

April 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and had a chance to rest and recharge.

### Summer Term Learning

In **English**, we will be starting a new unit on letter writing, using 'Paddington's Post' by Michael Bond and 'Here comes Mr Postmouse' by Marianne Dubuc to explore the purpose of writing letters. Our poetry unit will be based on Shirley Hughes' 'Out and about: A First Book of Poems,' which we will use to construct our own free verse poems. We will also be reading the traditional tale 'Little Red and the very Hungry Lion' by Alex T Smith and writing our own re-telling of the story. After half-term, we will be reading 'The Big Book of Bugs' by Yuval Zommer to write our own explanation texts and we will finish the term with reading 'We're going to find the monster' by Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola, which will inspire us to write our own stories. What a lot of lovely books to read and share!

In **maths**, our learning will include multiplication and division using equal and unequal groups, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, place value and time. We will also recap doubling, halving and odd/even numbers. We will continue to use the 'think 10' strategy in order to help with addition and then move onto subtraction. Towards the end of the term, we will review our learning of numbers up to 20 with the part or whole unknown. The children will attempt word problems to apply the skills they have learnt. We will continue to cover the main mathematical operations and strategies such as addition and subtraction. There will be many opportunities for practical work and games.

In **Science** this term, we will be concluding our learning about the Seasons, and how different they are from one another. We will also be learning about 'Animals including humans' for our final topic this year. We start learning about the different parts of the human body and we will have some fun drawing round each other and labelling all the different body parts. We will learn about which body part is associated with each sense and make predictions with our senses. Then we will move onto animals, learning about a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. The children will learn about the characteristics of each animal type and see if they can spot patterns between the groups. To enhance their learning, we have already had visit from the Blue Cross, which focused on how to look after our pets, and we will be meeting some of Mrs Jeffries menagerie of animals!

In geography this term, we will be learning about the seaside. We will identify the human and physical features of seaside environments through our study of Wembury beach in Devon. We will be describing popular activities we might do at the seaside, investigating what we might find in a rock pool and considering the reasons for pollution on a beach and how we might encourage people to take greater care of the seaside environment.

In history, we will be learning about the rich history of St Albans, investigating life in 'Verulamium', the Iron Age Celtic settlement, before learning about St Albans as a Roman town and how the city came to get its name. We are very excited about our trip to the St Albans Cathedral and Verulamium Park in which we will be visiting some of the Roman ruins and finding out about the story of St Alban.

In RE, we will be learning about 'Shabbat' and how this is important to Jewish children. Hummingbirds will learn about the Shabbat meal and the significance of things on the Shabbat table. We will explore the 'Creation Story' from a Jewish perspective and will discuss why Jewish families might go to a synagogue. The children will be thinking about their favourite days of the week and the activities they do on each day. In computing, we will continue the children's understanding of programming through our 'Programming Animation' units. We will also be focusing on 'Digital writing' and developing our typing skills using the keyboard.

In PSHE our theme is 'Relationships'. We will be thinking about the special relationships we have with people and how these relationships can help us to feel safe and good about ourselves. We will continue to focus on the jigsaw skills each week that Mrs Gibbs shares with the whole school during her assembly at the start of the week, which include identifying the qualities of a good friend and understanding who can help me in our school community.

In art and DT, we will be focusing on a range of skills including weaving and textiles. We will learn some simple sewing skills and create some hand puppets. We will also look at 3D form later in the summer term and will experiment with construction and clay and make a moving storybook.

Year 1 and Year 2 are also very lucky to have the opportunity to visit Whipsnade Zoo later on in the term, to consolidate all their learning this year in Science and across the curriculum. Look out for the letter to explain more and detail the fundraising activities that will be taking place.

### Important dates:

Phonics check information session- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 3.20pm  
Cathedral trip and workshop - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Whipsnade Zoo trip - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June  
Class assembly - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 9am

We will continue to have Music with Mr Mitchell on Wednesdays. The children's PE sessions will be taught on Monday and Thursday mornings by Mr Stevenson-Leigh. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on these days and will remain in them all day so will not need uniform to change into.

### Home Learning

Home learning will continue to involve weekly tasks that provide children with the opportunity to revisit learning from in class and prepare them for upcoming lessons. There will be a mix of practical and written tasks focusing on phonics and maths. These will be set on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday in order for them to be marked.

### Phonics check:

Please take a look at the following videos and guidance for parents. Graphemes and tricky words that your child will learn in Reception and Year 1:

[https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Programme-Overview\\_Reception-and-Year-1-1.pdf](https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Programme-Overview_Reception-and-Year-1-1.pdf)

A glossary of phonics terminology:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LS-KEY-GUIDANCE-GLOSSARY.pdf>

Reading is a vital part of home learning. Children are encouraged to read ten minutes daily with an adult at home. Books will continue to be changed every week. Please date and sign your child's reading record every time you listen to them read. Every time your child reads, this will count towards our whole school reading initiative: Give Me Ten. Library visits will be every Friday afternoon, whereby your child will choose a book to enjoy at home.

Maths magicians will recommence and you will find a new tick sheet in the front of your children's home learning books. Every Thursday, children will complete a quiz related to the key facts they have been learning. After successfully completing the quiz in the allotted time, pupils will move onto learning the next set of facts. Each successfully completed quiz will be recorded and dated in their home learning books.

Please look at our class page on the website to find out ways in which you can help your child with their phonics, reading and maths.

We are really pleased to have your children back at school for the summer term and we are committed to providing them with interesting exciting learning opportunities.

With kind regards,

Mrs Arnott & Mrs Garcia