



### Dreams and Goals.

This term our PSHE learning has focused on Dreams and Goals.

The children have been thinking about what it means to have a goal and how trying their best, practising, and not giving up can help them achieve it. We explored how challenges can feel difficult at first, but with perseverance and a positive attitude, they can be overcome. We have also linked this learning to our core values by practising good manners and respect. The children discussed different ways to be polite and kind, including using phrases such as please, thank you, may I have and excuse me.

The children have really impressed us on how confident they are becoming in using these manners throughout the school day.

To help the children think about their future dreams, we welcomed lots of visitors into school to talk about their jobs. This inspired lots of discussion about different careers and helped the children realise that there are many exciting possibilities for the future. The children shared what they would like to be when they are older and wrote some super sentences about their ambitions.

As part of working towards personal goals, the children have also been developing their independence at lunchtime by practising using a knife and fork. Many found this challenging at first, but through determination and practice, we are becoming more confident at cutting up our own food.

The children have gained so much from this topic, showing wonderful growth and development throughout.





We have had lots of lovely learning taking place outdoors this term!

In the sand area, the children created a bakery, using different-sized containers to explore capacity while baking lots of delicious pretend treats.

In the water area, we investigated floating and sinking and enjoyed discovering that some objects surprised us by sinking or floating when we didn't expect them to.

The children have also been busy working like engineers, designing and building giant marble runs using guttering and stands. They planned, adapted, and developed elaborate ball runs that stretched right across the back garden.

We have loved mark making and writing outdoors using chunky chinks. The children practised writing their names, green words, and tricky words, as well as drawing beautiful pictures and trails. One of our most exciting discoveries was that adding water to chalk makes the colours brighter resulting in some wonderful creations!

We have also been exploring the season of winter by talking about appropriate clothing and investigating snow, ice, and rain. The children especially enjoyed exploring ice balloons, using small hammers safely and confidently.

In the construction area, the children have been busy building different vehicles to travel to wild and wonderful places. Some of their creations were able to transform, such as boats that turned into aeroplanes to fly away! During our space topic, the children also built rockets ready to blast off into space.

Many of the children have also enjoyed playing in the bungalow garden, climbing up the hill and learning to navigate themselves through games they have created independently.

### Forest school



As well as exploring the outdoor provision the children have also had a fantastic term in the forest area on a Friday.

This term we have linked in our topic themes and used the opportunity to explore and learn all about animals and their needs.

We have explored what animals need to survive, including shelter, food and water, and worked together to build animal homes using natural materials. These included cosy leaf beds, bridges connecting homes and water supplies to help keep animals safe and comfortable.

We also took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, where the children observed and identified birds in our school grounds. They made bird food by threading Cheerio's onto pipe cleaners, filled feeders with wild bird seed and created log bird feeders. The children carefully chose where to place the feeders so birds could find them easily, showing great care for our local wildlife.

Next term we will be organising a parent workshop on outdoor learning.

Please see the dates for the diary section below for the date of our third and final parent workshop for the year.



## Join Our Half-Term Green Challenge

This half term, we're inviting all children to take part in our *Green Challenge* by making a simple pledge to help at home and think about their planet.

As a school, we've been looking closely at how to cut down on food waste and take better care of our environment.

In our own classrooms, the children have been brilliant at spotting ways to help:

- turning off the lights when we leave the room
  - not letting the taps run
  - using just one hand towel
- making sure our fruit and vegetable snack peels are placed in the correct bins for the Waste Warriors to collect and add to the compost or biofuel.
  - Recycling paper
- Litter picking and ensuring rubbish goes in the correct bin.

They've shown that small changes really do add up.



***Now it's their turn to take that enthusiasm home.***

*Can they make one green change—or maybe even more?*

*It could be sorting recycling, helping reduce food waste, reusing containers, turning off lights, or choosing to walk or scoot instead of taking the car.*

*We'd love to see what they come up with.*

*Please add their pledge, photos, drawings, or simple sentences to their Home Learning Journal so we can celebrate their ideas together.*

***Every little action helps.***

***We all have a part to play in looking after our community and our planet.***

## Important diary dates and information

13.2.26 - Break up for February Half Term holiday

23.2.26 - School open for Spring Term 2

6.3.26 - Reception farm trip to Whitehouse Farm

16.3.26- 19.3.26- Reception Parent Workshop 3- Outdoor Learning- More details to follow next term.

6.5.26- Reception Stephson Railway trip- More details to follow next term.

### Reminders:

#### Please Note:

**PE Day Change-** Our PE days will now be on a Tuesday and Thursday next term (Spring Term 2).

- **Home learning Journals-** We will be collecting the journals back in after half term on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
- **Labelling items of clothing-** Please can you ensure all items of clothing including hats, gloves, scarfs, shoes, jumpers/cardigans and coats are labelled clearly with your child's name.
- **Reading folders-** Please ensure your child's reading folder is in their book bag every day. We change books usually on a Monday and Friday, but we sometimes get a chance to read with your child through the week too.
- **Cool Milk.** Please remember that your child/ children are not eligible for free school milk after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you would like your child to continue having milk at school, you must contact Cool Milk directly at least two weeks before their birthday.



Southridge First School

'Proud to Make a Positive Impact'

Have a lovely half term break.  
The Reception Team 😊