Dates for your diary this half term at Strong Close

A warm welcome back to all our existing and new children and their families. We hope you've had a relaxing holiday and a Happy New Year to you all.

Thursday 15th January 2026 is the deadline for Primary School applications only for children that turn **5** from **1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026.** Please contact our Parental Involvement Coordinator Kaye Hardman if you would like any help completing the online forms.

Parental Consultations for those children who **returned** to nursery in September are week commencing **26th January.** Look out for your email inviting you to book a time with your child's key person nearer the time.

Forest School sessions delivered by Get Out More will run from **8th January – 5th February** on Thursday afternoons for some of the children in the 3-5 year old rooms.

Parent Café ! 9.00am on **Tuesday 20th January** for all families with information on the Henry programme that we will be delivering soon here at School.

Maths Together is an interactive workshop which offers practical suggestions and ideas to help your child's mathematical skills. Each week you will receive a free book and goodies. Starting on **Wednesday 21st January 9.00-10.00am** for 4 weeks.

For all bookings above please email office@strongclose.co.uk or call **01535 605272**. Thank you

Dates for your diary this half term at Strong Close

Bin the Bottle Exchange Scheme week commencing 26th January – you can exchange you child's bottle for a cup and tooth brush pack

Thursday 12th February -Fluoride Varnish by the Oral Health Team - A dental protective coating treatment that can help prevent tooth decay or stop it getting worse.

Chinese New Year 2025 falls on **Tuesday 17th February, until 3rd March** for the year of the horse.

Lets Move sessions take place on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings with children from **blue** and **yellow** rooms, involving opportunities to develop their gross motor skills and move in time to the music.

We also hold **Sensory Circuit** sessions for the children in **green** and **purple** groups, twice a week, where they can explore different ways of moving, linked to their needs and interests.

Friday 13th February - School closes for the holidays and re-opens again on Monday 23rd February.

Why not download the 50 Things to do Before You're 5 app for lots of age appropriate ideas of activities, places to visit and things to do with your child.

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Email office@strongclose.co.uk
Website http://www.strongclosenscc.co.uk/

Strong Close Nursery School

This Half Term in Red, Purple, Blue, Green & Yellow Rooms

Spring 1 2026

We will also keep you updated through our weekly 'What's Happening' - copies are emailed to all parents/main carers and are available on our website and Facebook pages.

For all bookable activities in blue overleaf please email office@strongclose.co.uk or call 01535 605272. Thank you

Jeśli potrzebujesz tlumaczenia na jezyk polski uzyj numeru.

যদি এই অনুবাদ বাংলায় চান তাহলে উপরের সংখ্যায় যোগাযোগ করুন.

اگر آپ اردو میں اس کا ترجمہ کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو اوپر نمبرسے رابطہ یکر

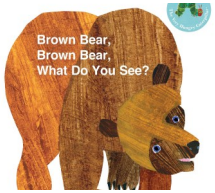
THIS HALF-TERM IN NURSERY

Red and Purple Room – 2-3 year olds

Extending children's interests, knowledge and skills

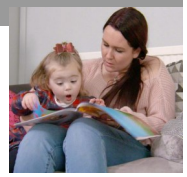
The children in **red** and **purple** rooms have spent lots of time climbing into different sized boxes and covering themselves up with materials such as scarves. You may have seen your child showing an interest in wrapping up themselves or objects or they wrap things up until the object is completely out of sight. This is known as the enveloping schema. **To find out more about schemas visit:- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDIUA8ZzHUE**

Introducing new knowledge and skills



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Eric Carle will be at the heart of **Red** and **Purple** Rooms' core story time. Bursting with bright colours and playful animals, this rhythmic board book is perfect for little hands and growing minds! By using simple, repetitive language we will help the children to build their early literacy skills and support colour recognition, attention, memory and vocabulary development. We will also encourage the children to develop their listening, turn-taking, and social interaction, key skills for children's learning and growth.

How you can help support your



Picture books are a great way to spark chat with your little one. They can both help them to understand what they see in their everyday life and introduce them to all sorts of new ideas. For more tips on reading to your child please visit: **https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zk4wd6f**

Blue , Yellow and Green Rooms—3-5 year olds

Extending children's interests, knowledge and skills

The children in **blue** and **yellow** rooms have been interested in helping to make our play dough by weighing out the Ingredients and watching what happens when it is all mixed together. They have also been using the play dough to make buns and cakes, talking about the rhythm and repetition from our Autumn 2 core story "So Much".

In **green** room, the children have been very busy in the maths area, exploring and arranging numbers to 10 both horizontally and vertically. Next half term, we will be extending their interest in number by focusing on real-world counting, comparing, sorting patterns and using rich mathematical language to build strong number sense and problem-solving skills.

Introducing new knowledge and skills

Our key story this term in **blue** and **yellow** room is **The Gingerbread Man**. We will go shopping, write lists and read instructions to make our own Gingerbread people. We will draw the children's attention to the parts of the book such as the cover, author, page numbers and the repeated text within the story. The children will use props and pictures to retell the story and be thinking of different ways to help the Gingerbread Man escape from the fox and avoid being eaten. We will also talk about positional language, such as on top, up, next to, behind, and in front of, by encouraging the children to use this language when acting out the story.

Over in the Meadow by Jill McDonald is the core story in **green** room this half term. Across the meadow, baby animals echo their mothers - and children can listen along and echo too! As the children read the story they will learn about animals their habitats, actions and sounds. The song explores numbers from 1 to 10 so they have opportunity to further develop their interest in number.

How you can help support your child's learning

Show your child that maths is in our every day lives by looking for numbers on your way to nursery, such as numerals on car registrations, house numbers, road signs etc. Go to **https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/what-can-we-spot-on-the-way/z6s26v4** for other ideas of games to play while walking to nursery.

Why not try baking Gingerbread biscuits at home together or you could also make play dough with your child. Using playdough will help strengthen muscle tone, to develop fine motor and pre-writing skills. Dough can be easily made at home with everyday ingredients, pick up a copy of both the recipes in the nursery entrance. You can also find a recipe at **https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/homemade-playdough/z4tdd6f**

As we head into winter please remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather, including suitable winter footwear. Go to **https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/getting-ready-for-the-day/zdxvy9q** for the benefits of talking through dressing with your child.