



Streetsbrook Infant & Early Years Academy

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2024-25
Issue No 16
W/C 7 January 2025

- Monday 20 January
- Tuesday 21 January
- Wednesday 22 January

Year 2 Maths Workshop 9.00am
Reception Maths Workshop 9.00am
Year 1 Maths Workshop 9.00am

Diary Dates

The Whole School
Attendance for week
commencing 7 January
was 95.4%

Board Game Club

We are looking forward to introducing a new **Board Game Club** taking place at lunchtimes on Tuesdays. The main focus of this club is to enhance children's Maths skills. Turn taking and problem solving skills will also be a big part of this club! Miss Cartwright has already visited Year 2 classes but If you would like to sign up, please come and see me! Initially, this will be for **Year 2 children only**. However, If this proves popular we hope to open this up to more children across the school in the future! The first session will be on Tuesday 14th January 2025. Miss Cartwright (Maths Lead)



Attendance

As expected in the winter months, seasonal illnesses are circulating and to support parents, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published [advice](#) on how to reduce their spread. Parents are referred to NHS [guidance](#) to know when a child is too ill for school. Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea and vomiting. Thank you.

Curriculum Overviews for Parents

Autumn Term 2 Curriculum
Overviews are available to view on our website [here](#)



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Solihull Schools are working together to support your children to have a smart phone free childhood

Tuesday 18.30
28th January
@Alderbrook School
Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1SN

INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS

At the evening, we will have a panel discussion with experts, including:

- The Enlightened Parent
- West Midlands Police
- Student Ambassadors
- Primary and Secondary Headteachers
- Dr Susie Davies CEO and Founder of Papaya Parents.com

Smart Phone Free Childhood



Scan to join the event

Prevents Real Play

Smartphone use can stop children from socialising and engaging in imaginative or active play

Attention Span

Smartphones reduce focus and attention, hindering learning

Undermines Mental Health

Overexposure to social media and screens can negatively affect children's emotional and mental well-being.

Safety Risks

Smartphones expose children to safeguarding issues, including cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

Emotional Impact

The addictive nature of smartphones can lead to mood swings, sleep disruption, and over-reliance on digital validation.



Monthly Attendance Award December 2024

Well done to **Bluebells** for winning the monthly Attendance Award with an amazing **98%**

Bluebells	98%
Snowdrops	92.6%
Robins	96.9%
Owls	95%
Puffins	93.8%
Kingfishers	96.2%

Year 2 Parents - Junior School Applications

Please be reminded that the closing date for applications for Junior school places is 15 January 2025. Please click [here](#) for further details and to apply.

Nursery

It has been so lovely to welcome the children back into Nursery this week and we are so pleased with how quickly they have settled back into our routines. We kick started the week with our 'big construction' using lots of large cardboard boxes. This was great, the children were so imaginative and had loads of fun building police stations, rockets and houses. We even used the cardboard boxes to build a giant fort to have our mid-morning snack and story inside! The children have also been thinking about what makes them smile. We have had some lovely answers including: baking with Nanny, Captain America, having a bath, cake and going to the park with Mummy and Daddy. In phonics, this week, we have learnt the rhyme 'Jack and Jill' and have also been thinking about the sound /d/. Can your child find anything at home that begins with /d/?



Next week, we will be thinking about heroes with lots of superhero play. We shall also be sharing the story of Noodle Boy. Next week we will also be starting our weekly Nursery library sessions. During these, the children will be able to choose a book to bring home for the week for you to share together. This book will be sent home on a Tuesday and we ask that you return it to school on the following Monday. Please can we ask that all children, if they do not have one already, bring a bag to school that will be suitable to carry their book in as otherwise, we will not be able to send a book home. Thank you!



Year 2

Happy New Year! Year 2 have had a wonderful first week back at school starting our new topic 'Making a Difference' and thinking about what makes us smile. The children enjoyed using watercolour paints to produce a smiling self-portrait and wrote fantastic sentences explaining what makes them smile. You can see some of these on display in the Entrance Hall. In Geography, the children learned the names of the five oceans of the world - I wonder if anyone can remember the names of all of them? In Maths, we have learned about money and UK coins. We have identified the coins and used them to make different amounts. It's tricky when we have to remember which coins are 'real' and which ones we need to add together to make an amount (e.g. 37p) - this is something that you can practise at home. In Art, we have started to look more closely at colour, learning about tints and shades this week. We have also begun our recorder lessons - enjoy practising this at home too!

In PSHE, the children were set some challenges. They need to choose one from the list opposite that is realistic and enjoyable. They have a few weeks to practise before they will 'show' this in class.

Next week, we will begin our new focus text in English which will be 'Lots: The Diversity of Life on Earth' by Nicola Davies. In Maths, we will be continuing our learning about money by thinking about how we can calculate change.

"Hi, I've set you some challenges. You can choose one to work on next time. Good luck!"

You can choose to:

- 1) Learn the Macarena dance
- 2) Learn to count in Mandarin Chinese from 1 to 10
- 3) Learn to count in French in 2s from 0 to 20
- 4) Make a colourful card to take home to your family with a special message inside it (you can make a card each but you have to agree and use the same design)
- 5) Memorise the poem "The Owl and the Pussy-cat" by Edward Lear

Reception

Happy New Year to all our Reception families, we hope you all had a super break and everyone celebrating Christmas had a wonderful time. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and they have coped well transitioning back into school routines after a couple of weeks away. We have been learning new digraphs in Phonics and even a trigraph (three letters, one sound!). You can help your child practise these at home, they are 'ai' 'ee' 'igh' and 'oa.' Can your child read and write words with these sounds in e.g. rail, tight, boat and sheep? We have also shared our holiday news and talked about things that make us smile. Next week we will be introducing our new topic 'To Infinity and Beyond' and sharing the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. **Important Information:** We will be having a wow day soon where the children will be travelling into space in their own cardboard box rocket. Please could you send a cardboard box (big enough for your child to sit in) into school on **Monday 20th January**. Local garden centres or supermarkets often give these away if you struggle to find one. We will also be leading a **Maths workshop** for parents to find out more about Maths in school and an opportunity to work with their child on a small activity. This will take place on **Tuesday 21st January** - more information to follow soon!

Year 1

Happy New Year from all in Year 1! We have been building on our knowledge of numbers to 50 this week in maths. We represented these numbers using dienes to show the tens and ones that make up a number. The children's confidence with this has grown so much and we look forward to showing you our skills in our Maths workshop soon! We have completed our three reading practice sessions this week and the children are becoming more fluent with their reading each week! In English this week we began our topic 'Whole world in Our Hands', this focuses on the earth and the creatures on it. We began by thinking of adjectives to describe an alligator and included these within a sentence. In Science this week we have been sorting animals into classification groups. We sorted animals into sea creatures and land creatures, animals with scales and fur and used the scientific vocabulary mammal, reptile, fish, bird, insects, amphibian. Next week we will be researching more about alligators and will learn about different animal diets.

Please can your child's pumps be returned to school as soon as possible as they are required for indoor PE sessions. And finally a reminder that your child receives weekly maths and phonics/spelling homework and are assigned a new EBook every week to read at home.

Streetsbrook Childcare

This week we have enjoyed hearing all about everyone's Christmas fun, we have welcomed back our friends and met new ones. Our new topic is 'Magical Times in Nursery Rhymes', each week we will focus on a rhyme or song and theme our activities around it. This week we have been singing The Wheels on the Bus, we went on a maths hunt around the room to find numbered passengers to match to the numbered seats on our bus. We then used our fine motor skills to draw passengers onto buses talking about their different features and where they might be going. We also created a real bus outside using chairs, blocks and wheels to role play going on a journey, we stopped to collect passengers, stamped tickets and shouted out what we could see on our journey.

Next week we are going under water to explore '12345 Once I Caught a Fish Alive'. Can we please remind you to label all extra items such as gloves and hats as we have so many at the moment some of which are very similar, it can be hard to keep track! Thank you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2025

Happy New Year from the entire School Nursing Team!

We hope that everyone enjoyed a delightful festive break and is now adjusting back to the school routine.

The school nursing service operates Monday to Friday, excluding public and bank holidays. You can reach us using the contact details provided below:

Phone: 0121 726 67 54

Or text us via  ChatHealth

Parent Line: 07480 635496

Aged 11-19 Line: 07520 615730



Winter Illnesses

Flu, RSV, and norovirus cases are high this winter, with this in mind it is important to carry out effective hand washing. Here is a reminder of the step-by-step guide from the NHS, taking about 20 seconds (sing "Happy Birthday" twice):

1. Wet hands with water.
2. Apply soap to cover hands.
3. Rub hands together.
4. Clean the back of each hand and between fingers.
5. Rub hands together and clean between fingers.
6. Grip fingers together and rub fingertips against palms.
7. Rub each thumb with the other hand.
8. Clean fingertips on the palm of the other hand.
9. Rinse hands with water.
10. Dry hands completely with a disposable towel.
11. Use the towel to turn off the tap.

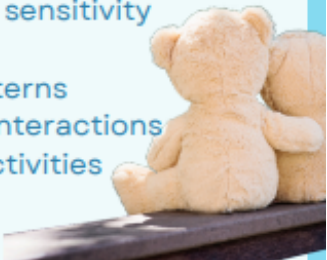
For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Emotional Support

Many children and young people face behavioural or emotional challenges, which may either resolve on their own or require professional intervention.

Here are some signs to be aware of:

- Noticeable changes in behaviour
- Increased tearfulness or sensitivity
- Persistent sleep issues
- Alterations in eating patterns
- Withdrawal from social interactions
- A decline in interest in activities
- Self-harm or neglect.



This list is not comprehensive; while it's natural for children to experience these symptoms at times, it's important to seek help if they persist.

Parents and carers can provide support at home by:

- **Listening:** Regularly check in and encourage conversations about feelings, helping them to **understand and manage their emotions**.
- **Validating their feelings:** Acknowledge their emotions and reassure them that it's okay to express what they are experiencing.
- **Staying engaged:** Show genuine interest in their lives to better identify any issues.
- **Encouraging interests and healthy coping strategies:** Foster activities that promote their mental well-being.
- **Establishing routines:** Consistent routines around meals, sleep, and exercise can create a sense of security for children. Maintaining this structure during times of change can be beneficial.
- **Taking care of yourself:** Prioritising your well-being enables you to better support your child.

There is a wealth of support available; please don't hesitate to reach out to your school nurse or GP if you need assistance.



SOLIHULL SCHOOL NURSING

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The Dangers of Frozen Water

Children may be tempted to play on frozen lakes and canals, but the ice presents significant dangers in the UK during winter. Here are some safety tips regarding the risks associated with frozen waters:

- Steer clear of pathways near waterways, particularly during dark evenings, and adhere to all safety warnings.
- Never attempt to walk on ice, as it cannot support a person's weight.
- Avoid the edges, which may be hidden under snow or leaves.
- Keep dogs on a lead when near icy areas.
- If someone falls through the ice, call 999 and do not enter the water to help.
- Monitor the individual, instruct them to stay calm and breathe normally, and follow the Float To Live technique. If possible, use rescue equipment to reach them.
- Once they are out of the water, make sure the individual stays warm and receives medical attention.



For additional water safety advice, please visit: [Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](https://www.rls.uk/)

Pet Safety Reminder



Owning a pet offers health benefits and companionship, but it's crucial for children to learn how to interact safely with pets. Resources from the Blue Cross charity provide guidance on ensuring safety for both children and pets.

For more information visit:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/behaviour-and-training/be-safe-with-dogs> or watch this video for parents and carers: <https://youtu.be/kgPjczTK00>

Sleep Support



Primary-aged children typically need 9-11 hours of sleep, but sleep issues are common and can lead to hyperactivity and concentration struggles. Long-term sleep deprivation may hinder physical and mental development. Factors affecting children's sleep include:

- **Inconsistent Routine:** Disruptions can affect sleep patterns; a stable routine promotes security.
- **Hunger or Thirst:** Nutritious evening meals help alleviate hunger; avoid sugary foods before bed and keep water nearby.
- **Comfort:** A supportive mattress and comfortable bedding prevents discomfort during sleep.
- **Self-Settling:** Children may need help learning to fall asleep independently; gently teaching self-soothing techniques can be beneficial.
- **Darkness/Being Alone:** Fears of darkness can be eased with storytelling or comfort items such as a parent's T-shirt so they have a familiar scent nearby; severe cases may need professional advice.
- **Nighttime Accidents:** Bedwetting is common and maintaining a consistent, calm approach is essential for children.
- **Sleep-Friendly Environment:** Sensitivity to noise, light, or bedding can disrupt sleep; consistent conditions and white noise may help.

For more sleep advice, visit:

<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/> or contact your school nurse.



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