

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!



I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays, whether you celebrated or not, and took the opportunity to rest, re-charge and enjoy time with your families. I have been so pleased with the numerous successes and the progress made since the start of year six and cannot wait to continue building on this throughout the spring term.

Spring Term Learning

In **English**, we will focus on writing to inform, entertain and discuss this term. We will begin with a unit of work centred around a text called the 'Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide', which is about a collection of magical and mythical beasts. We will work on cementing our understanding of various grammatical features through writing about different creatures, before inventing one of our own to write a report about. When writing narratives to entertain, our focus will be on a scene using dialogue to convey character and on using our senses to describe setting and characters. When writing to discuss, we will ensure we are clear about the difference between fact and opinion and learn how to provide differing points of view without leading the reader.

In **maths**, we will study a range of topics building on skills we developed last term. This will include: order of operations and algebra; division; angles; reflection and translation; multiplying and dividing fractions; ratio and proportion; volume and measures; statistics and more! 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 are learning about light and electricity. Children will learn that light appears to travel in straight lines and use this fact to explain how light is reflected into our eyes, which enables us to see objects. We will also investigate how shadows are formed and why they have the same shape as the objects that cast them. Comparing and giving reasons for variations in how electrical components function, such as the brightness of a bulb or volume of a buzzer, will be a focus for Monarchs in the spring term. We will use key vocabulary, such as voltage and cell, in our explanations and draw scientific circuit diagrams to support our hypotheses.

In **history** this term, we will be studying the Shang Dynasty of Ancient China. The 500 years of the Shang Dynasty is of great significance in a number of ways. In particular, they mark the beginning of recorded history in China. Nothing survives that was written on parchment or papyrus, but hundreds of thousands of inscribed animal bones and shells (known today as oracle bones) remain. We will find out how these provide an insight into the life and times of the Shang society.

Our **geography** focus for the term will be on fair trade. This enquiry will enable pupils to understand what international trade entails – the manufacture, selling and buying of goods and services between countries through exports and imports – and the fact that trade has been operating for thousands of years. We will investigate trade from a personal to a global context.

RE lessons this term are based on Christianity and we will first explore the question: is anything ever eternal? After half term, our time will be spent investigating whether Christianity is still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus' birth.

In **computing** this term, the children will learn about programming variables in games and how to use spreadsheets to store and manipulate data and information. In addition, we will spend time learning about online bullying and managing information online.

We will complete two **French** units of work next term: À l'école and Le week-end. In the À l'école unit, children will learn the nouns and definite articles/determiners for 10 school subjects in French. They will also learn how to conjugate the verb "to study", an introduction to time and an

expansion of opinions. By the end of the unit pupils will have the knowledge and skills to talk about the subjects they like and dislike at school (along with a justification) and at what time/day they study various subjects. Whilst learning about Le week-end, children will find out 10 French phrases for activities they may do at the weekend. Children will have the knowledge and skills to talk about what they do at the weekend, including times and opinions/justifications, enabling them to create more detailed and personalised responses by the end of the unit.

The children's **PE** lessons will take place on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons with Mr Stevenson. They will enjoy tennis, health-related exercise, dance and more. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on these days and will remain in it all day so will not need uniform to change into. Please ensure that they have the correct kit for both sessions so that they can successfully participate.

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.

PPA and Leadership Time

My weekly planning, preparation and assessment time will be covered by Mrs Campbell-Pugh and Mr Stevenson this term. Mrs Campbell-Pugh will be teaching **art** and **DT**, and Mr Stevenson will teach **PE**. Each week, I will continue to have an hour's leadership time on a Monday morning. This time will also be covered by Mr Stevenson, who will teach PE.

Home Learning

As previously mentioned, home learning is especially important in Year 6 as it not only helps the children to continue to learn and make progress, but also prepares them for secondary school where home learning expectations will be significantly higher. Home learning this term will continue to be targeted towards SATs involving completing tasks in CGP workbooks. Each week, your child will be set **one maths** and **one English** task to complete from these.

Reading is a vital part of home learning and we ask that you continue to ensure that your child reads for at least ten minutes every day. Children in Year 6 may sometimes choose to read independently at home, but their reading record should still be signed by an adult daily. It is also important that you 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 texts for Year 6 children that are suitably challenging.

Our '**Maths Magicians!**' initiative focuses on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Children are expected to work towards knowing and remembering the key facts for their year group. Of course, children are taught these in class, but it is important that they practise these at home too. Please rehearse the relevant facts for 10 minutes each day and sign the maths record when this is completed. There are the same 12 stages for the children to work through again this term, with a quiz each Friday, although the aim is to increase the speed at which we can recall the facts this time. Successful completion of quizzes will result in prizes being awarded in our weekly celebration assembly. For ideas on how to practise at home, please look at the maths star on our class page.

The **knowledge organisers**, which detail everything that your child will be learning about in foundation subjects the spring term, are saved on our class page. They include key facts and dates, vocabulary, influential figures, and much more that can be used to support your child and provide them with additional home learning opportunities.

Top Tips for utilising these successfully:

- Pin them up in an area that you and your child can easily access them, perhaps on the fridge, for example.

- Use them as a stimulus to talk about what your child has learned each week, ensuring correct vocabulary.
- Quiz your child and see how many facts they can remember.
- Extend your child's learning further by encouraging them to research, read or create something related to their topic.

SATs

We are firm believers that SATs are only one measure of your child's achievements and progress during their time at primary school, however we also want to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. This term, children have been invited to attend booster sessions. These small group sessions aim to target teaching more specifically to children in order to further support them. You should have received a letter already regarding this.

All parents are invited to a SATs information meeting taking place on **Monday 2nd February at 3:15pm** in our classroom. In the meantime, if you wish to support your child further at home, the following websites may be of use, as well as the numerous resources on our class page:

English: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zv48a6f>

Maths: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z826n39>

I am sure it is going to be a great term with lots of exciting learning and enrichment opportunities.

With kind regards,

Miss Abbott

