

January 2026

Dear parents/carers and children.

A very happy new year! Best wishes for 2026!

Welcome back to school – I hope you are ready for an exciting spring term. We have lots of engaging lessons ahead, about a range of interesting topics. Children will continue to develop their oracy skills this term too, as they learn to work with a growth mind-set, using their learning powers.



Spring Term Learning

In **English**, children will continue to focus on grammar, punctuation, spelling and writing using a variety of engaging texts that will provide children with opportunities to use their reading skills and further develop as writers. Texts we will be using include: Alice in Wonderland, integrating dialogues and describing settings for writing a narrative to entertain; Stella and the Seagull, which includes writing persuasive speeches; Jabari Jumps, Ralph Tells a Story and The Proudest Blue, which will help us to write personal narratives (memoirs); and Love That Dog, through which we will study calligram poems.

In **maths**, we will begin with a focus on angles, right angles and estimation, followed by learning about parallel and perpendicular lines. After, we will apply this knowledge to learning about the properties of a variety of 2D shapes and perimeter, including problem solving. Following this, we will focus on multiplication (specifically the 3, 4 and 8 times tables) and then division. Children will develop their understanding of the associative and distributive laws of multiplication and will utilise a range of strategies for solving multiplication and division problems.

In **science**, our first topic will be forces and magnets. Children will be learning, through hands-on investigations, about the different types of forces. They will plan and carry out fair tests and develop their ability to record their scientific findings as well as spotting patterns in results. For the second half term, we will learn about the topic of plants. In this unit, children will study the functions of different parts of a flowering plant, understand the requirements of plant life and growth, investigate the way in which water is transported within plants and understand the life cycle of flowering plants.

This half term, in **history**, children will be learning about the Bronze Age and Iron Age. Through their study of the Bronze Age, children will learn about the arrival of metal-smelting skills carried by Bell Beaker people from Europe and the ability of communities to create alloys such as bronze. They will also reflect upon the reasons people may have constructed the large number of stone monuments that still exist in many parts of the country. The enquiry also supports pupils to examine the contents of one very famous grave in Wiltshire – that of the Amesbury Archer – and to reflect on whether Bronze Age society believed in an afterlife. During the second half term, children will learn about the last period of prehistory in Britain and a time of great change and significant progress in society: the Iron Age. We will look at hill forts and investigate their likely function, not only as a defensive structure but also as a trading, meeting and ceremonial place. Additionally, we will be learning why the Iron Age was the most violent period of prehistory.

Next half term, in **geography**, we will develop our understanding of the concepts of settlement and urbanisation through the study of the world's megacities. Through our enquiry, we will explore some of the economic and social reasons why the population of cities increase. Children will also compare and contrast the benefits and problems that can arise in urban areas as a result of housing people at such high densities.

In **religious education**, children will be answering the key question, 'Could Jesus heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation?' They will be listening to stories from the Bible and using resources to find answers. Next half term our focus will be Easter and the enquiry question: 'What is good about Good Friday?'

PSHE will provide children with opportunities to analyse their learning strengths and use this to design clear steps to support them to improve through the topic, 'Dreams and Goals'. In the second half term, our topic will be 'Healthy Me', which teaches children to make healthy choices for their bodies and supports them in setting their own fitness challenges.

In **computing**, children will begin learning programming through our 'sequencing in music' unit of work. They will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound and event blocks within programming software, which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequencing, leading to a representation of a piano. Next half term, children will be exploring 'branching databases' and learning how to manage information online. During this unit, children will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will also learn about 'Online Reputations' for their online safety unit.

In **design and technology**, children will be working on 'Mechanical Systems- pneumatic toys,' such as moving monsters. Children will be designing, making and evaluating their own monsters. **Art** lessons will focus on a whole school art project based on our chosen theme: peace.

During **French**, children will be learning the names of musical instruments. They will learn to listen more carefully and for longer periods of time repeating what they hear with improving accuracy. They will use gestures and images to help them understand more of what they hear in French. Children will learn using nursery rhymes and songs to secure language.

PE will continue on Monday and Thursday each week. In PE, children will be using a variety of stimuli to create dance sequences as wild animals. This will involve interpreting music to perform using timing and musicality, showing expression and creativity. In Mr Stevenson's PE lessons, children will learn about health-related exercise and fitness. Please ensure that pupils are prepared, wearing the correct kit, on both of these days.

Home learning is especially important in Year 3 as children grow in independence. It will continue to involve completing a selection of activities based on our learning from the previous and current week. The homework is designed for the children to consolidate learning taught in school already and prepare them for the next week. Children should be encouraged to complete most homework independently, using a pencil, and presentation needs to be of a high standard. Reminder: homework is given out each **Friday** and should be returned by the following **Wednesday**. Please remind your child to complete the tasks and return them to school on time.

Reading is a vital part of home learning and we ask that you continue to ensure your child reads for at least ten minutes every day. As part of '**Give Me Ten**,' it is important that your child's reading record is signed by an adult daily and that your child's reading record and book come into school every day. Children need to read at least ten minutes at home. Each book needs to be read at least three times to ensure understanding and to be able to read with fluency. Children should be encouraged to demonstrate understanding of the text by talking about the main events. Please talk to your child about what they have read. On our class page, you will find documents to support these conversations at home as well as a list of recommended reads for Year 3 children that are suitably challenging.

Please also practice your child's '**Maths Magicians**' facts with them for 10 minutes a day. Maths Magicians focuses on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Children across the school are expected to work towards knowing and remembering the key facts for their year group, which can be found on the Maths Star of our class page on the school website. Children will be taught these facts in class, but it is important that they practise these at home too. There are 12 stages for the children to work through each term, with a quiz each Friday. Successful completion of quizzes will result in prizes being awarded in our weekly celebration assembly and most importantly children being more confident in the Maths.

Optional additional **home-learning** includes practising times tables (your child's Times Tables Rock stars log-in is in the front of their homework book) and handwriting. Further information and links to relevant websites can be found on our class page. There, you will also find a document that shows the stages of development in mathematical reasoning; it includes questions that you could ask your child at home to help them think more deeply about mathematical problems they may encounter in the real world as well as in their home learning.

Please do refer to the knowledge organisers for details of all areas of learning on the website. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.