



Strathmore Grapevine Summer 2023





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Message from Sarah Hurtado, Headteacher

What a year it has been!

When I think back to my first week as Acting Headteacher for Strathmore in September of last year, it seems such a long time ago! The year has flown by and I look back with an overwhelming amount of pride at what has been accomplished by everyone in our school community.

Strathmore has grown with the addition of our new satellite class at our Darell Campus which opened last September.

We are currently busy planning our 5th campus in Hampton which will be co-located with Hampton High in the near future.

We welcomed new learners and their families who quickly became part of our community. All our wonderful learners have developed and grown and it is a privilege to be part of their journey.

Becoming the substantive Headteacher in May of this year was a dream come true and I have a wonderful team around me who are the best group of people I could every wish to work with. How lucky am I!?

We are saying goodbye to the Class of 2023 and a couple of younger children who are moving on. I am fortunate to have worked at Strathmore for 13 years and have known all the learners since they were of primary age. As I see them moving onto the next part of their journey, I feel happy and proud and eager to find out what happens next for each of them. Please keep in touch with us as you are our alumni!



Message from Sarah Hurtado, Headteacher





We are delighted to share the news that Strathmore School has been awarded the **Leaders in Safeguarding Standards Accreditation**. This award recognises the exceptional support Strathmore has in place to support our learners and staff to keep them as safe as possible.

The Leaders in Safeguarding Quality Mark is an award that celebrates and supports achievement in highly effective and robust safeguarding arrangements. It is awarded to organisations in recognition of their provision, practice, and commitment to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe. The Leaders in Safeguarding accolade is valid for two years and involves approved consultants visiting organisations to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. The audit also covers how well statutory requirements are met and the effectiveness of policies and practices, staff recruitment and training. Following the full audit by the safeguarding consultant, Dr Dan Grant, a detailed report is presented to the Leaders in Safeguarding Scrutiny and Valuation Panel for approval. The Leaders in Safeguarding Panel consists of expert professionals from the health, education and social care sectors.

The Leaders in Safeguarding Standard requires:

- Clear lines of accountability for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Committed governance arrangements and quality assurance processes.
- Full compliance with all relevant statutory requirements and guidance.
- Comprehensive, clear and effective safeguarding policies, procedures and systems.
 - Effective and appropriate information sharing.
 - Highly effective inter-agency working.
 - Safer recruitment practices.
 - Highly effective supervision and support.
- High quality staff training and continuing professional development.
- Very good staff awareness of safeguarding arrangements and effective day to day practice.



- High priority is given to safeguarding the most vulnerable groups
 - Accessible and effective whistleblowing arrangements.
 - Full and effective implementation of the 'Prevent' duty.
 - Precise recording of information and concerns.
- Good understanding of the requirements for confidentiality.
- Effective risk assessment and risk management arrangements.
 - Effective first aid and health and safety arrangements.

Sarah Hurtado, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) said:

“This recent audit was a comprehensive assessment of all that we do as a school to ensure our learners and staff are well informed, safe, and supported through robust safeguarding controls and processes. We are delighted to have been awarded the Leaders in Safeguarding Accreditation. This is a tremendous achievement which has been made possible by the Designated Safeguarding Leads Team, the Safeguarding Link Governors and all staff who work to ensure the safety of our learners. Strathmore will continue to deliver outstanding safeguarding measures, keeping learner and staff welfare and safety at the centre of everything we do.”



Message from John, the Chair of Governors

Sadly, this will be my final message to you all. I have passed the end of my four year term as a Governor and, for family reasons, I am stepping down. I feel very lucky to have come to know Strathmore and will miss the very rewarding part it has played in my life.

A few months after moving into the area, I visited Strathmore for the first time in March 2019. I was a little unsure before I came as I had hoped to secure a Governor's role in alternative provision, the sector in which I had worked for many years. In my career, I came to know quite a few special schools but none of them were for children with 'severe learning difficulties', so I had some doubts about what I might be able to contribute. However, while Ivan showed me around the St Richard Reynolds campus, my uncertainty evaporated. I was instantly attracted by the school's warm, caring and welcoming atmosphere and I was awestruck by the skills I witnessed in the staff. And the end of that visit, I said 'yes' without hesitation and attended my first LGB meeting soon after.

A lot has changed since then. Out of the Governors at that meeting in April 2019, only Jane Curzon and I are still here. But one thing that really pleases me now is that the group is very stable. More than that, those who will continue as Governors next year, and beyond, are an exceptionally committed, knowledgeable and thoughtful group with a highly professional approach to the important role they play. With Jane taking on the Chair, and Marc and Rebecca sharing the Vice Chair role, I have no doubt at all that the board is in strong hands and will continue to do an amazing job.

Strathmore was fantastic when I first arrived and, over the past four years, it has continued to strengthen further. With the Trust behind them, the Leadership Team and staff are doing a terrific job and I am sure that, if Ofsted were to visit, they would agree that the school is 'outstanding', no mean achievement these days but richly deserved.

There are far too many people for me to thank by name. To the Auriga Academy Trust staff and Trustees, the Senior Leadership Team, the governors, all Strathmore staff, families and learners, many thanks for giving me such a rich and rewarding experience and long may you continue to thrive! Best wishes, **John Watkin**



Wow!

Wow!

Message from Lauren Crew, Deputy Head

Where do I even begin!? What a year it has been!

Our learners have achieved so many 'WOW moments' across the year with the support from their families and our amazing team and I would love to share some highlights.

In our weekly staff newsletter, as well as 'Staff Shout-Outs' for each other, we also have 'Wow moments' that are written by teachers, support staff, therapists and the Leadership Team about special moments they share with the learners. This not only warms the heart, but also keeps us all connected as a school across our 4 campuses.

There are hundreds of 'Wow moments' recorded across the year.

Here are a sample of the amazing things the learners achieve... there are lots to read, but I promise, hold tight, it is worth it! I hope you all have an amazing Summer break and I cannot wait to see what 'Wow moments' are to come next year. Lauren x

- **Leo** has been giving lots of praise to staff and learners, telling us we are 'good boys!'
- **Victoria** used her voice when having lunch in the hall with her peers and me- it is the first time I have heard her voice properly (in the 5 years I have known her) and was a very special moment, showing how much her confidence has grown and how valuable it is to have lunch with the learners!
- **Kian** for remembering his 1:1 reading session when the adult forgot.
- **Emily** in Aquila class played an amazing drum solo in our music lesson with Deb this week. She used both hands to tap the drum and showed great rhythm.
- Well done to **Jordan** for doing excellent blending and reading of key words, and for helping **Ben** how to do it.
- Well done to **Haydn** for leading the warm up during our PE session and for showing others how to do the exercises.
- **Vincent, Liam, Richard, Ibs, Haydn and Robert** presented their 'Dream bubbles' at their annual reviews with confidence and using their preferred method of communication!
- **Joshua** from Astra class has been using his words more, saying "yes train" and "bye, see you soon!" in the right context. He also didn't get angry when other children cry, and said "sad face" and "it's ok" when another learner was feeling upset.
- **Zaki and Pascal** completing inverse maths sums and congratulating each other every time they got an answer correct.

Message from Lauren, continued

- **Joshua E** asking how I was and then having a two way conversation without lots of prompting. For someone with echolalia this was amazing.
- Seeing **Miruna, Ethan, Amelie, Anala and Robert** dancing to the Mariachi band on Saturday night at the International Evening. It bought a tear to my eye.
- **Nihilan and Adonai** playing and laughing together in the playground warms my heart. Beautiful friendship growing!
- **Harvey D** who talked about his opinions on vegetarianism. His 'voice' needs to be given a platform as he has gained so much in confidence since he started with us. Such an eloquent young person!
- **Lara N** for her progress in all areas particularly in her ability to communicate her ideas better now. She has flown with the help from school and from home working so well together. It has made such a difference!
- **Suki** for walking to his class with growing independence every morning. He sometimes holds my finger for support but then lets go and travels on his own to Nova Class.
- **Gabby** in Nova was swimming and just said outloud, so proudly, "I am swimming". I have never heard him say a full sentence in the correct context like that.
 - **Faayaz** made eye contact and smiled when I said hello to him.
- Seeing a beautiful drawing **Charlie** did independently. His artistic skills are amazing.
 - **Zaki** offering to help with the washing up after Fun with Food - "Leave it to me!"
 - **Lucia** went into the hall for celebration assembly for the first time this term on Friday .
 - **Jackson** helped two members of the public who dropped items in Tesco.
 - **Lakhan's** increase in confidence is quite noticeable:)
 - **Richard** coped very well going to GC for cooking and lunch with his peers.
 - Seeing **Roman** Makaton signing in assembly to communicate was incredible.
 - **Elm** independently travelled across the room with his PECS strip to communicate that he wanted a biscuit :)
 - **Oliver** in Mira showing his 'weekend diary' and seeing his busy home life.

Message from Lauren, continued

*Having jokes with **Anala** and knowing she will always find me funny even when no one else does!!*

- **Russell Campus learners** joining Vanilla Cafe at Grey Court to purchase mars bar cake and a hot drink - so lovely to see!*
- **Ben** for requesting a snack at Café Vanilla using visuals and his voice - well done!*
- **Joshua E** for verbally requesting a snack at Café Vanilla and using the correct money.*
- **Josh** helping a member of staff to get the projector screen working.*
- **Aimee, Amelie, Ethan and Tristan** performed at The Rose Theatre with the Russell choir and hundreds of other children... they were incredible!*
- Hearing about how **Macsen, Sammy, Ilma and Luqman** are all getting on in KS2 during their Annual Reviews. The last reviews I was in with them is when they were in EYFS and it is amazing to hear how far they have all come. What an amazing team we have 😊*
- During wet play, **Thuwaybah** took a train and some track over to an adult who was at the table. She gave it to them and said 'play' It was amazing to see her taking a resource to an adult and asking them to play with her.*
- **Alyssa** initiating a chat with **Mariam** during talk-time in Pegasus Class.*
- **Grey Court Campus learners** and staff for being so incredible for our 'open morning' - taking the group of parents around was made brilliant by you all. Everywhere we went the learners were engaged, happy and learning and the staff were supportive, kind and using strategies effectively. Made me very proud. Thank you.*
- **Ilirian** did amazing literacy work + **Aleena** agreed to hand out the certificates in assembly and did it so confidently!*
- **Kendrick** initiating play when I came into his classroom last week.*
- Watching **Emily F** processing who she was going home with and then successfully making the transition to the car!*



Message from Lauren, continued

- **Ilma** greeting me in the most wonderful way, with Jazz Hands!!!
- **Victoria and Raqiib** high-fiving each other in choir.
- Once playing Hide and Seek with Adult had finished, **Safaa** began playing Hide and seek with **Aimee** (peer), initiating Aimee to count and cover her eyes!
- **Nadia** has been sharing some really positive interactions and communicating with new peers and staff at our GC campus.
- A WOW to **Harvey M, Harvey D, Lakhan and Josh** who opened Cafe Vanilla at the transition event and did a fantastic job!!!
- **Finley** for always being enthusiastic about the start of his school day 😊
- **Joshua** in Astra using a GoTalk to communicate and an ALD board to independently point to what he can see/hear in our literacy story.
- **Aimee** for taking part in the swimming gala races and winning, getting 1st place {gold} and 2nd place {silver} medals! Well done Aimee!



Wow!

Astra Class at Darell Campus

Our first full year has finished and this term has been a successful and exciting one.

We have been on lots of trips this term including:

- Play dates with Nova class at the local playground
- Trips to Marble Hill Park
- Visiting Russell Campus for music and transition sessions

Astra Class had an exciting time on our **special trip** where we visited the **local fire station**. This is a special interest of some of our learners and they couldn't contain their excitement!

At the fire station the learners got to:

- See a large fire engine with flashing lights.
- See a firefighter slide down their fire pole
- Touch and see the different equipment
- Use and spray water from fire station hose

Astra Class opened at our **Darell Campus** in September 2022, so we were very excited to join our co-located school for sports day. We headed to the local recreation ground where we joined in for long jump and sprint races. Thank you for those who came and supported us and The Darell school for organizing the wonderful event! After accessing some of the stations we headed to the park for some water play! We look forward to our second year, working alongside The Darell School and say goodbye to Joshua and Alyssa who transition to our Russell Campus next academic year. What a fantastic first year we have had!



Astra Class, continued



Delphini Class at Russell Campus

This term we would like to share some of Delphini's highlights.
We have been developing our learning by generalising skills we have learnt in our classroom out into our local community.

We have enjoyed trips to the playground and to the library and some of us have started to go to Costa Coffee Shop in Ham. with a few taking the public bus. We have really enjoyed travelling by school minibus to go swimming in the Grey Court Campus hydro pool. We use a dolphin toy as the 'Object of Reference' for Delphini Class and this has been put in practice in this term's swimming lessons with Annabelle, our swimming instructor!

Our trips to Ham library were a real opportunity for us to practice skills we have learnt in our classroom book corner and school library by using them in a real local library. We have all enjoyed reading new books and some of us might take part in the Library's **Summer Reading Challenge.**



Delphini Class, continued



Nova Class at SRR Campus

Wow! Congratulations Nova class on a fantastic 22/23 school year.

Nova means **new**. All the classes in Strathmore School are named something astronomical as we are part of the Auriga Academy Trust. Nova is the name given to bright stars that appear suddenly in the sky and release powerful energy, which couldn't be a more fitting analogy for our eight Nova learners! They are all vibrant and positive.

This school year, four new learners began their Strathmore journey and WOW did they bring some powerful energy to the class. It has been a privilege to support them with settling into the class' routine, developing their independence, becoming confident communicators and overall it was fantastic to see them enter school excited to engage and learn each day!

Nova had four continuing learners this year, who shone bright like their namesake, as they were encouraged through challenging targets to achieve their potential, which they consistently did. They conquered fears, found new interests, developed wonderful friendships and so much more.

The highlights in Nova this year were daily and I'm so excited for their continued progress in the years to come!



Nova Class, continued



Luna Class at Russell Campus

Summer Term Highlights

We had a tasty trip to Pizza Express! There was a lot of exploration with ingredients, smells, tastes and textures into the making of the perfect margarita pizza. The journey itself was eventful as some of us used the public bus to get to Kingston. We all crossed a busy road using a pedestrian crossing and experienced going up in the lift. There was a great view to enjoy while we waited for our pizzas to cook. We all enjoyed the tasting!

We have also been very busy learning to pack suitcases during our '**Home and Away**' topic. Luna class have been exploring different continents through music, food, maps, climate and transport. There has been lots of excitement as we have been busy flying aeroplanes and driving trains in our role play area! We are getting ready for our summer holidays!

Goodbye to Safaa

What a journey Safaa has had in Luna class at Strathmore School. She has flourished in so many areas. Safaa will be leaving Strathmore and moving to Capella House in September. We will really miss your beautiful artwork and the countless daily questions! Most of all we will miss your smiles, kindness, polite ways and playfulness. You are a real superstar Safaa



Luna Class, continued



Phoenix Class at SRR Campus

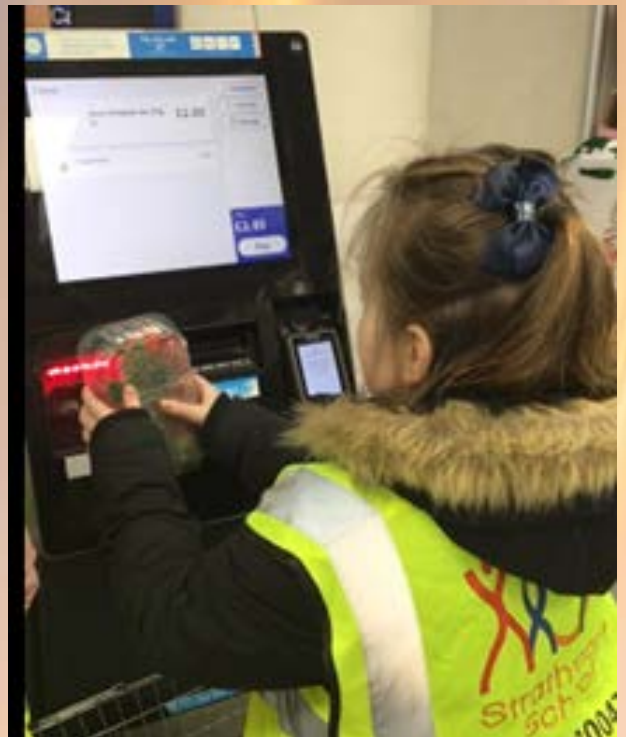
An exciting summer term!

Phoenix Class have had a very busy summer term with lots of exciting trips. At the start of the term, we went on a trip to Pizza Express! The learners were able to knead the dough, spread the tomato sauce, sprinkle the cheese, watch the pizza cook and then enjoy the pizza at our pizza party that afternoon. All the learners got involved and it further developed their confidence when they later touching, smelling, and trying a range of new foods.

Phoenix Class have also been going on weekly shopping trips to Tesco. The learners have been walking to Tesco, following a shopping list to find the items needed and then scanning and paying for these at the self-checkouts.

Aimee is transitioning to our Russell Campus and we will miss her!

Phoenix Class are very sadly saying goodbye to Aimee who is moving to Leo Class at the Russell Campus in September. Aimee is a kind, funny, inquisitive learner who we will all miss so much. We wish Aimee all the best in her new class and cannot wait to hear about all the amazing things Aimee will achieve there! Goodbye and good luck Aimee. We will see you when the school community joins together at a future event! 😊



Phoenix Class, continued



Hercules Class at Russell Campus

Towards the end of our summer term **Hercules** class attended a special educational visit to Palewell Common Park alongside our friends from Perseus class. It was great to share equipment, take turns and make positive interactions with other peers.

Hercules class enjoyed exploring water by walking through and splashing in the paddling pool with their friends.

Grace was engaging the adults around her to look at her visuals and social story to communicate where she was going.

Mehmet used his 'Now & Next' board to transition.

At lunch time we had a picnic lunch under the tree which the weather was perfect for. On the journey to and from the park we were spotting various places outside the window and even had the opportunity to generalise some of our learning from phonics by identifying familiar sounds in the environment 😊



Hercules class, continued



Perseus Class at SRR Campus

A playful Summer term!

Perseus Class have had a very busy summer term with lots going on! During Summer 1 Perseus Class went on weekly trips to Marble Hill playground. We also joined Phoenix for trips to **Jubilee Gardens** where the learners enjoyed interacting and socialising with peers outside of their class group.

In Summer 2, Perseus Class went to Marble Hill Playcentre, along with both Phoenix and Nova Classes each Wednesday morning. Last week was our first outing and it was a great success! Some learners went by public transport, or 'the red bus'. These learners were able to experience something they may not usually do, and they all had fun while doing it. Members of the public were very friendly too and cheered when the wheelchair ramp for the bus finally worked; and **Diljeet** and I were finally aboard!

You can see in the pictures, the learners mixed with friends, as Nova Class joined us. You can see **Sukhi** (from Nova) and **Hasan** enjoying the bucket swing together; and **Riyashni** trying play apparatus she hasn't used before. You can also see **Lorik** trying something new, and **David and Kian** being brave using the zipwire; and happily playing together.

Goodbye Diljeet!

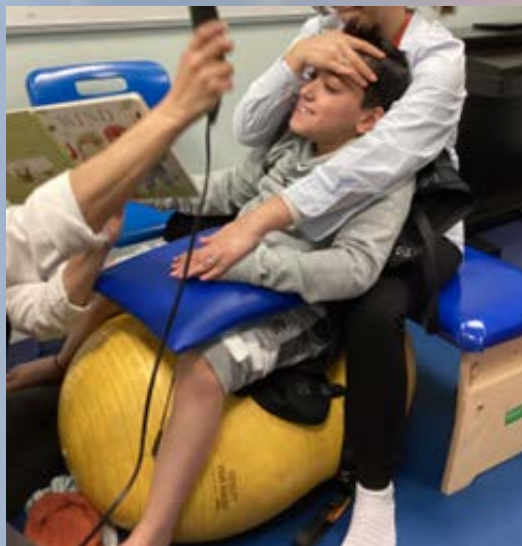
After a fantastic couple of years I am very sad to announce that at the end of this term, Diljeet shall be leaving us for pastures new at Bedelsford School. Diljeet has had an amazing time in his two years at Strathmore, and made great progress. We have all taken great pleasure in working with Diljeet and watching him grow and achieve so much!

Diljeet- as a Class, and as a whole School we are going to miss you so very very much! We will miss your smile when you arrive at School each day. We will also miss your vocalisations and all your giggles! Whether that be due to having a fun session using your eye gaze- playing the farting game, or laughing at some mishap in the Class, or one of your peers being silly.

We wish you all the very best for the future Diljeet. We look forward to hearing how you settle in, and hopefully about more wonderful achievements at Bedelsford! They are going to be so lucky to have you! Goodbye and good luck! 😊



Perseus Class, continued



Leo Class at Russell Campus

Leo Class have had an exciting Summer Term and have worked really hard.

Sports Day was great fun and everyone took part, enjoying the activities and competing with their Russell School peers.

We went to Marble Hill Adventure Playground and took the ferry across. Everyone enjoyed going to the river to check out the ferry.

Axel Scheffler, who illustrated *The Gruffalo*, came into school, showing us how he drew the characters for that book as well as others. This was very exciting!

Learners have been going to Strathmore Café Vanilla at the church, which is run by our older learners at Grey Court Campus and two of the class have been going horse riding every week as well.

We have also used potatoes we grew in our planter to make potato salad in cooking!



Leo Class, continued

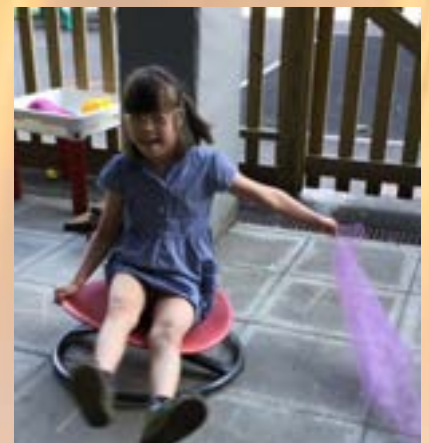


Message from Laura Wrigglesworth, Primary Assistant Head

Goodbye to our transitioning learners

This term we wish fair well and good luck to four of our Russell campus learners who will be transitioning to our secondary campus at Grey Court in September.

Hercules class will be saying goodbye to **Nadia and Rafat**.



Goodbye to Russell Learners, continued

Leo class will be saying goodbye to **Michael and Ethan**.



The staff that have worked with you over the years have loved watching you grow in skills, confidence, independence and size! We look forward to seeing you on our visits and cross campus events and we can't wait to hear about your new adventures and successes from the Grey Court team.

The Russell team wish you the best for your future!

Have a lovely Summer,
Laura

Physical Development

It has been a busy summer term of physical activity. We started the term with **Panathlon** coming in to deliver a **Primary Event** to our primary classes at the RUSS and SRR campus. It was a great morning because the young leaders at our co-located school joined us for the event to support the delivery of Boccia, New Age Kurling and Basketball.

St Mary's Gym has continued to be a favourite for **Andromeda Class** this year. Four different learners have used their gym. You can see from the photo of **Richard** the equipment is excellent and ideal for our older learners.

We continued to develop on our link with **Marble Hill Play Centre**, with all the primary classes attending for 3 sessions, to focus on outdoor adventurous activities. This venue enables some of our learners to travel via public transport and **Leo Class** took the Hammerton Ferry to the Centre. The best venues are the ones we can practice our independent skills on the journey, making every part of the trip a learning opportunity.

Our Extra Curricular club offer continues to increase with GC and SRR now running a bike club and **Annabelle** is still leading on 1:1 swimming lesson after school on Mondays.

This year **Luis** led Sport Days and they were a great success filled with creativity, movement, and motivation.

Keep moving over the summer! Louise



Physical Development, continued



Message from Adriana Martyr

Secondary Assistant Head

The Summer term has been filled with activities and trips that have given the opportunity to the learners in the secondary classes to generalise their skills in different settings and enjoy a range of new experiences.

Summer highlights:

- We have purchased equipment for the food tech rooms at GC and SRR campus to continue to offer students to learn about food catering, food hygiene and enterprise.
- The Transition Event was successful, and we had a tremendous 91% attendance from families so thanks a lot for engaging with school to plan for the next stage in the learners' life after Strathmore.
- The Community Engagement Programme continued to run well, with learners going to the shops, local youth club, leisure activities, and their end of year special trips.
- Four learners from the Russell campus have started their transition programme at Grey Court campus and they have been settling in well ready for September.
- Learners have attended their work experience placements, which include, Richmond Hotel, Ham Café, Reception class at SRR school, Ham Youth Centre, minibus cleaning, Wheels for All, bike maintenance, litter picking and gardening. A big thank you to Louise Ross and the teachers for organising these opportunities and make these happen for the learners.

Upcoming events and ideas:

- We are looking forward to celebrating this year's leavers' achievements with assemblies at Grey Court and SRR campuses and a leavers' prom.
- Next year we will be reviewing the Preparing for Adulthood curriculum to make it even more meaningful, aspirational, and functional for all the learners.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers from Grey Court and SRR who have helped us this year and to the parent volunteers, Jane Fox and Jessica Nicholl, who joined in the Summer term to work in the secondary classes.

Have an invigorating and well-deserved summer break!!!

Adriana

Message from Adriana, continued



Pegasus Class at Grey Court Campus

Pegasus class have enjoyed lots of exciting activities out in the community this term.

Several of our learners participated in the **Middlesex Football Association SLD League** and brought the **gold medal** home for Strathmore! Their teamwork and ability to generalize skills learnt in PE were really inspiring for all of us involved.

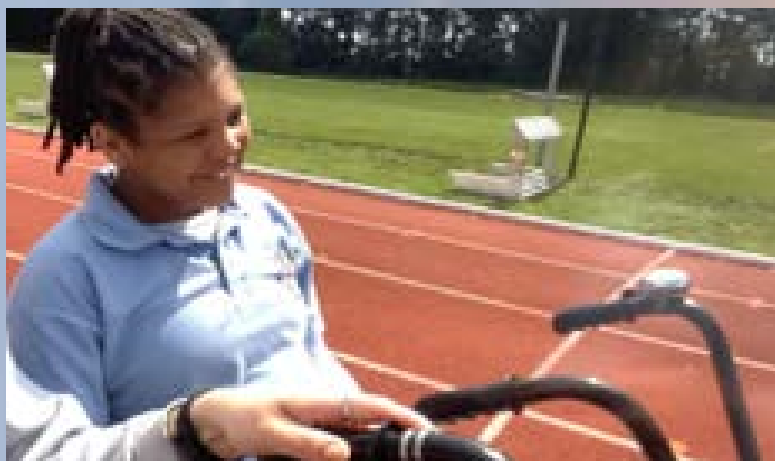
All students have also participated in a weekly cycling session with **Wheels For All** at Kingsmeadow. There are a variety of adapted bikes which allow everyone to enjoy cycling and our Monday session has been a real highlight this term.

Away from sport, all learners enjoyed an unforgettable day at **Chessington World of Adventures**. We saw lots of exciting animals at the zoo such as gorillas, lions, penguins and sea lions. We also went on safari to see giraffes, zebras and a rhino. We could not believe how close we were to the animals and all members of our Pegasus team were brave and curious to try something new. Some of us chose to go on the Gruffalo ride which was especially exciting as it was one of our books that we studied this year.

The final special activity to mention is our trip to **Hounslow Mosque**. We felt very privileged to be shown around by the imam and spent time in the wash room, prayer room and library. Our learners asked excellent questions and showed great understanding of conduct in a religious building.



Pegasus class, continued



Vega Class at SRR Campus

Vega class has had an exciting summer term. **Arika** is making accelerated progress in maths and English thanks to her hard work at Clarendon sessions.

We have been going to the park to practice our communication skills and road safety. Pupils are learning to look to the right and left side of the road before they cross.

Beautiful Minds have been a wonderful experience for learners! **Miruna** described it as the best day of her life 😊 Here the learners got to experience fun activities like, street dance session and T-Shirt painting. At the end they enjoyed a nice cold ice-cream.



Aquila Class at Grey Court Campus



Capella Class at SRR Campus

As part of our school framework “**Exploring the World around me and being creative**”, learners from Capella class have been exposed to different learning experiences where they have been able to explore different art mediums and instruments.

They have progressed throughout the year and their confidence in trying new things has increased as well as their willingness to work on new art projects. They are now more familiar with different kinds of art supplies, techniques, and artists such as:

- Yayoi Kusama;
- Jackson Pollock;
- Wassily Kandinsky.

In music, learners have shown great focus and their attention span has increased drastically. They have tried and played with different instruments and have also shown us their wonderful dance moves!

Well done, Capella!



Capella Class, continued



Mira Class at Grey Court Campus

During the summer term, Mira Class have been working on our **work experience** and **leadership skills** in the following places:

- Café at St Peter's Church (catering skills)
- Ham Youth Centre (organisational skills)
- Richmond Hill Hotel (hotel management skills)
 - Grey Court (supporting others)
- Minibus cleaning at GC (getting the bus ready for trips)
- Wheels for All (setting up bikes and equipment for sessions)

All students in Mira Class had an exciting and busy time developing their skills at their work experience placements and Café Vanilla.

We started the year by building **Dream Bubbles** with things that they would like to try and do in the future which they shared at their Annual Review meetings.

Students were constantly challenged to be as independent as possible such as on how to get to their placements, using lists of what to bring and a checklist of what they had to complete.



Mira Class, continued



MIRA



Andromeda Class at SRR Campus

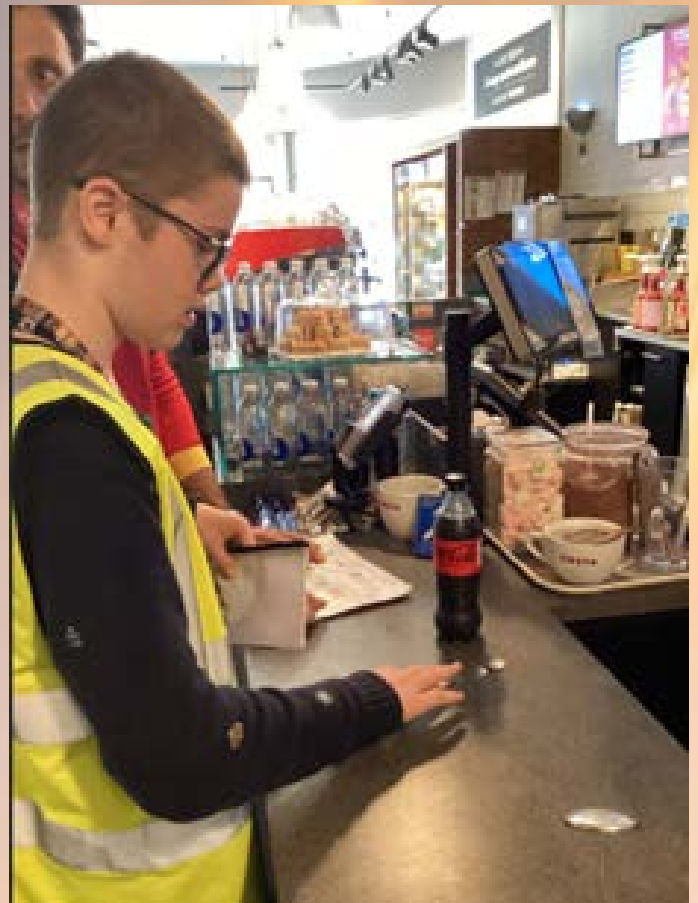
This summer term **Andromeda** have been getting out and about in the community. **Andromeda class** have been shopping, prepping, and then eating their own shop -bought products. Their goal was to hopefully one day open their own Café within the school, where they can buy, make, and then sell to our staff. To prepare for this our learners visited local coffee shops weekly, for a tea and cake.

With hard work, determination, and enthusiasm, Andromeda officially opened their own Café, '**Rainbow Deli**' this term. This allows all our learners work experience, for the future. You never know! We could have Strathmore's very own next Café entrepreneur.

Our learners have been going to the local shops, for ingredients to use back in our '**Rainbow Deli**' café. They have written out shopping lists, located and picked the items in the supermarket, given and received change and communicated with shop staff if need be. This has promoted learner confidence and independence.

To end our exciting and busy term Andromeda took a well-earned trip to '**Hobbledown Farm**'. Here, they fed farm animals, explored different activity zones, and ate lunch in the sun.

It was great to see our students gaining confidence over time in a new situation and sharing what they had worked on that week with their peers.



Andromeda Class, continued



School Council at SRR Campus

This term the **SRR Student Council** has been very busy making all kinds of important decisions. During our meetings, we have had lots of opportunities to practice and improve our communication, listening to others and decision-making skills. Over this year we have learnt to care for each other while working independently and as a team.

One of the main things the School Council did this term was nominate and elect the **Jack Petchey Award** winner. We also decided how the JP grant money would be allocated for our campus. This allowed the Student Council to have an active role in deciding how to improve our already amazing campus.

The Councillors also practiced their decision-making skills in other aspects too. One of these was helping to design Work Experience Award badges- choosing the symbols they will have on them, the colours, and what they will be awarded for.

Another (very enjoyable) way they practiced this skill was through their recent trip to Buongiorno Cafe in Twickenham. The Cafe very kindly donated their delicious ice cream. The Councillors could choose between a variety of flavours and cups or cones. Everyone had a fantastic time! It was a great reward for all their hard work this year. Of course, we wanted to say a massive thank you to all the staff members at the Cafe who offered to host us. The SC designed, made, and printed a beautiful thank you card that was given to the Café, as well as to other organisations in our community that have helped us and worked with us throughout the year.

The Councillors are sadly saying goodbye to **Jordan**, who is moving on to college. Jordan is a very valued and kind-hearted member of the Student Council, also a Makaton superstar! We wish him the best of luck and can't wait to hear about how he is getting on.



Well done the Student Council @ SRR campus for your wonderful work this term!



School Council at SRR, continued



School Council at Russell Campus

 School Council at The Russell

The School year has nearly come to an end and its been a lot of

fun for the School Councillors. This Summer term, the Councillors

took a trip down to the Vineyard Community Centre (Richmond) to go and

donate food and clothes for members of the local community, they

also volunteered at the centre for the afternoon. The Councillors made

trays of baked Sweet Treats for the Ham fair.

What a year they've had bring on next year for more FUN!

"I've enjoyed the movie afternoon" (Amelie)

"I loved the baking we done for Ham fair" (Amiee)

"I enjoyed going to the foodbank and volunteering for the afternoon" (Ethan)

"I enjoyed the meeting and coming up with loads of ideas" (Tristan)

Leavers Prom and the Class of 2023 Leavers

We want to wish the best of luck to our four leavers this year,
Harvey, Jordan, Nihilan and George.



We are incredibly proud of their journey at Strathmore, and we are delighted that they have secured a place at the college of their choice. Harvey will be going to Orpheus College in Godstone and Nihilan, Jordan and George will go to Great Oaks College in Hounslow.

Over the years, our leavers have developed their confidence, communication, and independence and this year they focused on applying their skills in the community, enterprise projects and leisure activities. They have been preparing for the transition to their next placement during the summer term with the support of Natalie Arciero.

We had the opportunity to say goodbye to them at the Leavers' Prom, and peers and staff also celebrated their achievements at the leavers' assemblies at Grey Court and SRR campuses.

I want to say a special thank you to all the staff who were involved in the preparation for the prom and the assemblies and to Jane Curzon who supported us this year through FOSS to purchase the leavers' hoodies and the publicity for the prom. She also organised the delicious food on prom night!

We hope that Harvey, Nihilan, Jordan and George come back with their families to visit us in the future as alumni of Strathmore.

All the best,
Your Strathmore Friends

Leavers Prom and goodbye to our Class of 2023 leavers

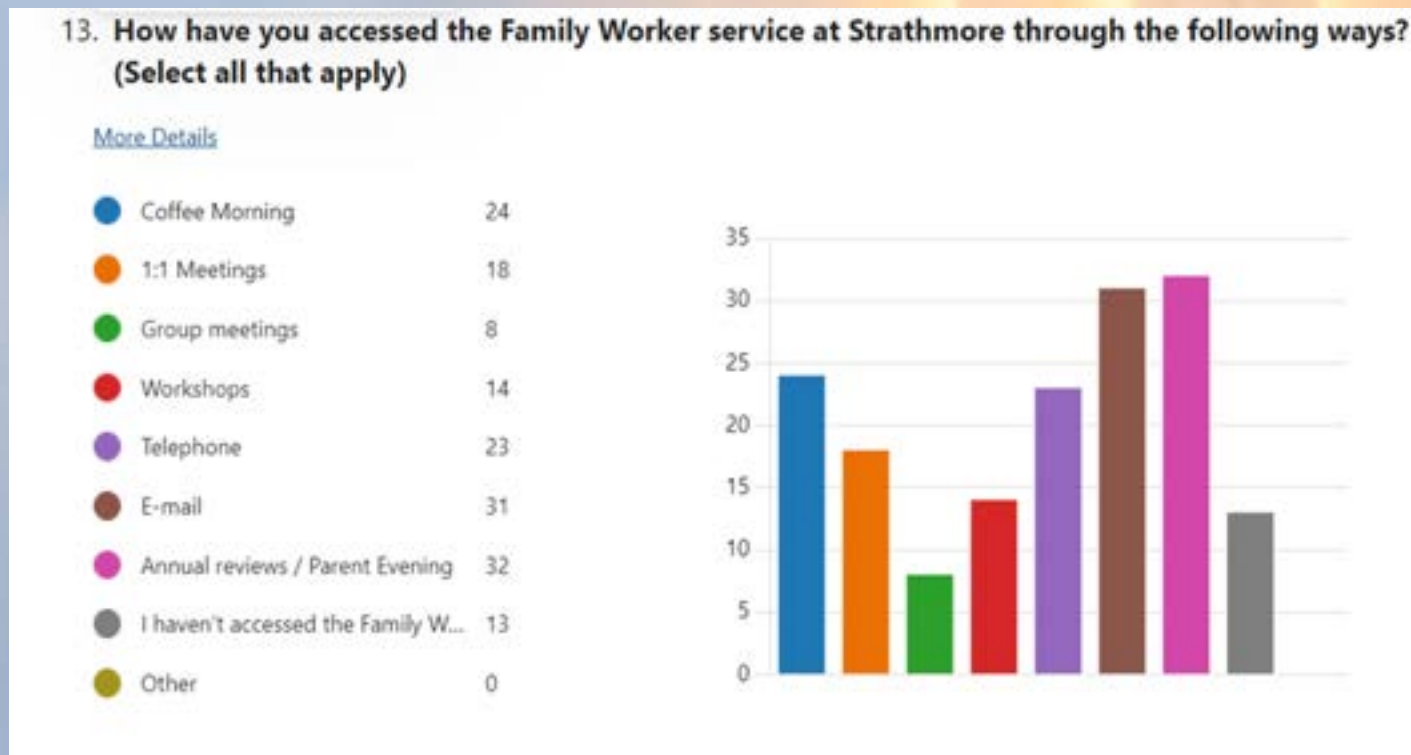




Family Support and Wellbeing for parents and carers

Summer term Highlights

Here is some feedback from our parent survey showing how you've been accessing the family worker service at Strathmore:



Our **Behaviour Workshop** held at Skylarks was facilitated by Strathmore's Behaviour Lead, Luis with our OT Helen supporting. We had Strathmore families and lots of Skylarks families at this event. Thank you for joining us!

Literacy morning with Tean (our Literacy Lead) was an opportunity for parents to get a better understanding of techniques used to engage your child in reading and understanding literacy, whatever their stage. She gave some excellent tips on how to weave learning and reading opportunities into your everyday lives. Thank you to those parents that came along.

The **transitions event** for our secondary division families was a huge success with both families and professionals commenting on the lovely atmosphere. Some further comments on the event were.....

Yes it was very informative

very useful, good to have everything in one place,

I found it very helpful. they were all nice and very friendly

Extremely helpful -

We look forward to repeating this event and making it a regular fixture in our events calendar.



Family Support and Wellbeing, continued

Parent wellbeing yoga/mindfulness sessions is an offer we wanted to explore, to give parents an opportunity to connect with each other in a relaxing environment, with no expectations of having to learn anything. We may look at continuing this offer in the Autumn term if there is a high enough interest and we will contact families in the Autumn term to see if they want to book on.

Sports Day refreshment sale helped raised **£185** for the school, thank you to those that came and bought from the refreshments stand. It was a great opportunity for me to speak with families about various issues from a fixed location on the day and with a nice cup of tea too! You'll know where to find me next year.

Strathmore Parent Coffee Mornings are always advertised in the school weekly newsletter and are well attended at the Fox and Duck, Petersham. Please could I ask any SRR campus parents, who have ideas of coffee morning locations on that side of the river, to get in touch on the family worker e-mail - see below for details.

Please contact me if you would like to book a 1:1 session for support or e-mail for a call back on any issues **familyworker@strathmore.org.uk**

Your borough's local offer page is a good point of information for updates on clubs and events this Summer and beyond. Please look at the F.U.E.L clubs information and contact the clubs directly so they can assess if they can meet your child's need for support at their club. Contact myself for further support if needed.

AfC Info website - Kingston and Richmond :: SEND Local Offer
Synergy (hounslow.gov.uk)

Wandsworth's SEND Local Offer | THRIVE Wandsworth

Best Wishes and enjoy your Summer break.

Natalie
Strathmore Family Worker



FOSS News - Ham Fair



The **Ham Fair** took place on 10th June on the picturesque Ham Common. Friends of Strathmore School had a large stand selling hot beverages, cold drinks, scrumptious cakes including brownies and delicious home-made Samosas.

On what can only be described as a scorching hot day, and despite the heat, 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 **£800** which is a very good turn-over indeed!

A special thank you to all our marvellous volunteers who “manned” the stand and helped set-up early and dismantle late afternoon. Your time and efforts were very much appreciated, as was your company!

Thank you to Mira; Capella; Andromeda and Leo classes for the wonderful brownies and to all our wonderful families who donated and baked cakes, we had an overwhelming response! A special mention and thank you to Aysha, Anusha’s Mum, and family, for the delicious Samosas – these were an absolute sell-out, with all 200 sold in less than a couple of hours!

Stay tuned for announcements of what’s to come in 2024, when we’ll be back on the Common raising our profile whilst enjoying all the fun and activities that the fair has to offer.

Thank you all for your support, Jane and FOSS





FOSS News - Sophia's Meadow Opening

With the sad passing of Sophia, a much-loved Strathmore School pupil at The Russell campus, in March 2021, her family and the school decided they wanted to have a memorial to commemorate Sophia and a place where all her friends could remember her and celebrate her life. And so the idea of the meadow began...

Work and planning commenced in Autumn 2021 and we are so proud to have achieved our goal and the meadow is now in full bloom and complete. This has been a collaborative project between both Strathmore and The Russell School (our co-located school) led by FOSS, and a testament to the strong relationship and inclusive vision of the two schools.

On Wednesday 28th June, the '**Official Opening of Sophia's Meadow**' took place at Strathmore@The Russell Campus. It was a wonderful celebration providing both Strathmore School and The Russell School learners and staff an opportunity to give our thanks and appreciation to The Royal Park team, and volunteers, for all their support, hard work and guidance with the creation of the meadow. Guests included The Aghbosh family (Sophia's parents) and family friends; The Royal Parks Team; volunteers including Jess Nicholl and Jane Curzon; and Parents.

We began the occasion with a joint assembly where all the learners performed the song "Here comes the sun", followed by an address by Sarah Hurtado explaining the background of the meadow. There was then a video 'The Making of the Sophia's Meadow,' to showcase the creation of the meadow, a thank you speech by Julia Mead (a Russell School Teacher) and gifts and cards were handed to The Royal Parks Team and volunteers, and finally a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the meadow where our guests could enjoy and see the meadow for themselves.

It truly was a very special occasion and celebration which touched all our hearts. To see 'The Making of the Sophia's Meadow' video, find it here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oa5QGuKgR4&t=5s

If you would like to join the **Meadow Gardening Team** to support with the maintenance of the meadow, please contact FOSS@strathmore.org.uk





FOSS News - Sophia's meadow opening



*Thank
you!*





FOSS News - Annual BBQ 2023



In early July, we celebrated our wonderful school community with our Annual Summer BBQ hosted by Friends of Strathmore School. We had a great attendance with over 150 tickets sold and raised just over **£1,500** which will go towards much-needed equipment and resources across all four of our school sites.

The day was fantastic with fair weather, great food, a bouncy castle (provided by TAG Youth Group), music and singing entertainment by the talented Lauren Crew, and excellent raffle prizes sourced by the FOSS committee (well done to all our winners!).

A very big thank you to all who attended on the day and supported us - it is always so special to come together as a school community at the end of each academic year and a reminder of how fortunate we are to have each other and the support of the school. It was great to have seven School Governors in attendance too, who all enjoyed mingling with you.

FOSS would like to say a big thank you to Lauren whose performance was brilliant; a special thank you to a trio of fabulous school mum's - Angel, Sam, and Jessica for helping with "the big food shop" at Costco, it is always a busy morning out and FOSS are so grateful for their support. To our chief BBQ'ers who continuously flipped burgers and sausages - Shaun, Garth and Gordon, you did us proud! And to the Broughton Family, who worked relentlessly all day on the bar, keeping everyone hydrated and happy. Thank you to those who brought along salads and other food items, these all went down a treat! And finally to Natalie and her daughter for running the school secondhand clothing pop-up; to the merry band of SLT and staff who supported on the day; and to all the volunteers who helped to set-up, clean-up and pack-up – all the work behind the scenes is so appreciated!

Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

Strathmore would like to say a **massive thank you** to **Jane** who is our **Chair of FOSS** and is a continuous support for our school. We couldn't do it without you!



FOSS news - annual BBQ 2023





FOSS news - annual BBQ 2023





FOSS News - Victoria Foundation Grant



Friends of Strathmore School has received a grant valued at **£1000** from The Victoria Foundation (TVF) who partnered with The Richmond Charities in generously donating this sizeable amount.

As you will be aware, TVF have been supporting Strathmore School for over the past 10+ years, funding over £100K during this period and we are immensely grateful for their on-going support. Their funding has truly had an profound impact on the education, facilities and opportunities for all of our learners.

Each campus was awarded an allocation of the funding and chose the following equipment, though equipment will be shared across all campuses where appropriate:

- Strathmore@St Richards Reynolds - 2 sensory bubble tubes to support the learners with sensory input and calming strategies.
- Strathmore@Grey Court - occupational therapy sensory circuit flooring, supporting the learners to transition from place to place in the school building.
- Strathmore@The Russell – outdoor equipment including traffic lights and other road signs to educate our learners on road safety when using the trikes (funded by TVF) and balance bikes.

This equipment does not only support the learners in their day to day education but will also create awareness whilst in the community.

We are so fortunate and thankful to have been awarded this grant and we look forward to sharing updates and pictures with TVF of the new equipment in use.

If you know of a charity fulfilling a similar need who may be able to support our school and learners, please contact:

FOSS@strathmore.org.uk

FOSS news - Victoria Foundation Grant



Goodbye to Teachers

At the end of each school year, we sometimes need to say goodbye to one or two of our amazing teachers.

This Summer we say a hearty farewell to **Ruben** (Andromeda teacher) who is going to spend time with his family in Portugal. Ruben has been based at our St Richard Reynolds Campus teaching our learners who are aged 14-19. Ruben and his team have led lots of community learning, set up the Rainbow Deli and offered a broad range of physical and learning opportunities for a group of 10 energetic young men! Ruben, we admire your energy, your commitment, and your passion for building meaningful relationships with the learners and their families. Thank you!



Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to **Hahmany** who has been at the other end of the school teaching our 4-6 year olds in Nova class. Hahmany is going back to Australia at the end of the Summer to start the sunny season all over again as we head into Autumn! Hahmany has been instrumental at getting our Reception and Year 1 learners settled, communicating, regulated, and engaged in learning. Hahmany is one of the most enthusiastic individuals we have ever had the pleasure of working with. She is a quick learner and has worked so hard this year. Thank you!



Goodbye to other staff

This term we also say goodbye to **Ryan, Hoi Yee, Casey and Keeley**.



Ryan began his career as a teaching assistant in and most recently he has been HLTA in Capella class. Tania, who has worked with Ryan for the last two years said, “He is a beautiful soul, with a kind heart who always cares about everyone. He is amazing with our learners, is great at building relationships and always brings out the best in the young people he works with. I will miss his funny dancing in the mornings!”
We wish him the very best for his future.



Hoi Yee began her career at Strathmore a year ago as a Playleader at Grey Court and has loved her time there. She is leaving to become a Learning support assistant at Tiffin Girls School, and we wish all the best for the future.



Casey began her career at Strathmore 4 years ago as agency and then became a TA and HLTA. Most recently, she has been working P/T in Andromeda while studying as a play therapist. She has now successfully qualified and is leaving to pursue this career full-time. Congratulations Casey and good luck!



We are also saying goodbye to Keeley who we share with The Russell School as part of our admin team. She has provided invaluable support to staff and parents, and we are pleased we will still get to see her friendly face as she will now be working full time for The Russell School.

Final thoughts

We hope you have enjoyed reading through our Summer 2023 edition of our school magazine.

We think it showcases the love and commitment we have towards each other in our wonderful school community and hope you agree.

We enjoy supporting every learner to be:
independent inclusive individual

As we approach the holidays, we wish you all a very happy summer and look forward to seeing our returning learners and our new pupils on the first day of the Autumn Term on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Look after yourselves and see you soon,
Sarah and all the Strathmore Team

