

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!



I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and took the opportunity to rest, re-charge and enjoy time with your families. The last week was full of festivities and fun. The children remained calm and focussed right to the end. I have been so pleased with the numerous successes and the progress made in the autumn term and cannot wait to continue building on this over the coming weeks.

Spring Term Learning

In **English**, we will be looking at a fantastic book called 'Fantastically Great Women who Changed the World' in order to write a biography. We will be looking in detail at linking across paragraphs and writing relative clauses to add more detail. Other books we will be studying will include: 'The Misadventures of Frederick' (letter to persuade), 'The Skies Above My Eyes, The Street Beneath My Feet & The Sea Below My Toes' (non-chronological report) and 'The Watertower' (descriptive recount). So many high quality texts to enjoy!

In **maths**, we will study a range of topics building on skills we developed last term. This will include: formal written methods for multiplication and division, fractions, converting measures, problem solving and percentages! We will continue to focus on improving our mental fluency as well as developing our use of mathematical vocabulary when reasoning and problem solving.

In **science** this term, we will be exploring our new unit on space – a firm favourite in the year 5 curriculum. We will be delving into the cosmos and learning about the different planets. We will explore how they orbit the sun and learn all about their features. We will then look at the phases of the moon and learn to understand that moonlight is sunlight reflecting off the Moon's surface. We will explore how day and night occurs and then look at some influential people and astronauts that have shaped our understanding of the solar system.

In **computing**, this term, the children will learn how to create vector drawings. They will recognise that images in vector drawings are created using shapes and lines, and each individual element in the drawing is called an object. Children will layer their objects and begin grouping and duplicating them to support the creation of more complex pieces of work. They will also learn about flat-file databases. They will find out how flat-file databases can be used to organise data in records. Pupils use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data. They create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems. They use a real-life database to answer a question, and present their work to others.

In **History**, this term, we will delve into the Ancient world of the Greeks. We will explore the question: The story of the Trojan horse: historical fact, legend or classical myth? This investigation invites the children to explore the causes and consequences of this 10-year war and in particular to evaluate the conflicting evidence relating to the famous story of the so called Trojan horse, which has been passed down through the generations. Did the Trojan War really end with the defenders of Troy being duped into both accepting a huge hollow horse and then wheeling it back into what until then had been an impregnable fortress? And without checking inside it first! As the enquiry unfolds, your children will be supported to interrogate and reflect upon the nature of the evidence (written, visual depictions and archaeological) that exists to corroborate the story.

In **Geography**, we will explore why mountains are so important. This enquiry introduces the children to the physical and human importance of a biome that covers one-fifth of the world's land surface. The study of mountains enables us to comprehend key concepts of physical geography such as plate tectonics and the formation of different rock types, as well as erosion and geological deep time.

The children's PE lesson will take place every Thursday (swimming) and Friday this term. The children will be going swimming in their PE slot on a Thursday – please ensure your child has their swimming kit on these days.

We will continue to follow the Jigsaw scheme of work for **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**. This begins with a unit of work on 'Dreams and Goals', before we explore the topic 'Healthy Me'. The children will continue to receive weekly awards in assembly related to the skills taught in these lessons.

In art, we will be studying sketching and doodling. The children will use basic shapes to place key features and form the composition, measuring to work out proportions. We will then follow steps to create a peace sign with fine line doodles. In **design and technology**, we will be designing and making our own pop up books. We will be looking at designing different types of mechanisms to create different directions for our settings and characters to move.

PPA Time

My weekly planning time will be on Thursday afternoon where the children will go swimming. Mrs Campbell-Pugh will be taking the children to the pool, who is a familiar adult to the children. Mr Stevenson-Leigh will lead the rest of the afternoon.

Home Learning

Homework is an essential part of school, as it helps children to continue learning and make progress. Please continue to read with your child every day and sign their reading records. We hope many children become Reading Champions at the end of the year. Children will take out books on a Wednesday, which will need to be returned on a Wednesday also.

Reading

In Years Five and Six, children may choose to read independently at home. This should be for at least ten minutes and should be recorded in their reading record daily. It is important that you talk to your child about what they have read; you will find some question stems that could be used to support such conversations on our class page. Here you will also find a list of recommended texts for Year 5 that are suitably challenging. **Please ensure your child has their reading record in their bag each day to be checked by an adult.**

Maths Magicians

There are a number of key mathematical facts that children should know and remember. These are, of course, taught in school but it is essential that children practise them at home too. Children will be quizzed on their maths facts every Friday. As they progress through the different stages of facts, children have the opportunity to earn rewards and work towards becoming Maths Magicians!

English and Maths

For homework this term, the children will receive their own workbooks. Each week they will need to complete three 10-minute maths and English workouts. These are to be completed in the book themselves. It is important that all homework is returned, completed, the following Wednesday, as we will be spending time in class marking them together and discussing any tricky questions. Not only will this homework be a great way to consolidate any prior and current learning, but will support your child in becoming more independent and will inevitably help to prepare them for their KS2 SATs in Year 6 and homework deadlines when they transition into secondary school.

It is going to be a great term with lots of exciting learning opportunities. Please see the school's website for key dates and any extra useful resources to help your child at home.

With kind regards,

Mrs Smith