



January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. The children have returned refreshed from their break and have made an excellent start to the new term. Please find below some information about the curriculum topics we will be covering up until Easter, which we hope will help you guide and support your child over the coming weeks.

Reading

Daily reading is essential for progress. It is key to accessing all areas of the curriculum and the expectation is that your child reads aloud at home to an adult every day, regardless of whether they have read in school. Guided reading and reading comprehension tasks in school will further support your child's reading fluency and understanding of text structure and meaning. Children should continue to take their reading diary home each evening, read aloud to an adult, then bring both the reading diary and the home reader back to school the following morning. We are delighted to say that the class have become proficient in changing their reading books independently each morning. Even though your child may decode fluently, please question them to ensure good understanding. These conversations around the text are invaluable. Research shows that children who read regularly reap the benefits in many areas, not least academically and socially. Please sign your child's reading diary each day, or encourage your child to write their own comments. The reading diary can also be used for communication purposes. Your views are always helpful. Although your child will bring home a book each day matched to their phonic knowledge, please encourage them to include any other reading material from home in their reading diary.

Homework

As before, homework will be set on a **Thursday** (occasionally this may be a Friday) in the folders **to be completed by the following Tuesday**. Generally, your child will be given an English and Maths task each week, although sometimes other subjects may be included.

Expectations for homework are the same as in the classroom, in that it should be completed neatly in pencil. A weekly spelling list will be set each **Thursday** via Spelling Shed, made up of spelling patterns we have covered during the week. Spelling Stars, comprising National Curriculum Year 2 vocabulary and high frequency words (HFW), will be given out at the beginning of each term to be learnt for a test on the last week of term. These are also available on EdShed. Both the weekly spellings and the Spelling Stars will also be posted on Google Classroom. Please encourage your child to practice these spellings. It will benefit them considerably as they continue up through the years.

P.E.

As last term, Kingfisher Class will have P.E on Monday and Tuesday with Mr. Whittle. Please continue to send your child to school in their P.E. kit on these days. This term, one session will focus on gymnastics and the other will focus on target games. After half term, the children will learn team building and invasion games. **Please refer to the school website regarding correct P.E. kit and if you could help us by ensuring every item of kit is named we would be most grateful.**

English

We began the term studying the text, 'Rosie Revere Engineer' by Andrea Beaty. The class will become engineers, designing their own mechanism and writing a non-fiction information text to describe it. Thank you in advance for supporting the creation of their bridges, something they will do at home. They then move on to looking at, 'A Walk in London' by Salvatore Rubbino which will continue our non-fiction writing about being a tour guide. Before the break, we will return to creative writing as we look at 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne.

After half term, we will study 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield moving on to a selection of traditional fairy tales.

In grammar, the children will be looking at using conjunctions to develop sentences, prepositions and sentence types (statements, commands, questions and exclamations) with their associated punctuation. Spellings will mainly focus on word endings, such as -es, -ed, -er, -est, -ing and how this affects root words.

Maths

The maths skills your child will learn from January to Easter are as follows:

Spring term	Measurement Money VIEW	Number Multiplication and division VIEW	Measurement Length and height VIEW	Measurement Mass, capacity and temperature VIEW
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We will specifically be learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables with related division facts. As a starting point, children will need to be able to step count easily in these amounts.

Science

In terms 3 and 4, we will be studying the topic 'Everyday Materials'. This will include identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard. Children will consider the uses of these particular materials. Following on from that, they will find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

Music

Music is taught throughout the school using the music scheme Kapow. The topic for this term is: Instruments – musical storytelling.

R.E.

Our enquiry question for this term is: Is it important to celebrate the new year? The learning objectives explore how in some faiths new year is a religious festival. We will look at how the new year is celebrated across the year before focusing on:

- ... Jewish New Year
- ... Muslim New Year
- ... Sikh New Year

Next term our focus will be 'How Should the Church Celebrate Easter?'

PSHE

The PSHE topics we are covering until Easter are Safety (including Road Safety) and the changing body and citizenship, considering the needs of others and belonging.

Computing

Computing will focus on understanding simple coding using Scratch.

Art and Design Technology

Although drawing and painting is often incorporated into other areas of the curriculum, for example to provide inspiration for writing in English, Art and Design is also studied as a discrete subject. This term, the children will be designing and making their own fairground wheel which aligns with our English topic book. In the following term, the children will be exploring clay techniques by adding and removing clay in order to make pinch pots, tiles and houses.

Humanities

This term in geography we will be looking at maps, aerial images, maps of Cookham and map symbols, before moving on to History when we will study how people used their voices and actions to make a difference during the Victorian era.

Curriculum enrichment

We have booked a trip to the Lookout Discovery Centre in Bracknell, which will support the children's work in science this term. The trip will take place towards the end of February and more details will follow.

We will also be celebrating Book Week in the first week of March and in this year of reading there will no doubt be several activities for children to enjoy the world of books and literacy.

We hope this overview of the term ahead is useful to you. As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Ms. O'Reilly