

Spring Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful break and are looking forward to the Spring term ahead. Below is an overview of the core learning that we will be focusing on this term across the school.

For further information, please continue to check the class pages on the school website and Tapestry (for our younger children), where we will regularly share photos and updates to support learning at home.

English

This term in English, our learning will be structured around a range of high-quality texts.

In Spring 1, children will be learning how to write a *diary recount*, using the book *Meerkat Mail* as our model text. They will explore character voice, sequencing events and writing in the first person. This unit will be followed by a short focus on *Poetry Calligrams*, where children will experiment with shape, layout and creative language.

In Spring 2, our focus will return to writing *narratives*. Children will learn a model text based on the traditional tale of *Little Red Riding Hood* and will use this to develop their own story writing.

Throughout all English units, children will continue to:

- Rehearse sentence structure
- Practise neat handwriting
- Apply punctuation correctly
- Learn and use spelling rules
- Encode words using the phonemes taught in phonics

Phonics

Daily phonics sessions will continue using the Little Wandle programme to support reading and spelling development across all year groups.

Maths

In Maths, our focus in Year 2 will increasingly move towards recalling number facts more fluently, enabling children to apply them confidently to calculations involving:

- Money
- Measures
- Division
- Multiplication

We will encourage the use of mental maths strategies and number sense. Manipulatives (physical resources such as Dienes and bead strings) will remain available to support understanding, but children will be encouraged to rely more on recall where appropriate.

A strong emphasis will also be placed on *problem solving*, with children working through real-life scenarios and explaining their reasoning to justify their answers. This helps to promote deep thinking skills.

In Year 1, pupils will work on similar skills while focusing on numbers within 50.

We kindly ask that times tables are practised regularly at home in a variety of ways (including Times Table Rockstars) to build confidence, particularly the 2s, 5s and 10s.

In Reception, children will be representing numbers to 20 using a variety of resources and securing their addition and subtraction of single numbers from any number up to 20.

Foundation Subjects

During the first half term, afternoon learning will include:

- Art
- Music
- Computing (including e-safety)
- RE
- Geography

In Science, we will consolidate prior learning on *The Human Body* and *Animals in their Environments*. In Art, children will be exploring *Landscapes*, applying a range of painting techniques such as sponge painting. In RE, our focus will be *Islam*, with a particular emphasis on understanding what respect means and how it can be shown. Mrs Middleton will be teaching our Geography unit on *The British Isles* and children will be comparing the different cultures across each country.

PE and Forest School

PE will continue on Fridays with our specialist PE teacher, Mrs Mooney.

Forest School sessions remain on Wednesdays with Mrs Payne and will begin this week. **Please ensure children are wrapped up warm and dressed appropriately for the weather.**

Reading and Home Learning

We hope you have been able to make use of the *Tricky Word tins* that were sent home before Christmas. Please ensure these are kept in your child's book bag and brought into school daily so we can assess progress during spare moments throughout the day.

Reading is an essential skill that supports progress across all areas of learning. Please aim to read with your child at least **three times a week** at home and record this in their reading record.

Mrs Beckett is always happy to offer tips and guidance if you would like support with reading at home—please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting Spring term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Beckett and Mrs Middleton