



Year 1 and 2 Class Newsletter Spring Term 1 2023 – 2024

Hello and welcome back! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and managed to get lots of rest and have lots of fun too! I cannot believe that we are starting Spring Term; it seems only yesterday that we were on stage performing for our Christmas Nativity.

As you probably know, Spring Term 1 is quite a short half-term and this means that we have a lot of things to squeeze into our timetable. However, I know that the children are willing to rise to the challenge and work super hard.

Below is a brief outline of the topics we will be looking at this half-term and the skills that we will be learning too.

Curriculum

English	Year 1	We will begin our writing units by looking at the text <i>The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig</i> . This is a twist on the traditional tale and the children will absolutely love this slight variation. We will be looking at the skills needed when writing a narrative: Thinking about developing our skills of sequencing, describing and writing complete simple sentences. We will, as always, also be looking at the 'writing non-negotiables' such as full stops and capital letters and using our neatest handwriting.
	Year 2	We will also be starting the half term off by looking at the text <i>The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig</i> . Year 2 will also be developing our narrative skills and start to think about adding more literary devices into our writing. We will be looking at using both coordinating and subordinating conjunctions and implementing these into our writing so they are seamless and not forced. We will be focusing on writing a coherent and accurate narrative ensuring that what we have written actually makes sense. We will start to edit the work we have been writing, to make sure that we have used our best language choices to ensure that our reader is engaged and excited by our writing, thinking about the purpose of a story and thinking about who the audience is and what they would expect.
	All children	Both year groups will also be looking at the texts <i>Mr Wolf's Pancakes</i> – from this text we will focus again on writing a clear and concise narrative. With Year 1 focusing on forming accurate sentences, in a logical order, with capital letters and full stops in the right places as well as thinking about the sequence of events – making sure they are in the right order. In relation to the text above, we will be making pancakes and from this fun, exciting and yummy lesson, be writing our own set of instructions to help someone else make pancakes. As always, both Year 1 and Year 2 will be challenged accordingly and pushed within their year groups to ensure that full coverage is taught and children have embedded key academic skills.
Maths	Year 1	To start off our spring term in maths we will be looking again, at Place Value – however, this time our magic number will not be 10 but 20. The children are more than ready to take on the challenge of understanding numbers within 20

		and grasping the concept of tens and ones. This will be the main focus of our learning within this unit as the fundamental understanding of how numbers are 'made up' is vital as we progress not only throughout Year 1 but also as the children make their way through Primary School. We will be looking at how numbers are composed of both tens and ones (e.g. 15 has – one ten and five ones). Following this unit, we will start to look at Addition and Subtraction within 20. In this unit, we will be looking at adding ones, making and knowing number bonds to 20, looking at doubles, near doubles, subtracting ones, counting backwards and much, much more!
	Year 2	We will be starting off by looking at Money in Year 2, building upon our knowledge from Year 1. When counting money we will be thinking about choosing notes and coins to make a given amount, the same amount in different ways and also start comparing amounts of money using our greater than, less than and equal to symbols that we now know like the back of our hands! We will be thinking about how we can make a pound, find change and start thinking about worded money problems. Following this, we will move onto Multiplication and Division. Within this unit we will again be building upon our prior knowledge from Year 1 adding more and more to our understanding. We will be making and recognising equal groups, adding equal groups using the multiplication symbol and applying this to multiplication number sentences. We will be looking at how we can share (start using the term division) and then start looking at how we can divide by 2, 5 and 10 as well as doubling and halving numbers. Being able to count in sequences and know our times tables for 2s, 5s and 10s is really important so any additional support at home with these will go a long way within our school learning.
Phonics	Year 1	We will continue on our Little Wandle Phonics journey and continue to develop our knowledge of not only the sounds we already know but some new ones too. The children, only this last week, asked how many sounds they have learnt and we counted 67 sound cards! They were so proud of themselves and their achievements. As always, we will apply these sounds into word spelling within our phonics session. This ensures that the children are not only able to recognise and apply the sound but also apply it independently to their writing.
Spelling	Year 2	We will continue our spelling sessions this half term and the children have taken so well to having an additional lesson in the morning three times a week. We will be looking at our Common Exception Words (words which do not fit a specific spelling pattern) but our focus will not solely be on reading them but spelling them accurately too. I have uploaded an ongoing and continual Spelling Shed 'assignment' for the children to work on each week along with their weekly spelling pattern/s. Please ensure that the children are accessing both 'assignments' on Spelling Shed as this will really help to consolidate and embed our in-school learning.
Reading VIPERS	Year 2	We have now reached the stage in the academic year that Year 2 are now ready to have some additional reading skill lessons which will ensure that they are developing their reading comprehension skills from alternative texts and not just the ones that are sent home with their reading records. We do this by using VIPERS skills – Vocabulary, Inference, Predict Explain, Retrieve, Sequence. We will first start by looking at the text <i>Once Upon a Raindrop</i> , and specifically use the reading skill 'retrieve'. This means that we will be looking at how we can retrieve information from the text, or section of text, we have looked at to ensure that the children are developing an understanding of information gathering from what they have just read.

Geography	All children	<p><u>Sensational Safari</u></p> <p>Within this unit of learning we will be thinking about our previous understanding of some simple geographical skills and start to apply new concepts and additional information to ensure that we are keen and competent geographers. We will start off the topic by looking at what life is like at school for lots of children across Africa. We will be thinking about similarities and differences so the children are able to explain a range of ideas as well as explaining them to see how children across Africa live and how their lives can differ from ours. We will be applying our knowledge of world maps, atlases and globes to identify the continent of Africa itself as well as the country of Kenya. We will be using Kenya as a case study this half term. We will use this zoomed-in experience to think about cultural differences, drawing maps of a country and labelling different key places such as capital cities and National Parks. In addition to this, we will also be developing our understanding of aerial photography to ensure that the children are able to apply their understanding of human and physical geographical features.</p>
Science	All children	<p><u>Investigate and Discover</u></p> <p>Investigate and Discover is great way for Year 1 and Year 2 to really get to grips with understanding how scientists work. When completing some experiments and write ups, we will be thinking about our key understandings of how scientists work and think about which one we are doing and how this can be classed as 'working scientifically'. We will be delving into being mini scientists this half term and start to look at planning, conducting and then evaluating some experiments as well as look at other working scientifically skills, such as grouping and organising, pattern seeking, looking at observations over time and also researching using the internet.</p>
Design and Technology	All children	<p><u>Perfect Pizzas</u></p> <p>Our topic of Perfect Pizzas is one that is going to cause some excitement. Within this unit we will be designing, making and then evaluating our creation of a healthy perfect balanced pizza. To start the unit, and get the children hooked on our new topic, we will be designing a pizza box to advertise our product, to show that our product is different from the pizzas we see in adverts or shops. We will then start to think about what makes a healthy balanced diet, look at the food wheel and also start to look at how we can have foods that appear to be 'unhealthy' but are actually healthy. The children will be making pizzas out of English muffins, tomato puree and a range of different toppings. Please send an email to the office if there is something specific that your child cannot eat or be around as we will be making our pizzas altogether as a class and enjoy them whilst they are hot and fresh out of the oven too!</p>
Computing	All children	<p>We will be continuing our journey through Purple Mash and this half term we have a lot to focus on. We will be looking at and using spreadsheets, thinking about how we can enter data, images as well as thinking about how we can save and store our work so that it will be there ready for the following lesson. Following this we will be looking at presenting ideas – within this mini unit, we will be learning how to copy and paste, use totalling tools and solve a simple puzzle. We will then move onto adding different amounts and create a table and a block graph. As our final mini unit of study we will also be looking at presenting. We will be thinking about presenting stories in three different ways, presenting ideas using a quiz, making a non-fiction fact file and also designing and making a presentation and then sharing this with the class.</p>
PSHE	All children	<p>Our topic for the whole of Spring Term is Relationships. To kick start our PSHE lessons we will be looking at the relationships we have with our peers and how and what can cause disagreements between friends. We will then be thinking</p>

		about how we can resolve these conflicts and disagreements in a gentle and sensible manner.
RE	All children	Our key question for this half term is – <i>Why are some places so important?</i> Within this unit we will be looking and thinking about why places can be special to us and think of reasons to understand what actually makes things special. We will also be exploring different places that are special to us as well as other people and understand why some people might find these places special and others might not. We will be looking at buildings in our local area to think about different faith communities and understand what their special places are and what happens within them. We will also think about if having special places can change the way we think and the way we live our lives. Finally, we will start to pull all of these ideas and our understanding together to answer the key question and think about why these shared spaces are so important and what would happen if we didn't have any shared spaces to use?
PE	All children	Our PE days will continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday . Please ensure that you are sending your child in with adequate clothing for the weather as we aim to keep the children outside for PE as much as possible – even in the winter. Could I also please ask that if your child has earrings or any jewellery that they are either removed before the PE lesson or some soft tape is put in their book bags and then myself or Miss Morris will be able to cover the earrings to refrain from any accidents!

Homework:

Year 1: Homework for Year 1 will remain the same. Year 1 will have a handwriting sheet which will be focused on one letter. This means that the children need to complete three letters by each of the trees following the formation phrase at the top of the sheet. Most children have been fabulous with this, however, could I please just gently nudge a few of us to bring in folders with the handwriting sheets in to ensure that I can add in the next homework sheet.

Year 2: As always, Year 2 will have Spelling Shed activities and games to complete each week. There will be the weekly spelling rule or words for the children to develop their knowledge of as well as a rolling, continual assignment that contains the Common Exception Words that the children are expected to read and also spell. Times Table Rockstars (TTS) is also an ongoing added extra for the children to complete each week. As you will have read in our maths section, we will be moving onto the topic of Multiplication and Division – this will be a huge focus for this term so the added implementation of using Times Tables Rockstars to help us with our understanding of how times tables work will be really beneficial.

As always, please do not hesitate to drop the office an email if you are unsure of anything and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible either via email or in person.

Finally, could I also please just pop in a little message about book bag keyrings... we have suddenly had an influx of furry creatures and lego men attached to book bags in our classroom, which means that we are unable to fit them into our trays. Therefore, could I please ask you to refrain from having lots of different keyrings on your child's book bag and just have one small keyring so that your child is able to easily identify and locate their book bag at the end of the school day – thank you.

Miss Jupp
Year 1 and 2 Class Teacher