

THE GRAPEVINE



DECEMBER 2020



CONTENTS:

Page 3 - Hello from the Head
Page 4 - Strathmore at The Russell
Page 5-7 - Strathmore at St Richard Reynolds
Page 8 - Strathmore at Grey Court
Page 9 - Delphini class
Page 10 - Hercules class
Page 11- Leo class
Page 12 - Luna class
Page 13 - Andromeda class
Page 14 - Capella class
Page 15 - Nova class
Page 16 - Perseus class
Page 17 - Phoenix class
Page 18 - Vega class
Page 19 - Aquila class
Page 20- Mira class
Page 21 - Pegasus class
Page 22 - Swimming
Page 23 -Russell Campus Student Council
Page 24 -Message from our new Family Worker
Page 25 - 26 - Goodbye to Donna G
Page 27-30 Christmas activities from the Occupational Therapists
Page 31 - Money raised for Save the Children
Page 32- 33 Fund raising with FOSS
Page 34 - 35 Christmas Reading Challenge
Page 36- Term Dates

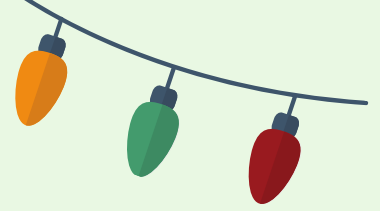


HELLO FROM THE HEAD



As it is always quite late in the term when I finally sit down to write my piece for The Grapevine, the school holiday is imminent and there is a mixed sense of tiredness and excitement pervading throughout school. And so it's typical of me to look back over the long term that started at the beginning of September and reminisce over the activities and achievements since then and over the calendar year that's finishing. But I will leave that to the images following, rather than dwell on the shadow cast over 2020 that has prevented us from enjoying the activities we would have shared with you. Instead I will say a very large thank you to the school staff whose passion for helping your children appears inexhaustible. I will again reiterate my pride and thanks, and your thanks, for their efforts sustaining the quality learning in and outside of class. I know they will appreciate the well-earned opportunity to rest before returning in January. Next year brings mixed anticipation: who knows what Brexit will really mean for a school which enjoys a polyglot family community and staffroom, and when will we all receive a vaccine? You may have heard that special schools will receive sufficient tests for all staff and pupils to be tested weekly and for staff to be tested daily if they have been alerted to self-isolate due to possible proximity infection. I am waiting for more information. What I have so far received is a 27-page handbook explaining how school is expected to carry out the tests ourselves with a recommendation that a workforce of nine is adequate to deliver. As you may appreciate, I don't employ nine people waiting to be given something to do! So, a bit of thought needs to be employed to work out how to make that work and whilst the future looks more positive in some aspects, there are still many challenges to address to get to where we want to be. Some of which we are addressing within school already and next term will bring the next step in our new curriculum delivery and tracking. During the next term you will start to see how class staff have been learning to use the new Earwig App and how, in turn, you will be able to participate on line over the next two terms. During which we hope that you will increasingly be able to participate within school. So whilst we haven't been able to welcome you all into school for the usual activities, I do know that parents have been liaising with other outside school via Facebook etc and I am delighted that we have such an active community actively sharing information and supporting each other. That's something we would all like to continue and I hope it supports you over the school holiday. So whatever you are doing, if you are celebrating or not, on behalf of the staff, governors, the school leadership team and especially from me, we wish you a happy, peaceful holiday and look forward to seeing you in January.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iwan', written on a white rectangular piece of paper that is slightly tilted and has a drop shadow effect.



STRATHMORE @ THE RUSSELL CAMPUS BY SARAH HURTADO, HEAD OF SCHOOL



This term has been a hugely successful one and has been jam packed with incredible moments.

We rolled out our new curriculum which has its primary aim of being more learner-led and involves having each classroom and external learning area divided into zones to support exploration, independence, and the result has been even more mess and fun than normal. The pupils have embraced this new way of learning and we have started to track evidence using videos and photos on a new assessment called Earwig which we will launch to parents and carers to add to next year. You will see these videos at the forthcoming Annual Reviews.

This term, the children have been developing their physical skills through swimming, horse-riding, daily challenge, sensory circuits, and cycling. We were kindly gifted some incredible adapted trikes from the amazing work from FOSS (Friends of Strathmore School) who are led by Jane Curzon, our Chair of FOSS. Jane has worked closely with The Victoria Foundation Charity and the money they raised bought us these adapted bikes and trikes which are used by all our learners. Our teachers have been trained in how to use them to their full potential to support physical development. It has been fascinating to see how the learners have developed their physical strength, mobility and co-ordination and we thank Jane and her team for this wonderful contribution.

At the Russell Campus, we have been unable to be immersed in the usual inclusive programme that we have run over the last 2 years with The Russell School. Despite this, both schools have continued to work together in different ways. We have supported each other with training opportunities and cannot wait to re-start our wonderful, shared assemblies and inclusive sessions.

We have been so hugely impressed by all the children in how they have responded to coming back to school so positively after a very different year. It really has been a very happy and hardworking Autumn Term. Thank you all for the support you have given us to continue to work towards your children's educational targets.

All the staff at the Russell Campus wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to continuing to support the development of your children.





STRATHMORE @ ST RICHARD REYNOLDS BY ELEANOR BUKHT, HEAD OF SCHOOL

This has probably been the best term we have ever had at Strathmore – and all of that, **DESPITE** being in a global pandemic! The learners at Strathmore School are a credit to their families. Our staff have worked absolutely tirelessly to ensure we kept as many learners at school as possible. Here are just a few of our highlights:

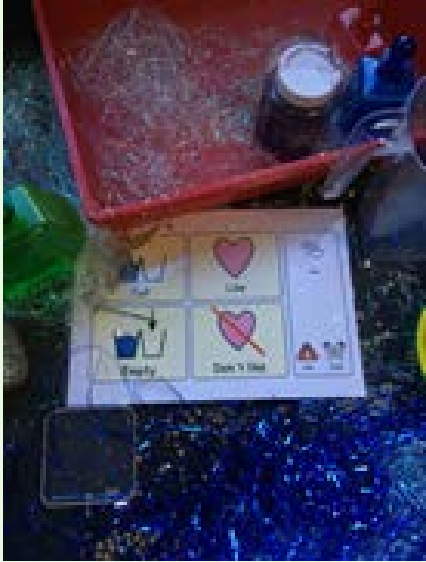
- We welcomed Lauren Crew officially into the post of Assistant Headteacher.
- We have implemented our new curriculum and all classes are working from the Strathmore Development Framework. The results have been magnificent; much higher levels of learner engagement and self-direction seen already.
- We are using our new assessment tool Earwig to capture evidence and look forward to launching later in the academic year.
- We have had many community visits (as you will see in the class updates).
- We have been flexible with our ideas and have operated in bubbles, so whilst we have missed working with our friends on other campuses, the staff have linked up with the planning and we all hope to see each other in real life soon.
- We have had a scooter day and a dance day (organised by Louise).
- Annabelle has kept swimming sessions going by adapting the location and groupings.
- Our new Playleaders Gosia and Ivi have taken to their role with great enthusiasm and have ensured there are engaging play opportunities at break and lunchtime.
- Deb (our music teacher) has filmed the campus Christmas songs.

All learners have made progress over the Autumn term. What an achievement! Thank you to our wonderful team of staff, front of house and behind the scenes, for their immense efforts and to the families for ensuring the learners have been here to learn!

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.



Here are some photos of our new learning zones from our learning walks. See if you can spot all the things that we do to support independence: differentiated resource shelving, ALD boards, Makaton symbols, Objects of Reference and timetables, self-regulation board.



School development plan objective 4:
All learners will increase their self-direction and independence in the learning environment with a higher level of engagement



Here are some photos from our wonderful daily challenge to get you in the Christmas mood!
(Daily challenge is our version of the daily mile,
an opportunity for all the learners to participate in physical activity;
listen to and follow instructions;
and tolerate sharing space with peers).

Thanks to all our staff for taking turns to lead this,
and especially to Laura for sharing her snow machine with us!





STRATHMORE @ GREY COURT CAMPUS BY ADRIANA MARTYR, HEAD OF CENTRE



As we are rapidly approaching the end of year break, we are all starting to reflect on all the changes and achievements we have experienced and celebrated this term!

The Grey Court campus welcomed four new learners in Aquila class and they have shown how well they have settled in by joining in and taking part in all the activities and building relationships with new peers and staff.

We also welcomed in our usual warm and friendly mode Michelle (Receptionist), Natalie (Family Worker), Robyn (Educational Psychologist) and Sophie (Music Therapist), who are already making a positive impact on learning and our day to day life of the school.

The teaching and learning in the campus has continued to grow from strength to strength and all the classes have been set up with enticing and engaging learning zones that have encouraged our learners to develop their independence and communication skills. We also had excellent feedback from parents at the annual reviews for our leavers, who have continued to make very good progress towards their targets.



Although we haven't been able to run our usual inclusion activities with our co-located school, we have continued to plan and discuss ideas ready to get our VIP programme started in the Spring term.

Here are some of the exciting activities our learners took part in this term:

- Hydro pool sessions
- Swimming sessions
- Trips to the local shops to develop independent and work experience skills
- Trips to the playground to generalise gross motor skills
- Weekly balance bikes sessions
- Scooter day
- Trikes and scooters weekly sessions
- Christmas dance session
- Daily challenge sessions
- Christmas class party
- Virtual Christmas talent show
- Lunch clubs including: gardening, choir, languages, circus skills
- School council meetings
- Class Christmas videos for families



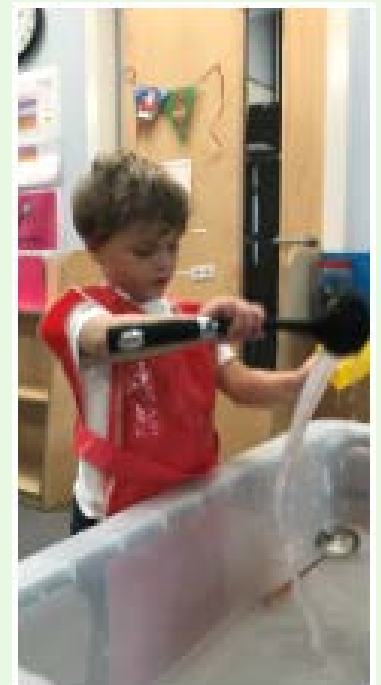
We can't wait for the new year and all the new opportunities it will bring and thanks to all staff, families and students for making this term a real success!



DELPHINI CLASS



Delphini Class welcomed new pupils and they have all settled in so well to the class. The learners are loving all the play sessions and have been spending lots of time outside in the external learning zones.





HERCULES CLASS



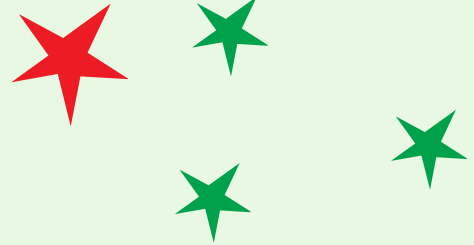
And what a fabulous term Hercules has had this Autumn!
The pupils have all enjoyed exploring their way around the classroom zones to build,
create, discover, and learn.

The pupils have been enjoying discovering the wonder of Christmas and are in
festive mood with their Save the Children Christmas jumpers.





LEO CLASS



Leo Class have made Christmas themed products to sell so that they can buy snacks for the Russell site pupil's Christmas Party.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our project!





LUNA CLASS



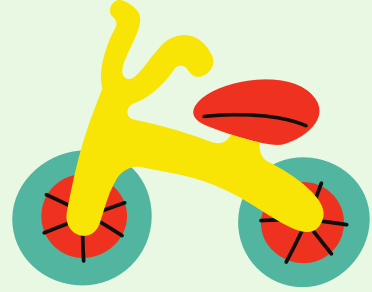
Luna Class have had a successful term and have been learning so much about working as a team, exploring the different learning zones within the classroom.

They love their new role play area and have enjoyed a trip out together to Sunbury Play Centre.

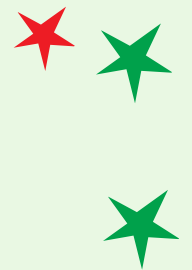
The weather was lovely and it was so much fun exploring the different activities and equipment together.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the class to bond together and get to know each other.





ANDROMEDA CLASS



Andromeda are champion cyclists!

They have maintained all the skills learnt from before the summer and impressed Rob, our cycle instructor, when he returned in September.

Thanks to The Victoria Foundation, we have access to our own specialist bikes, so now we get to practise regularly. We are very fortunate to have a selection of scooters as well.

New skills we are learning cycling round the track; speeding up and slowing down; focusing on looking ahead and navigating obstacles and enjoying exercise!





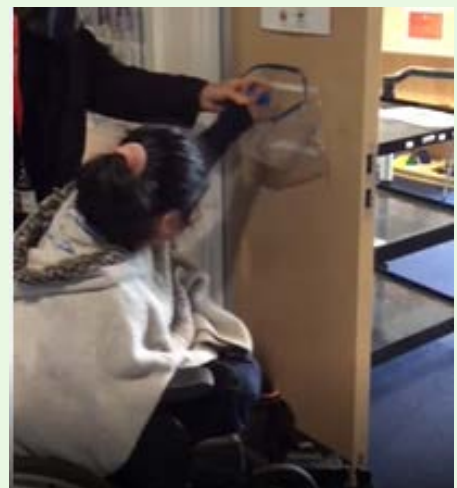
CAPELLA CLASS



What have Capella class been up to outside the classroom?



We have been trying new experiences (dance class), engaging with different equipment (the specialist trikes) and transitioning to different places more independently and delivering the lunch boxes. We are learning to respond to “go” and “stop” so we can play games with our classmates.



NOVA CLASS

This term we visited Holly Lodge to enjoy their nature trail. The class explored the outside space, looked at different materials and navigated pathways with their friends.

They loved the changing autumnal scenery!





PERSEUS CLASS



Perseus class enjoyed a sensory walk at Holly Lodge.

The learners smelt, tasted, touched (and then wiped down!) some amazing Christmas themed sensory items situated around walk. Some class favourites were the clove pierced oranges, the gingerbread making station, pinecone decorating and the dancing stage. It was so great to be out and about, together.



Welcome to
the Holly Lodge Centre!

Offering a hands-on experience of
Richmond Park, its diverse wildlife
and distinct heritage





PHOENIX CLASS



Phoenix's mini explorers visited the park a number of times this term.

They walk together to the park, holding the explorer rope.

When we arrive, we sit down and listen to instructions.

Our photos show you the autumn leaf collection we made and had great fun jumping in! We are seeing the learners initiate communication, take small risks and engage in outdoor learning. We love it!

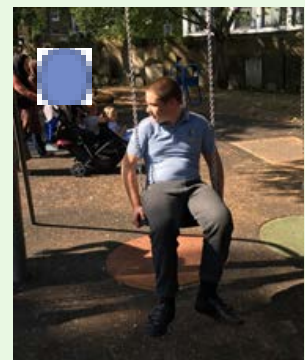
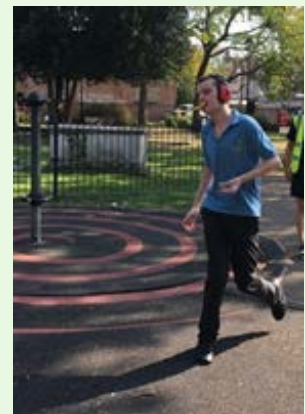
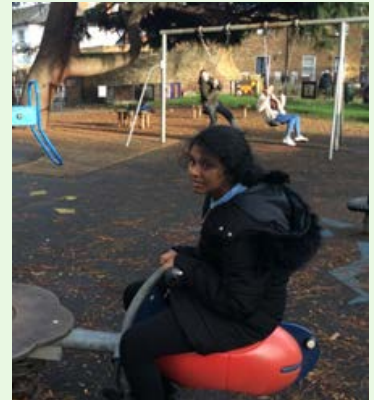




VEGA CLASS

This term, Vega have been working on independence in the community.

They have regular trips to local places and are showing they can share spaces with members of the public and tolerate waiting for their turn, practice how to have appropriate interactions with unfamiliar people; comment on the event and ultimately, see how they can enjoy spending leisure time outside the school grounds.



AQUILA CLASS

This term, Aquila Class have enjoyed lots of exciting activities within their classroom and have had lots of messy fun!
Four pupils transferred from our Russell Campus and joined their friends.
Learners have enjoyed sessions in our external learning area.

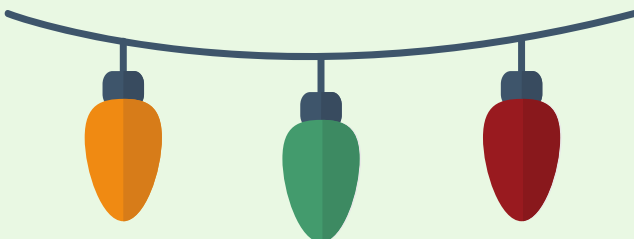




MIRA CLASS

This term in Mira class we have continued to develop our independence and communication.

We love being active and going out in the community!





PEGASUS CLASS



Pegasus Class have had a great Autumn Term and have managed to get out into the community to extend their learning from the school into the local environment, which is great.

The pupils have continued to visit the local park on a weekly basis and during these visits they have shown excellent road safety awareness and all round safe behaviour in the community.

Every Thursday the pupils have continued to have Balance Bikes and they have participated really well showing progress, bravery and enthusiasm for learning to ride. The cross-campus PE sessions have also been a big success and students have done brilliantly practising their throwing and catching skills and participating in team games.

Christmas Jumper Day was fantastically supported by pupils and staff!



SWIMMING

We have been very fortunate to have access to swimming at our hydro-therapy pool at grey court during these strange times. Children have been swimming in ability groups rather than by class which has meant our more sensory learners have been able to experience sensory lights and activities in the water and our higher ability learners have been able to learn from each other and develop their swimming skills.

All the children and staff who have been swimming this term have enjoyed it and I am excited to take more groups after Christmas.

Annabelle Warrior
Swimming teacher





RUSSELL CAMPUS STUDENT COUNCIL

The Russell Campus student council were taken to the Palm House in Ham to choose a Christmas tree to display in our pupil's entrance.

The student councillors all proudly wore their student council badges and enjoyed looking at the variety of trees on offer. They chose a beautiful tree which they decorated themselves and it now stands proudly for all to see.

Eden Yeon

Teaching Assistant and Student Council Lead at The Russell Campus





MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW FAMILY WORKER

Hello Strathmore Families,

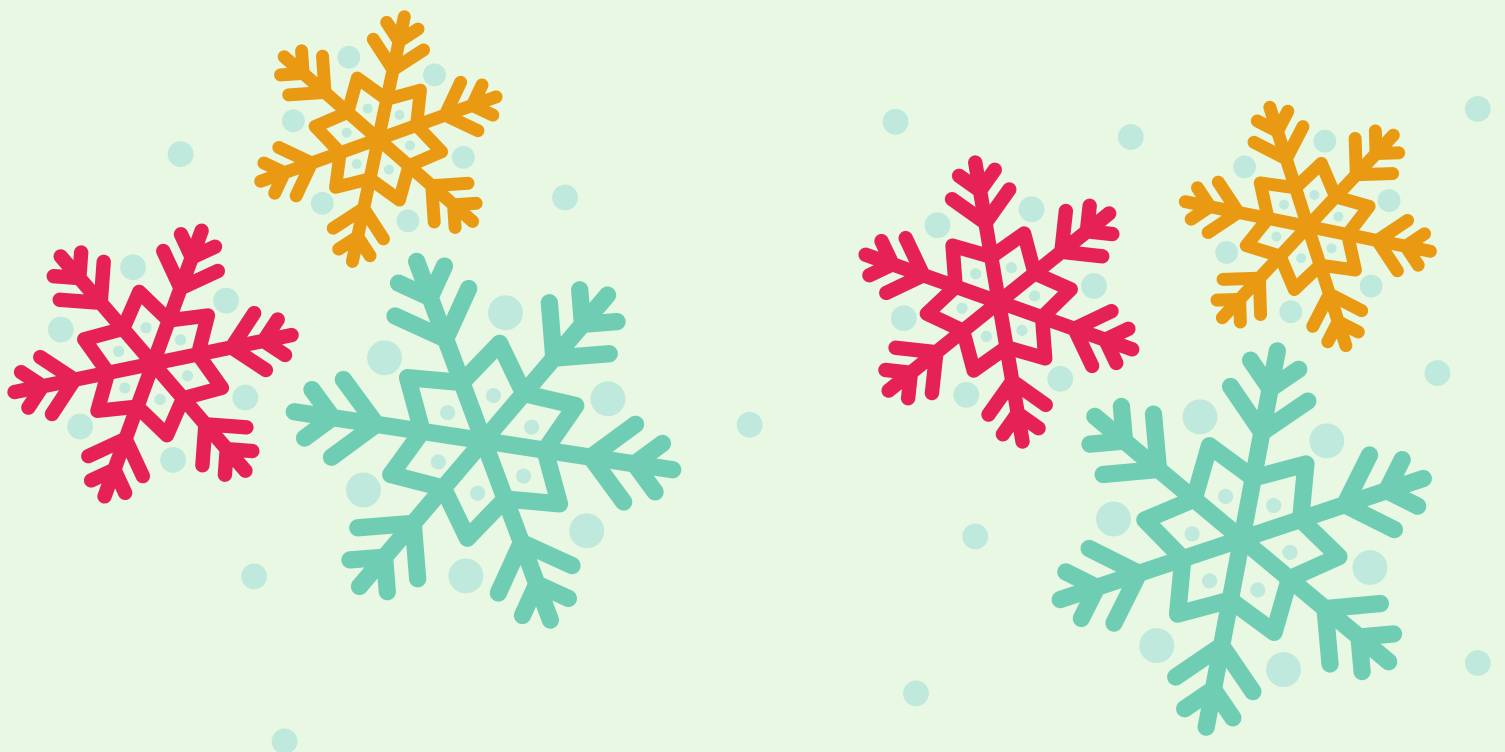
As Christmas fast approaches, so does the end of my first half term at Strathmore School. It has been really great getting to know the staff and families and am so happy to have joined the supportive and welcoming team here.

As you know, I have taken over from the wonderful Lauren Morrison who has helped me transition into her role and take onboard her caseload. I have been kept busy so far, supporting individual families on a variety of issues and reviewing Health Care Plans.

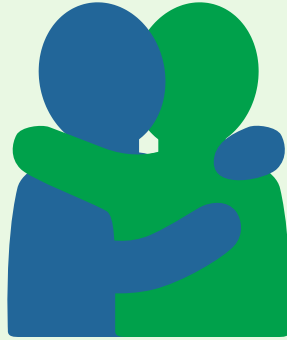
I look forward to restrictions slowly easing in 2021 and maybe this will allow us to resume a full schedule of school life once more and we can hold events and interact with one another. Till then I'll be holding some virtual meet ups along with small group events, so watch out for those.

I know I haven't met you all yet, but 2021 will be our year!!

Best Wishes
Natalie Arciero
School Family Worker



GOODBYE DONNA G!



We are sadly saying goodbye to our wonderful Leo Class Teacher, Donna, who is relocating to Kent and starting a new role where she will be supporting children and young people with their mental health. Donna has worked with us for 4 years and has influenced all of us in the time she has been at Strathmore.

Donna has supported learners to flourish in her class and has brought creativity, inspiration, and positivity with a hard-working ethic she demonstrates daily.

Donna has led on improving Social, Emotional and Mental Health for all learners at Strathmore and has supported many families with understanding about being healthy, safe and happy. She has been a trail blazer for ensuring we all know how to support all learners with relationships and friendships, and she leaves her legacy in our new Curriculum Framework.

We all wish her the best in her new role and in her new home in Kent and we will carry on with supporting her wonderful charity to save the endangered rhinos in Africa.





QUOTES FROM LEO CLASS PUPILS:

'Donna helps me with my work, and I feel happy when I can do the work.'

'I like Donna because she's my best friend and has been helping me.'

'Happy that she teaches us and I like her.'

'Happy she teaches me and I love Donna.'

'I like her. I like learning literacy, maths and science.'

'When Donna goes, we will all cry.'



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Slow down this year and enjoy this Season of Christmas with your children. Join us in fun Christmas themed play ideas focusing on everything from sensory integration to fine motor skills. All with one theme...the magic of Christmas!

Christmas Sensory Tree Bags

Children love squeezing the gel into the bags. just make sure they don't squeeze too much. The right amount is about 1/4 of the bottle of gel.

Put green colouring into the bag.

Then add the "ornaments."

Once the materials are in, close the bag and seal the top with duct tape just to discourage any mischievous children from attempting to open the bag.

Squish the materials together, mixing the green coloring with the clear gel.

They really enjoy the squishy sensation of the bags.



What You'll Need

Ziplock bag

Permanent marker to draw

A Christmas tree outline on the bag

Duct tape

Clear hair gel (from the pound shop)

Green liquid water colour

"Ornaments," including beads, buttons, sequins, and googly eyes

Jingle Bell Painting

This activity is inspired by marble painting.

You roll bells covered in paint around in a box or tray. It looks nice!

There is so much that goes on during the process of rolling marbles while they are covered in paint.

I think the biggest benefit of bell painting is fine motor control as a child moves the box up and down in order to roll the bells.

Hand eye coordination as they move their hands and watch the bells, as well as cause and effect: what happens when I move the box?

What happens to the bells?



What You'll Need

Open box with short sides or a tray

Paper

Paint

Jingle bells

Cups (for paint and jingle bells)

Spoons (helps to get the jingle bells out of the paint cups)

Father Christmas Craft

We shaped a red square of construction paper into a cone. This was the Santa's hat, and gave a nice 3D effect so the Santa could sit on a shelf or table.

Next, we cut out a large white circle.

We then folded that circle in half and the cutting practice began!

Snip all around the rounded edge of that Santa beard. While they were cutting, I would help them remember to keep their "thumbs up".



This activity is easy and great fun. Cutting 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

Red and white construction paper

Scissors

Pens

Glue

Santa Hats game

This super fun game is so easy to set up, and just about anyone, any age can do it.

I love that this game includes a four-finger grasp on the cup as well as a pincer grasp on the pom poms- and that the children have fun counting while we play.

The children? Well the children love when the stack falls over!
Ha-ha!

The first player places one cup and one pom pom on the table. The second person goes next, placing one of each.

Play continues until a player can no longer place a cup and pom pom on without the stack falling. That player is out. Play continues until there is only one player left.
He or she is the winner.

What You Need

Red Plastic Cups
and
White Pom Poms.



More ideas...

Make gingerbread salt dough to address fine motor, proprioceptive, and olfactory areas.

Wrap up tight in a blanket and read Christmas stories for proprioceptive input.

Play outside and collect nature items.

Keep them busy with some fun craft activities, a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas from The Occupational Therapy Team.
Charlotte, Alison and Helen**



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY



**Strathmore school raised a total of
£92.61 for Save the Children**

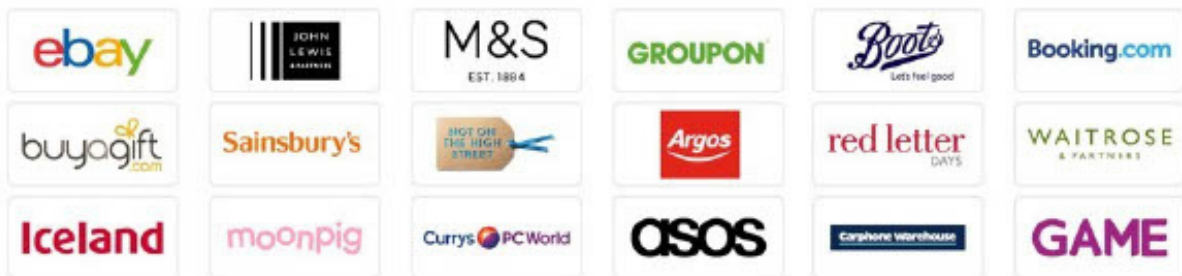
**Thank you to everyone for their kind
donations**



Help us raise FREE donations for

FRIENDS OF STRATHMORE SCHOOL

You **Shop**. 4,300 sites will **Donate** to us. For **Free**.



Find us on [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
or get the App



£ Over £33 million raised

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

👤 1.8 million users



supporting



Play today and support our cause!

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:

www.GetLuckyLocal.co.uk
and search for: **Friends Strathmore**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Christmas Reading Challenge

Dear students, parents and carers

On the next page you will find the '12 Reading Challenges of Christmas'.

This exciting reading challenge will start tomorrow – Saturday 5th December and run until Wednesday 16th December.

Your task is to complete one of the challenges each day and then send your photos, videos and messages to literacy@strathmore.org.uk to show what you've been up to throughout the 12 days. You may wish to do this daily or one email at the end, however all emails must be received by midday on Thursday 17th December.

Those of you who complete all 12 reading challenges will receive a book to enjoy once we return to school in the new year.

You can also contact the above email account throughout the 12 days if you need any help with any of the challenges or ideas of how to make them more accessible for your child.

Throughout the Autumn Term we have been focussing a lot in our classrooms on reading for pleasure. Each classroom now has a comfortable reading zone with a range of new and engaging reading materials. We are lucky to have the support of The Alligator's Mouth children's bookshop in Richmond and our local Usborne representative.

We're looking forward to seeing all the different ways you read for pleasure at home and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Sinead

English Co-Lead



CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

THE 12 CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS

Read a Christmas themed book



Have a whole family bedtime story



Create a puppet show of a book



Read a story by the Christmas tree



Read a book that is older than you



Build a den and share a story in it



Read a story about an animal



Read a book about kindness



Share a story with someone over Zoom



Draw a picture from your favourite book



Share a poem with someone



Read a book that makes you laugh



TIS THE SEASON TO GET READING!

Pupil Term Dates 2020/2021

September 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30							1
31	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
33	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
34	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
35	30	31	1	2	3		

School Holidays
Bank Holidays

Staff Training Days
School Closed to Pupils
One further date to be set

Last Day of Term – school closes early for pupils

1 Beginning of autumn term 2021