



Starcross Primary School

February Newsletter 2024



Even though February has been a short month and it contained a half term break, you can see how busy we have been at Starcross and how many exciting learning opportunities our children have had! We are looking forward to another very full calendar of events in March. We have our Open-Door days next week, World Book Day on 7th and our Mother's and Other's Day sale next Friday. The following Friday will be Comic Relief, about which you will receive further information shortly. On March 21st we are hosting a Twinning Festival at Starcross Primary where we will be joined by English and French representatives from the Twinning Association. The children will take part in some Breton dancing, Art and a location study comparing Starcross with Henvic. French crepes will also be made by the visiting French ladies and they will be available to purchase after school from our school kitchen. That is the same date as the Music Festival that Avocets are taking part in where they will perform the song they have written. A very busy month indeed!

We are really grateful to all our parents who have been trying to secure medical appointments outside of the school day - we appreciate however that it is not always possible. We also greatly appreciate that parents communicate the details of the appointments either by email or text- this is extremely helpful. Thank you. As the weather improves, we are hoping that we will all suffer less from the nasty coughs and colds we are struggling with at the moment. We hope you all feel better soon.

The new logo has been shared with the children and staff and now with you! The designers have cleverly managed to incorporate everything the children and staff suggested. One final tweak will be the letter "a" - as we teach the children the cursive one not the curly one! With regards to ordering uniform, orders before Easter will still have the current logo and if ordered after Easter the items will have the new logo.

Thank you for your continued support

Tara Trail
Headteacher



Sporting News



The children enjoyed a special PE day of cricket last week with visiting coach Niall Leahy.

Learning the skills of batting and fielding, each class had a session with Niall and can now build on this great introduction in PE lessons later in the term.



DIARY DATES

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4,5,6.03.24	Open Door week: Classrooms open 8.50am—9.10am
07.03.24	World Book Day: wear one item of clothing, or bring an object, that represents a character from a favourite book
08.03.24	Y4 Football Festival at TCS (AM)
08.03.24	Mothers & Others Day Sale (during school)
09.03.24	Oystercatchers Ladies Rugby Day at Sandy Park
12, 13,14.03.24	3.30pm—4pm Book Fair in the Hall
15.03.24	Comic Relief Day—(details to follow)
15.03.24	Y5/6 PE competition at Cockwood (PM)
19.03.24	Sanderlings review day
19.03.24	3.50pm—6pm Parents Evening
20.03.24	4.30pm—7pm Parents Evening
21.03.24	Avocets at Trust Wide music event
21.03.24	Twining Festival
23.03.24	7.30pm—Race Night at the British Legion
29.03.24	Bank Holiday and start of the Easter Holidays
15.04.24	Start of the Summer term
25.04.24	Silent Disco (times tba)
14.06.24	Fathers and Others Day Sale (during school)
06.07.24	Summer Fete (provisional TBC)



In **Sanderlings (pre-school)**, we have been enjoying getting stuck into our new topic, Dangerous Dinosaurs! Each week, we focus on a new key text which helps to theme our learning. We have looked at *If I had a dinosaur* by Gabby Dawney and *Cave Baby* by Julia Donaldson so far. We have enjoyed learning about prehistoric dinosaurs, cave paintings and the explored colour mixing. We were even visited by Animals 2 U South West, who introduced us to hissing cockroaches, crested geckos and bearded dragons! We can't wait to get stuck in further to this wonderful topic.



In **Sandpipers** we have started our new topic 'Dangerous Dinosaurs.' We have already enjoyed lots of continuous provision opportunities linked to the stories 'If I had a dinosaur' and 'Cave baby.' We have been learning about fossils and prehistoric animals including the 'dangerous dinosaurs!'

We have continued to make good progress in our daily phonics lessons and we are using this in reading and writing activities. We have also been exploring rhyming words, linked to our books in English/Literacy.

In Maths we have been exploring length and height. We have been welly throwing and cutting, comparing and measuring lengths of different materials as well as building towers to measure, count and compare.



In PE we have been loving our new games block of learning with all the exciting new skills and games for us to learn and enjoy.



Kittiwakes have been busy investigating the weather, as part of our Seasonal Change topic, in Science. So far, we have talked about the wind and watched it blow our windsock about. You may have seen it in the playground. We have been using the beaufort scale to measure the wind's strength.

We have also started an investigation about the Sun's UV light. Keep and eye out on our School FaceBook page to find out more about that.



In **Curlews**, we have continued our Geography topic 'Coastline' by learning how to understand maps, which show the human and physical features a place has, using symbols on a key. We have also been finding out about coastal erosion, which had a big impact on the local area when

the trainline was damaged in 2014. We used a model to see how the waves can wash away the cliff, which can mean that buildings fall too.

We have finished our English unit based on 'Previously' by Allan Ahlberg, and have now started a unit of non-fiction, with an explanation text about the life cycle of a sunflower. This builds on our Science topic about growing plants. We have also finished our Art topic 'Flowerhead', by creating our own flower models, inspired by Yayoi Kusama. We are now moving on to our Technology unit, 'Beach Hut', where we will explore and build model structures.



This term **Oystercatchers** have been working on Shape poems! We all discussed our favourite animals and then wrote poems using similes, metaphors, adjectives and interesting verbs. After that, we found images of our favourite animals and used them as templates. We write our poems around the shape of the animals to make these amazing shape poems!



February welcomed lots of opportunity for **Avocets**. We began working on our Music project where we composed our own song and are now tweaking and improving it, ready for the big performance this half term.

On the final week of term, it was 'Children's Mental Health Week' so Avocets spent some time understanding the term 'mental health' and how they can support theirs when life gets a bit tricky! We spent some time thinking of when we have been proud of ourselves, in and out of school.

To start Spring 2, we had a fantastic Cricket session with Niall who supported the children's batting and fielding skills. This will definitely help with our PE this term, with Mrs Vanderford.



Razorbills have been continuing to work on their Frozen Kingdoms topic – most recently thinking about the impact of Climate Change on the polar regions. We considered the effect global warming and rising sea levels will have on the Arctic and the Antarctic and the impact it will have on the animals that live there.

I am sure you will all be aware of the fabulous art project Razorbills took part in. Local artist Alistair Lambert came into school and ran a workshop teaching children how to take art from 2D collage to a 3D diorama. They focused on the sea birds that our classes are named after. The results were very impressive so we invited parents in for an art exhibition! Every class in the school is now proudly displaying their bird in their classroom.

In PE we have been honing our cricket skills. We took part in a cricket skills session where we developed our bowling and batting techniques.