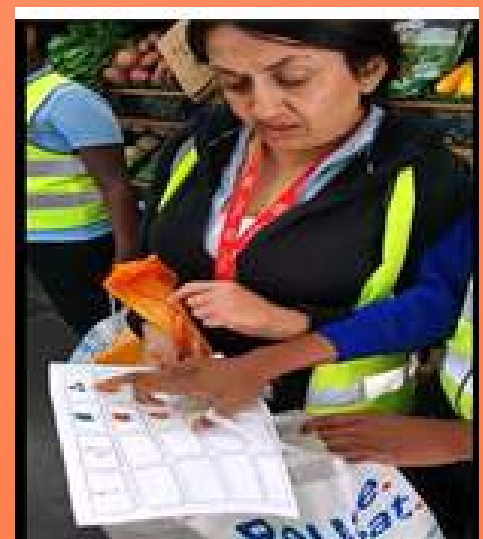


Perseus Class



Perseus class have been going on local walks every week to the park, where they have been learning how to walk safely and cross roads. While at the park the students have been using skills that they have learnt in school like running, playing catch, and using their "now and next" to move around the equipment in the play area.

We have also been walking to the local greengrocer to buy resources and snacks for our class. The students used their communication aids to ask the shopkeeper for what they wanted. As this went so well, we took the students to Tesco and again they would use their communication aids to tell staff what they wanted. Then, with some support, pay for their items on the self-service tills.





Cooking in Phoenix Class



Phoenix class have enjoyed a weekly cooking or fun with food session.

In cooking, we have been working on following a recipe and have developed skills such as cutting fruit and salad to make smoothies, pitta bread sandwiches and fruit puddings. We have also been practising tidying up and making sure all the work surfaces are clean.

In fun with food, we have been working on touching and exploring different food textures. We have particularly enjoyed decorating ice creams cones using coloured yoghurt.





Vega Class



This term Vega have been busy attending lots of sports events and trips in the local community.

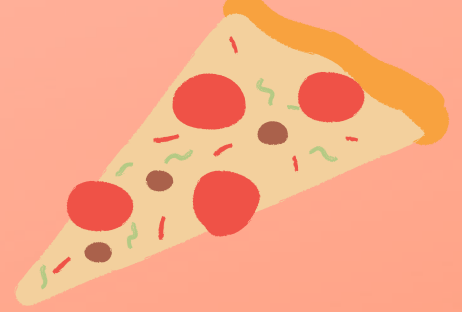
They have attended Sheen Tennis Club, swimming, a rugby festival, bike club and ridden their bikes and scooters to different locations.

As well as attending all the sporting activities, Vega have enjoyed getting creative and making decorations for the Queen's jubilee and rehearsing for our summer show. We can't wait to showcase all our hard work 😊





Aquila Class



Carrying on the link with being more independent in the community, communication skills and our curriculum theme “food, glorious food”, in Aquila Class we have been helping our students preparing and experimenting with food.

In class, our stories for this term have been “Caribbean dreams” and “A passion for pizza” and this has helped our students staying focused for longer, making a link on how food and drinks get prepared and increasing their vocabulary (objects, action verbs and attributes).

Our students also had the opportunity to use the flat to then try to recreate or prepare their favourite snacks and drinks and when in the community, using their preferred method of communication to make requests according to options available.

This was to carry on the from the experience of going to the coffee shop choosing hot or cold drinks and some salty or sweet treats. 😊

To burn off some calories we used the Marble Hill Play Centre as an extra opportunity to develop a gross motor skills and generalise skills.



Mira Class work experience and leaver's lunch

Throughout this year Mira class have been practising and developing their on-going skills through weekly work experience opportunities. During the summer term in particular, learners are now able to transfer their skills into other areas.

Those learners who have dedicated their time and skills in Café Vanilla, have successfully completed and achieved:

a **Level 1 Food Hygiene certificate from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.**

This has been a fantastic opportunity and achievement for our KS5 learners.



KS5 learners have been accessing our Preparing for Adulthood programme and developing their skills for independence through a variety of modules:

Horticulture, Caring for animals, Cooking, and Food Preparation.

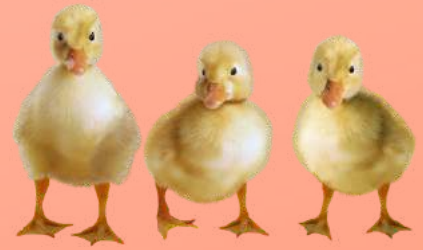
This term Mira class have been preparing and cooking their own lunch each Friday. As well as maintaining skills required for breakfast club, and snack time, they have been practising skills to regulate their feelings and look after their belongings.

As part of our end of year celebrations Mira class have participated in a special educational trip to Pizza Express in Richmond with peers from Aquila class. This has enabled learners to generalise their skills for independence in the local community and their feeding skills by visiting a local restaurant. Also, this has been a much-rewarded time to celebrate the end of the year.





Pegasus Class



This term Pegasus class have had the opportunity to explore lots of different parks around the school. We have walked to the Sandy Lane Park, where we have had picnics and had fun playing various games and having the chance to use different communication devices to comment on things in the community.

We also had a fantastic trip to the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park where we played some games with balls and hoops, we got to explore the lakes and see some fish and ducks. We also had a lovely walk around to look at all the different flowers which were beautiful! Some of our parents joined us on the trip which was amazing and they joined us for a fantastic picnic in the sun!

All in all, we have had plenty of time out in the community learning new skills about safety and exploring new places and enjoying the lovely weather we have been so lucky to have!



Introducing... Astra Class! Strathmore @ Darell

By Amy Upton

I am delighted to inform you that Strathmore will be opening a new Satellite class co-located with the Darell School. I will be the Lead Class Teacher of this provision after having experience at our Grey Court and Russell Campuses.

The provision will be called Strathmore @ Darell and the class will be called Astra Class.

Astra Class will be made up of a group of learners from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Key Stage 1 (KS1). We will plan with the other Early Years Classes at Strathmore to offering the same opportunities across Strathmore.

The newly refurbished class is exclusively Strathmore provision. However, we will be working alongside Darell School for opportunities of inclusion for all learners, to interact and engage with and build relationships with one and other.

I look forward to welcoming all the new learners in September and being part of this new and exciting journey for Strathmore.





School Council



Russell campus

The Student Council have been very busy at the Russell campus. They welcome some very special visitors from the Victoria Foundation and Governors to the grand opening of our wonderful new soft playroom. Members of the Student Council greeted the visitors on arrival, showed them around the campus and also showed them the amazing therapy bikes we have with the help of the Victoria Foundation. The Student Council also had a safeguarding meeting with Governors Jane Curzon and Rebecca Branch. They did an amazing job discussing and answering questions on the topic.

Grey Court campus

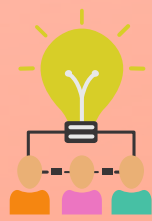
The Student Council voted that the money from the Jack Petchy Award should go towards an artist workshop. Everyone has a amazing time creating their own artwork from different materials like stamps, stickers and paints.

Saint Richard Reynolds campus

This has been a very busy term for the school council at the SRR campus. They have played a key role in a wide range of activities to do with school life. Three members of the school council visited the SRR campus to speak to GCSE students about the adapted cutlery that they use and how it has helped them. All school council members met with an external Safeguarding Leader, the SLT and a Governor. They talked about how they feel at school, their safety, feelings, and their ideas for the future. They also confidently asked questions during the prospective Head Teacher interviews.

The Councillors voted for the winner of the Jack Petchey Award and helped decide how to spend the grant. They have also been busy constructing traffic lights, which they chose for the playground to practise road safety. This term has not only been filled with important tasks but with lots of fun. The School Council planned a much-deserved activity for all the learners to celebrate the end of this academic year. Overall, it has been a very busy and successful term for the Councillors who have continued to play a very important role at the SRR campus.





School Council



Family Support and Wellbeing

By Natalie Arciero



This summer term has finally seen the return of big family gatherings such as Sports Day and the FOSS family BBQ. I was so happy to be a part of these and with such a good turn-out of families.

Coffee mornings, transition days for new families joining and learners leaving us on their post-19 journey... It feels like exciting times ahead.



Strathmore Family Information Sessions hosted at Skylarks have been really popular and will continue for the next academic year.

Sessions so far have included Physio (ideas for movement and importance of exercise), Occupational Therapy (tips and strategies for home), Speech and Language therapy (ways of supporting communication at home) and Fun with Food – supporting sensory food challenges.





The Colour Run was also so much fun and staff at Strathmore raised **£4,784** for the school.
Thank you to all who donated!



As family worker at Strathmore I support families with a broad range of situations or signpost to organisations that can!

Do not hesitate to get in contact;
narciero@strathmore.org.uk

During the summer break you can contact
Contact | RUILS Charity
or Contact us - Richmond Carers Centre for support options.

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

AfC Info website - Kingston and Richmond :: SEND Local Offer

Synergy (hounslow.gov.uk)

Wandsworth's SEND Local Offer | THRIVE Wandsworth

Have a restful summer break
Best Wishes, - Natalie, Strathmore Family Worker



Primary Pentathlon

By Louise Ross

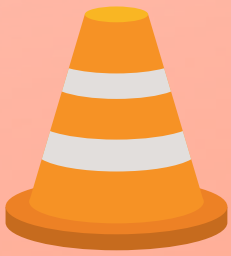


On Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th May, James Tinney from Panathlon came and delivered a Panathlon morning for our Primary PE group. This was the first sporting event this year where the Russell School and St Richard Reynolds Young Leaders supported the event. The Young Leaders spent the morning learning panathlon games (New Age Kurling, Boccia, Precision bean bag) before teaching the games to our primary learners.

The most motivational game was New Age Kurling where most of our learners loved pushing the kurling stones across the floor to a target or down the ramp. Pascal beat the Young Leaders with his amazing aiming skills because he managed to score the basketball from the furthest distance. Raqib was exceptional at Boccia getting great satisfaction from hitting the beach balls with his Boccia ball and watching them fly across the room.

At the end of the session each learner received a medal presented by a Young Leader who shared what skill they thought our learners achieved over the morning. They praised our learners excellent turn-taking, aiming and throwing.





St Mary's Sports Morning

By Louise Ross

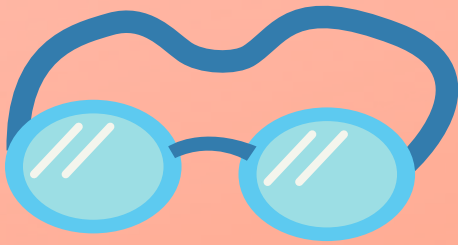


On Monday 25th April, St Mary's University Students came and delivered a sports morning to Grey Court and St Richard Reynolds learners, at our Grey Court campus.

The Secondary learners had attended St Mary's University in the autumn term and it was fantastic to let the St Mary's students lead a rotation of activities linked to gross motor skills in our school environment.

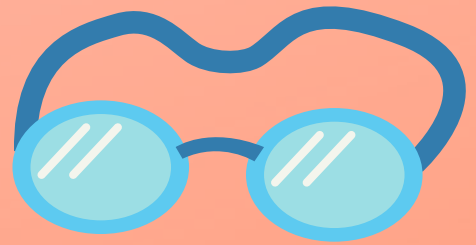
As well as getting active and practising gross motor skills, Grey Court and St Richard Reynolds learners were overjoyed to see each other and take part in small group games. They were high fiving, taking turns, playing on a different playground together and genuinely delighted to be reunited with their friends from across the river.





SWIMMING

By Annabelle Warrior



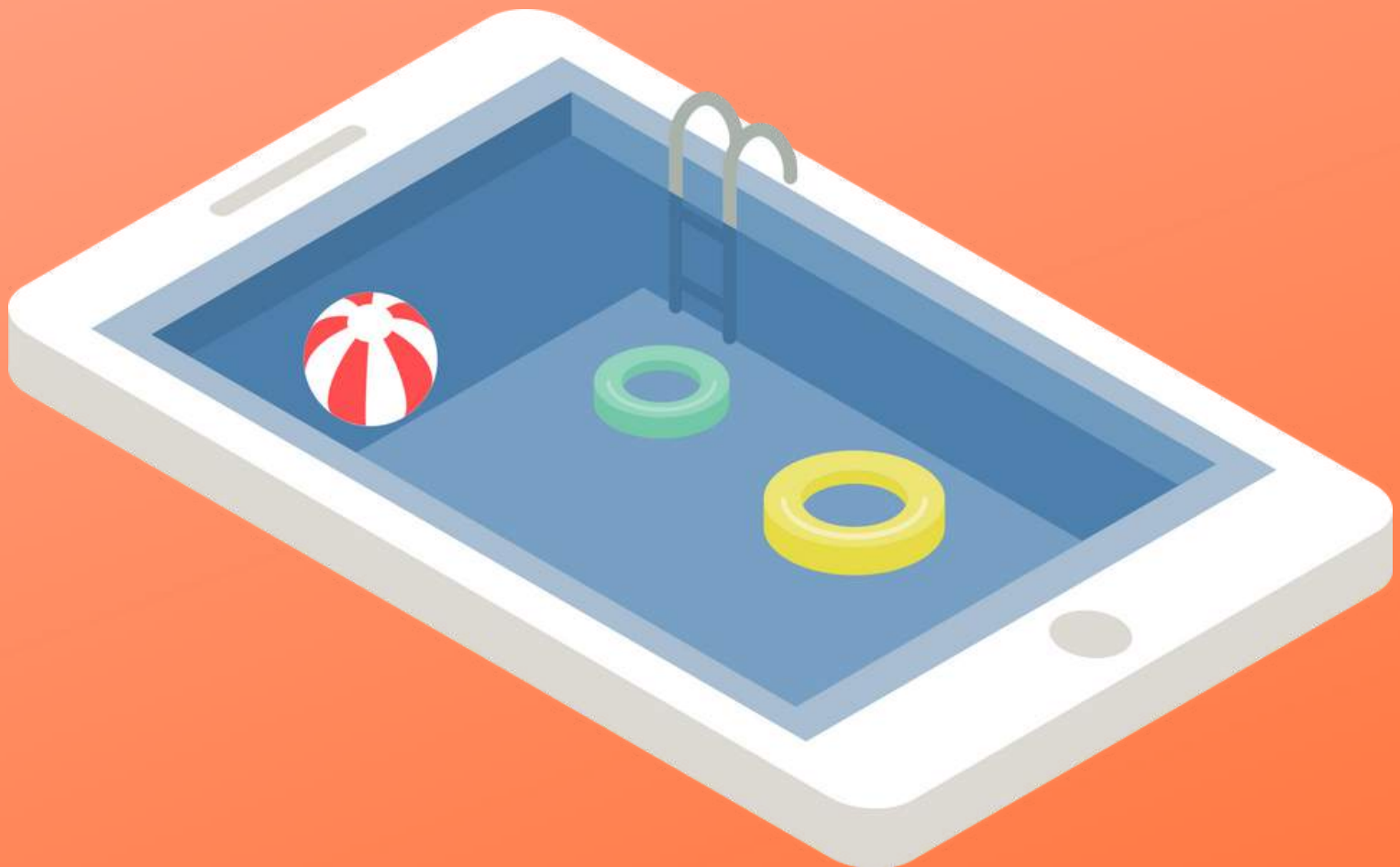
This year I have been able to take all pupils from all three campuses to swimming for at least one term each.

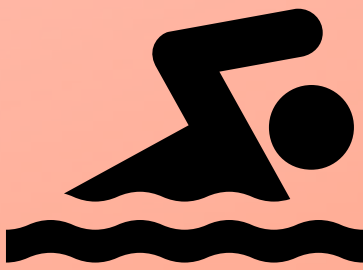
Pupils have all worked hard developing their independence in and around the pool.

Pupils have been working on their swimming in our hydro pool at Grey Court Campus and some of our older learners have been swimming at Teddington pool and Isleworth leisure centre.

Many families have also attended the Strathmore SEN session once a month at Teddington pool where pupils have been able to generalise their swimming skills, interact with their peers in a different environment and show off the skills learned at school.

I am very proud of all the learners progress this year and am excited to teach new and existing pupils again next academic year.





PANATHALON GALA

By Annabelle Warrior

On Thursday 7th July some secondary pupils from the SRR campus attended the Panathlon Gala in the London Aquatic Centre where the Olympics were held in 2012.

The pupils participated in 10 and 25m races, relays and games such as a treasure hunt and raft race.

All the pupils behaved beautifully and showed great teamwork by cheering and supporting each other in their races.

Overall Strathmore came 5th and all pupils were very happy with their medals and achievements from the day.





FOSS BBQ

By Jane Curzon



In early July, we were finally able to celebrated our school community and “togetherness” at long last! And what an attendance it was, our biggest to-date with over 200 guests! We raised just over a whopping **£2,000** in total including ticket sales which will go towards much-needed equipment and resources across all three of our school sites.

The day was fantastic with fine weather, great food, a bouncy castle (provided by TAG Youth Group), music entertainment by Fred - recommended through Minta, an excellent raffle (well done to those that came up trumps!) and our talented face-painter arranged through Jessica.

Special thanks to Tony Horgan, a Strathmore parent, who provided his DJ'ing skills with a marvellous medly of great tunes!

FOSS would like to thank the following:

Some of our fabulous school mum's - Angel, Sam, and Jessica for helping with “the big food shop” at Costco, we filled 4 trollies and 3 car-boots!

To our chief BBQ'ers who flipped over 170 burgers and 150 sausages in a marathon 1.5 hours - Ivan, Shaun, Garth and Gordon, you did us proud!

To the Broughton Family, who worked relentlessly all day on the bar, keeping the thirsty crowd happy, thank you, you are such a wonderful supportive family, and we are very lucky to have you onboard!

Thank you to those who brought along a salad, and the brownies, these all went down a treat!

Lastly but at no means least, Natalie and her daughter for running the secondhand pop-up school shop,

The merryband of staff who kept a smile on Emily's face as her parents were rather pre-occupied!;

And to all the volunteers who helped to set-up, clean-up and pack-up – all the work behind the scenes does not go amiss!

Looking forward to seeing you all next year,





FOSS

AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

STAFF 5KM COLOUR OBSTACLE RUN



A huge congratulations to our staff who participated in the 5KM Colour Obstacle Run at Kempton Park in May – you were all amazing and what a spirited event! The fundraiser raised an enormous **£4,784!** You are all champions, however there can only be one winning team and one winning fundraiser.....(drum-roll), thrilled to announce that The Russell School staff team- Elise A, Fatima L, Isabel S, Jaimie W, Katie E, Matt W, Poppy P, Rachele B, Sarah C, Sarah T and Shanaz B are our winners, each taking home a prized bottle of fizz – well done for raising £2,005. And a dinner for two for the value of £100 goes to the incredible fundraising efforts of Eleanor Bukht! Eleanor, raised £310!

Well done to you all, you certainly did Strathmore proud. Thanks to all our wonderful supporters and to those who donated your hard-earned cash, it is so appreciated. All funds will go towards our ongoing projects across the sites. Watch this space for more news – we are hoping to create a parent team for next year and hope many of you will take up the challenge!



FOSS

Ham Fair



The Ham Fair took place on 11th June on the picturesque Ham Common. The traditional village fair boasts a wide variety of stalls and entertainment provided by local schools, other groups and professional musicians.

Friends of Strathmore School had a large stand and took on a sustainable theme this year selling children's pre-loved clothing along with Oddboo soft toys kindly donated by the creator.

It was a wonderful full-day event with so many familiar faces and school families popping by our stand to say hello. We raised just over **£350.00**.

A special thank you to all our marvellous volunteers who "manned" the stand and helped set-up early and dismantle late afternoon, thank you to Ivan, Deborah P, Adriana, Chris L, Laura D, Anna S, Sarah H, Poppy P, Joanna D, Gordon C, Sarah D, Ollie D and Harvey D! Your time and efforts were very much appreciated, as was your company!

Thank you too to all those who kindly donated clothing, we had an overwhelming response, and a special mention and thank you to the Desai family who donated a huge loot!

Stay tuned for announcements of what's to come in 2023, when we'll be back on the Common raising our profile whilst enjoying all the fun and activities that the fair has to offer.





FOSS



Official opening of the new Soft Play Room at the Russell campus

On the 13th May, we welcomed The Victoria Foundation and 12 of their Trustees and Ambassadors to the formal opening of the refurbished Soft Play Room at the Russell campus. As the guests and staff can attest, the smiles on the faces of the School Council representatives, expressed their utter joy and pleasure with the outcome of their new room, generously sponsored by TVF.

"The new space is not just for fun, it provides an environment for all sorts of activities – especially learning. As well as giving children the opportunity to maintain or develop their physical skills, including balance and coordination, they are developing their communication skills, following staff instructions to go 'up', 'down', 'in', 'over', 'under' etc. And some are giving the instructions to their peers! They are counting up, counting down, recognising and naming colours, giving instructions to their peers. And having fun!" – Ivan Pryce

It truly was a memorable and heart-warming occasion, and an opportunity for our learners, staff and school community to express our gratitude and appreciation for all the invaluable support that Strathmore School has received through the Victoria Foundation including our 16 special adapted trikes across our campuses.





FOSS

Meadow Update



As many of you would have already seen, work is nearing completion stage for our new wildflower meadow at The Russell site. This is a joint project between both schools on the extensive Petersham site, and a memorial to commemorate Sophia, a much-loved Strathmore School pupil who sadly passed away in March last year.

Fundraising began in June 2021 through various initiatives and work began in earnest in February with the incredible help, support and advice from the Royal Parks team. The Royal Parks staff used the half term break to clear the ground, rotavate and prepare it for our seed sowing which took place in early March by the learners at both The Russell School and Strathmore School.

New flowers have already begun to spring up and the wildlife is benefitting too with an increase in the butterfly and insect population on the site. We took ownership of the new custom-made bespoke benches in early June, these are absolutely beautiful and have been lovingly crafted by Ella, a "chainsaw" artist.

Next steps are to add additional décor such as bird feeders and to plant a couple of rows of sensory shrubs and herbs – green-fingered volunteers are needed, so please do let Jane Curzon know if you are interested in getting involved. We are looking forward to the "Grand Opening" in September when we return from the summer holidays.



Ideas for outdoor activities

By Alison and Helen OT team

Getting children outdoors for therapy is really simple. It just takes a little thought and some creativity. You also need to view your outdoor environment as the “therapy clinic”.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

GET IN THE GARDEN

Get outside and plant something!

Gardening is great for promoting fine motor skills (digging, manipulating seeds and plants, grasping garden tools) and sensory processing skills (get those hands dirty, smell the fresh herbs, cook something with your veggies and give it a taste!).

What You'll Need:

A variety of fruit/vegetable/flower seeds/dried beans/dried corn kernels (you'll need a range of different sizes and colours)



What to do:

These simple printable activities for children will allow children to sort and categorise seeds in a variety of ways, working on visual discrimination skills as well as fine motor co-ordination.

1. Simple Seed collection: First, look through and explore your seeds with your child. Talk about what a seed is, how it grows, and his favourite foods that come from seeds. Have your child write his name on his seed collection page. Then, have him glue 5 or 6 of each type of seed into each box. Have him label each box with the name of the seed that he glued inside.
2. Sort by colour. Now, have your child try sorting his seeds by colour. Most are black or white...what other colours can you find?
3. Sort by size: Last, your child will sort his seeds by size, classifying them as small, medium, or large.

How to change it up:

Children have an easier time grasping small objects when they're presented to them rather than having to pick them up from a smooth table where they can slip around.

Try placing several seeds in your hand and allowing your child to pick one up at a time.

For children who have more difficulty with grasping and fine motor co-ordination skills, use larger seeds like pumpkin or sunflower.

SKILL AREAS ADDRESSED: Fine motor skills grasp, co-ordination, visual perception and cognitive skills.

Try a garden scavenger hunt:

This Outdoor Sensory Motor Scavenger Hunt will get children moving, touching, listening, noticing, and interacting with the outdoors in a totally different way.



OR:

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FUN GAMES FOR YOUR CHILDREN,
NOTHING BEATS GOOD OLD-FASHIONED HAND CLAPPING GAMES!**



Who would have thought that hand clapping games could address so many different developmental skills at once?

SKILL AREAS ADDRESSED: Bilateral coordination, cognitive skills, midline crossing, motor control, posture, social skills.

HAND CLAPPING GAMES for Kids

MISS MARY MACK

Miss Mary Mack, Mack, Mack
All dressed in black, black, black
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back
She asked her mother, mother, mother
For fifty cents, cents, cents
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants
Jump over the fence, fence, fence
They jumped so high, high, high
They touched the sky, sky, sky
And didn't come back, back, back
Till the fourth of July, July, July

A SAILOR WENT TO SEA

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea,
To see what he could see, see, see,
But all that he could see, see, see,
Was the bottom of the deep blue
sea, sea, sea.

E-I-E-I-O

I went to a Chinese restaurant
to buy a loaf of bread bread bread
They asked me what my name was
And this is what I said said said
My name is E-I-E-I-O
Nika-Ni, Nika-Ni,
Pom Pom Poodles
Willie Wally Whiskers
My name is E-I-E-I-O
Nika-Ni, Nika-Ni,
Pom Pom Poodles
Willie Wally Whiskers
My name is Elvis Presley
Sitting in a hot tub
Drinkin' Diet Pepsi

DOUBLE, DOUBLE

Double double this this,
Double double that that,
Double this, double that,
Double double this that,

SAY, SAY, OH PLAYMATE

Say, say, oh playmate
Come out and play with me.
Bring out your dollsies three.
Climb up my apple tree.
Slide down my rainbow
Into my cellar door.
And we'll be jolly friends
Forevermore, one two three four!
(clap both hands straight across with
partner when counting)
Say, say, oh playmate
I cannot play today
My dollsies have the flu
Boo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo (cry, rub eyes)
My apple tree is dead
My rainbow's gone away
My cellar door is locked
Forevermore, one two three four (clap
both hands straight across with partner
when counting)

PAT A CAKE

Pat a cake, Pat a cake, baker's man
Bake me a cake as fast as you can;
Pat it and prick it and mark it with
a 'B',
And put it in the oven for Baby and
me.

APPLES ON A STICK

Apples on a stick
Makes me sick,
Makes my heart beat
2-4-6,
Not because you're dirty,
Not because you're clean,
Just 'cause you kissed
a boy behind the magazine
girls, girls,
wanna have some fun?
here comes Suzy with
her hoop skirt on
She can wobble she can wobble
she can do the splits
but I betcha ten dollars
she can't do this
close your eyes
and count to ten
if you miss you start again...
one two etc.

LEMONADE

Lemonade, crunchy ice
Beat it once, beat it twice.
Lemonade, crunchy ice
Beat it once, beat it twice.
Turn around, touch the ground,
FREEZE

MISS SUZIE

Miss Suzie had a steamboat
The steamboat had a bell
Miss Suzie went to heaven The steamboat
went to
Hello operator
Please give me number nine
If you disconnect me
I'll kick you from
behind the refrigerator there was a piece of
glass
Miss Suzie sat upon it and cut her little
Ask me no more questions
Tell me no more lies
The boys are in the bathroom zipping up their
Flies are in the meadow
The bees are in the park
Miss Suzie and her boyfriend are kissing in the
Dark is like a movie
A movie's like a show
A show is like a TV screen
And that is all I know

LONG LEGGED SAILOR

Have you ever, ever, ever
in your long legged life
seen a long legged sailor and his
long legged wife?
No, I've never, never, never
in my long legged life,
seen a long legged sailor
and his long legged wife



What You'll Need:

- **A large plastic container**
- **Small ocean animals**
- **A large sheet or towel**

What to do:

Place a large sheet or towel on the floor to protect from sand overflow!

Fill the bin with approximately 3" of sand.

Scatter the ocean animals all over the surface of the sand.

While seated in a chair (low enough so kids' knees and hips can be at 90 degrees), have your sockless child use his feet to gently bury all of the figures.

Give the bin a little shake to mix things up, and now have him use his feet to find them!

If you have a larger animal (we had a big whale on hand), try having him bury it with sand.



How to change it up:

If your child has a hard time tolerating the feel of sand on his bare feet, try water with some sea foam (aka bubbles), some birdseed, or some shaving cream.

The deeper the sand, the greater the resistance will be for additional strengthening.

Have your child try to pick up the animals with their toes and place them in a separate container.

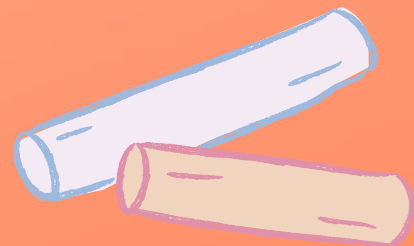
SKILL AREAS ADDRESSED – Core strength, foot/leg strength, proprioception, co-ordination and motor control.



This activity is easy and great fun. Summer activities like this are not only great for hand strengthening but also amazing for visual motor practice and that all-important core strengthening!

What You'll Need:

- **A Squeezy bottle**
- **Chalk**
- **Access to water refills**



What to do:

Have your child explore their creative side by drawing a beautiful picture on the driveway/patio with the chalk.

Next, supply them with a squeeze bottle full of water and explain that they need to use both hands to squeeze out the water to trace their picture. This is a good visual motor challenge that will help strengthen their ability to focus visually on details as they move their hands to replicate the lines of the image.

It is also a fantastic way to get them to engage core and strengthen all those muscles that help them to stand up straight, maintain good posture at school, and even write.

Try it yourself....it is next to impossible to use both of your hands to squeeze water out of that bottle without engaging your core muscles!

Fish out your water guns and let your children practise their visual motor skills with some target shooting today. This bug game for children is one of our many games that works inside on a rainy day or outside in the sunshine!



What You'll Need:

- Water gun
- Solid shower curtain or plastic sheet



What to do:

Keep it simple with this easy bug game for children.

First, draw a variety of bugs on a solid coloured shower curtain and hang the curtain either on the far side of your shower inside the house, or outside on a solid surface.

Next, call out a bug and let your child see if he can spray that bug with his water gun!

Start close and have him move further back for a greater challenge as he gets the hang of it. Fabulous for strengthening those little fingers and eyes!



THERE ARE MILLIONS OF WAYS TO FACILITATE THERAPY IN THE OUTDOORS, HITTING EVERY SKILL FROM BALANCE TO STRENGTH TO CO-ORDINATION AND MORE! AND STIMULATING THE SENSES THROUGH MOVEMENT IS EASY WHEN YOU HAVE ACCESS TO SWINGS, SLIDES, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT.

Fun Ideas for Playing with Bubbles:

1. Pop them with different body parts. Try your toes, your elbow, and your nose!
2. Concentrate on your breath and breathe slowly, softly, deeply. Try quick bursts of breath. This is great way to teach kids to control and think about their breath!
3. Make bubble snakes! Take an empty plastic water bottle and cut off the bottom. Put duct tape or a rubber band round an old sock over the opening. Dip the sock into bubble solution or a mixture of dish soap and water. Have children blow into the mouth of the water bottle and create a really cool bubble snake!
4. Jump to pop bubbles! Blow bubbles low to the ground for your child and see if he can jump up and pop them.
5. Make your own bubble wands with the pipe cleaner and beads in the bag!



OUTDOOR SENSORY DIET ACTIVITIES:

Use these activities to incorporate play while meeting underlying needs in the great outdoors! Each of the sensory diet activities below should meet specific needs of the child. Outdoor play involves a variety of enriching sensory input. The proprioceptive input from running and jumping into puddles can calm the child who is typically overactive. The vestibular benefits of slowing swaying side to side on a swing or for the child who is challenged by sensory overload.



**Or Simply take Indoor
Toys Outside!**

It's easy to breathe new life into toys and treatment materials simply by taking them outside.

Toy cars, dinosaurs, dolls, trains and even Lego blocks and art/craft activities can all be done outside.

We guarantee that you'll see children use materials in more unique and creative ways simply by taking them outside!

OUTDOOR SENSORY DIET ACTIVITIES:

- Balance activities
 - Collect nature
 - Short walks
- Play in the garden
 - Climb on stumps
 - Jump in puddles
- Driveway or pavement play activities
 - Swings
- Sensory play in enclosed space
 - Collect sticks
 - Leaf hunt
 - Water table
- Move and carry rocks of various sizes
 - Hide and seek
 - Create with nature
 - Outdoor water play
- Build with rocks, stumps, sticks, small logs
- Mix and create nature soup (mud, sticks, flower petals, grass clippings)
Mud play

We hope you enjoy trying out some of these ideas. Have Fun!

**Alison and Helen
Strathmore OT team**