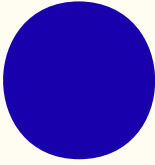
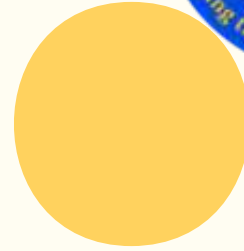
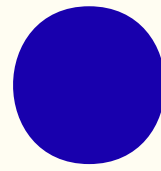


Rickley Park Newsletter

Spring - *January 2026*



We hope everyone had an enjoyable break and are ready for the spring term ahead. As always, we encourage you to relax, grab a cuppa and enjoy our January 2026 newsletter.

In this issue:

- Community Support
- Pupil Community
- Bletchley Community
- Wider Community
- Parent & Teacher Partnership
- Reading Cafe
- Picture News
- Dates for your Diary
- Year Group Information

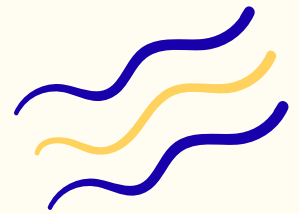


Community Support

One of our Rickley Park family's signposted us to the John Lewis Partnership who kindly donated a £100 voucher to the school to use for our pupils! We are going to purchase additional items to use for indoor wet play and are hoping you can also help us!

Do you have any board games / chess sets / card games / puzzles / jigsaws / unused colouring books that you no longer use? If so, we would love them!

Please drop any donations into the school office.



Year 5 and 6 Trip to the Panto

During the penultimate week of term, 72 children enjoyed a trip to the MK Theatre to see the pantomime Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This was the first time we have offered this trip and we were incredibly impressed by the excellent behaviour of all the children who attended – they were a credit to the school and did us all proud.

The children thoroughly embraced all the traditional pantomime fun, joining in with great enthusiasm. During the interval, they were delighted to receive sweet bags kindly prepared for them by the students of Whitespire. We are very grateful to Whitespire for their generosity and support.

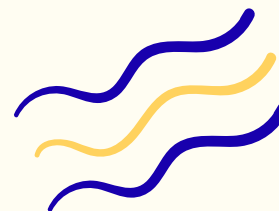
Both the children and the adults who attended had a fantastic time. We hope this will be the first of many such opportunities in the future.



Wider Community

Ofsted has changed how they report the findings of education inspections to parents. They now use report cards to give a clearer picture of what's working well and where the next steps for improvement are. They no longer give one overall judgement, such as 'good', 'outstanding' or 'requires improvement'. Instead, the report cards show colour-coded grades for different areas and we grade these areas on a new scale. Watch the short video below to find out more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kb10FvY976g>



DaisyChain Family Centre has some upcoming CLMK Adult courses on offer! Please contact the centre directly for more information and how to book.



Healthy Home Cooking Daisychain Family Centre

Monday 12:30-2:30

12th Jan – 10th Feb

Try new recipes and ideas.
Discover new flavours and ingredients.
Find inspiration for healthy family meals.
Explore ways to make your groceries go further and cook economically.

All ingredients and equipment will be provided
Please contact centre staff to book your space



Mindful Crafting Daisychain Family Centre

Thursdays 1-3pm

6th Feb – 3rd April

Unlock your creative side
Learn the skills to repair items, create new ones and fulfil ideas.
Create beautiful arts and crafts.
Have great fun in a relaxing environment and learn / develop some new skills

Please contact centre staff to book your space



Caring for Children Under 5

BTEC Level 1 Introduction Qualification

Begin your adventure in child care with our Level 1 course! Perfect for those starting out, this program offers a thorough introduction to the key skills and knowledge required to nurture and support the development of children under 5.

Scan the QR code to register



Daisychain Family Centre
c/o Abbeyes Primary School
Melrose Avenue
West Bletchley
Milton Keynes
MK3 6PS

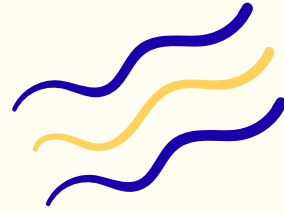
Tuesday
Start Date: 20th January 2026
End Date: 16th June 2026
Time: 10:00- 12:00

To find out more contact us:

communitylearning.mk@milton-keynes.gov.uk
01908 252500



Parent-Teacher Partnership



News Update

As mentioned in last term's newsletter, we have launched our Parent-Teacher Partnership to collaborate on school decisions and direction.

Our latest collaboration has been to update our Relationship Policy to include the section 'I own my actions'. This are clear next steps when a child does not follow the school 'norms'.

This was shared with the children in assembly today.

Please follow this link to see the updated policy:



READING CAFE

We would love you to join us for a Reading Café on one Friday morning! This is a special opportunity for you to spend time reading with your child, explore a selection of wonderful books and discover simple, effective ways to support your child's reading at home.

During the session, you will also have the chance to:

- ★ Chat with staff in a relaxed, friendly setting
- ★ Visit our Community Cupboard, which will be open and available to all families



School Hall - 8:30am - 9:00am

Friday 9th January - Nursery & Foundation

Friday 16th January - Year One

Friday 23rd January - Year Two

Friday 30th January - Year Three

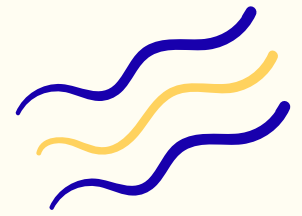
Friday 6th February - Year Four

Friday 13th February - Year Five & Six



If you would like to come in and listen to children read during the school day, please let the school office know as we are always looking for reading volunteers!

Picture News







**Picture News
For Parents**



December 2025

Hello!

Welcome to the Autumn term's edition of Picture News for Parents – a newsletter that helps you stay updated with your school's news coverage, and shares support for handling current affairs and media literacy at home.



Picture News Recap!

Should fireworks be changed so we protect animals and people at the same time?
3rd November 2025



Redwings Horse Sanctuary asked the government to make fireworks quieter to help protect animals and people. This inspired conversations about how we can consider the impact of our actions on others, the many ways we can make celebrations special, and the alternatives to fireworks we might see.

Conversation idea:
How could community events in our local area make sure they include everyone?

What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?
10th November 2025



This resource was all about the COP30 meeting in Brazil. This led to conversations in schools about the purpose of the meetings, what climate change is, and positive climate actions people can take.

Conversation idea:
What actions do/can we take at home to help the environment?

Why should we raise awareness of hidden disabilities?
November 2025



This special pack focused on nine-year-old Katie Thirling, who has been awarded the British Citizen Youth Award Medal of Honour for raising awareness of living with a hidden disability. Schools discussed stonks and why they're needed, and the impact raising awareness of hidden disabilities can have on others.

Conversation idea:
How can we show kindness to people in our community?

How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?
1st December 2025



The Princess of Wales' annual carol service, which aims to bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community, was this resource's focus. The pack asked questions about what and who makes children feel they belong, and how we can welcome others.

Conversation idea:
Where do you most feel like you belong?

Media Literacy at Home BLOG >

This term saw the announcement of National Curriculum changes, planned for 2028. Within that change is the introduction of compulsory Media Literacy lessons for children.

Picture News schools use their weekly resources to develop media literacy skills, supporting children to encounter news content, and analyse and discuss the content they see.

Building media literacy skills can be extended at home, too! Our blog details some key ways to build media literacy skills at home – check it out.



Handling difficult news at home BLOG >

We're often asked by school communities and parents/carers for advice on talking about sensitive news events with children and young people.

You might like to bookmark our Sensitive News blog, which details some key tips for handling tricky conversations about upsetting events children might encounter in the news or online...

Quick tips:

Weigh up the details to share based on age & developmental stage
Young children may better relate to broader, more familiar concepts, e.g. fair/unfair, kind/unkind. Older children may be able to handle more details. You know your children best!

Talk in the morning
This gives children and young people more opportunities throughout the day to reflect and come back to you with their thoughts or concerns to navigate together.

Share stories of positive actions
From community initiatives to fundraising efforts in response to events, often there are thought-provoking examples of humanity prompted by difficult news events to share with children.

Live Assembly from ANTARCTICA!

Earlier this month we hosted the world's first-ever live assembly broadcast from Antarctica to over 4000 schools!



In collaboration with 2041 Schools, Robert Swan OBE joined live – 600 miles away from the South Pole.



He shared his stories from the ice, discussed the importance of protecting the frozen continent, and inspired children everywhere to be champions of Antarctica!

Did your school community join in too? Tell us what they thought!

[Check out 2041 Schools here >](#)

Celebrating Picture News schools this year!

From creating thoughtful conversations, to inspiring children to lead their very own Picture News assemblies, we're so impressed by how schools have brought Picture News resources to life this year.

Take a look at some fab examples from 2025!



Why is this information important?

Keep updated with the Take Home resource

Each Picture News pack includes a Take Home resource. It's a great way for parents, carers, and wider school communities to keep updated with news coverage and conversations in school, and can support news exploration at home too!



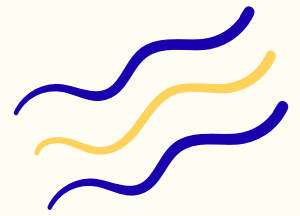
Goodbye

Many thanks for reading this edition of Picture News for Parents – I do hope you found it useful and it can spark more conversations about the world at home.

As always, feel free to get in touch with any suggestions for future newsletters. Take care!



Helping your Child



Homework expectations

Homework plays an important role in school life. It helps children develop key skills such as following instructions, managing their time and taking responsibility for their learning. It also provides valuable opportunities for children to practice and strengthen the foundational knowledge taught in class.

As children move through the school, expectations around homework gradually increase. This progression is carefully planned to help prepare them for the routines and responsibilities they will encounter in secondary school.

We recognise that family time and a balanced home life are extremely important. We understand that homework can sometimes be a source of stress. For this reason, most homework is designed so that children can complete it independently, without the need for adult supervision.

That said, your support is greatly valued. Taking time to talk about tasks, showing interest in your child's learning and offering encouragement can make a meaningful and positive difference to their confidence and progress.

Below explains homework expectations per year group:

EYFS - Maths passport-support your child working on their year groups objectives.
Share their phonics/reading book daily

Year 1 - Maths passport-support your child working on their year groups objectives.
Share their reading book daily

Year 2 - Maths passport-support your child working on their year groups objectives.
Share their reading book daily
5 minutes of daily Numbots
Learning their weekly spellings

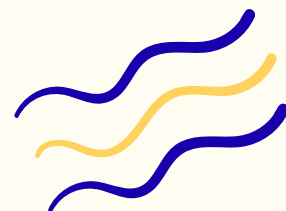
Year 3 - Maths passport-support your child working on their year groups objectives.
10 minutes of daily reading
5 minutes daily TT rockstars
5 minutes daily Spelling shed

Year 4 - Maths passport-support your child working on their year groups objectives.
10 minutes of daily reading
10 minutes of daily Spelling shed
10 minutes of daily TT rockstars. Complete their Times Table passport.

Year 5 - Maths passport-support your child working on their year groups objectives.
10 minutes of daily reading
10 minutes of daily Read Theory
10 minutes of daily TT rockstars
Complete LBQ when set
Optional arithmetic sheet and weekly spellings

Year 6 - Complete LBQ set weekly - 2 x maths and 1 x English
15 minutes of daily reading

Dates for your Diary



Spring 1 (6 weeks)

Monday 5th January – INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January – Term starts
Friday 23rd January – Young Voices concert at the O2
Tuesday 27th January – Y2 to Pizza Express
Tuesday 3rd February – Y2 to Pizza Express
Wednesday 4th February – 2:30pm VIP Assembly (invitation only)
Thursday 12th February – Friendship Disco
Friday 13th February – end of term

Spring 2 (5 weeks)

Monday 23rd February – Term Starts
Friday 13th March – Mother's Day Event
Wednesday 18th March – 2:30pm VIP Assembly (invitation only)
Wednesday 25th March – 9:30am Rocksteady Concert (invitation only)
Wednesday 25th March – 3:30-6:30pm Parents Evening (online)
Thursday 26th March – 3:30-6:30pm Parents Evening (online)
Friday 27th March – end of term

Summer 1 (6 weeks)

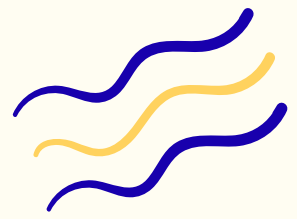
Monday 13th April – Term Starts
Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday
Monday 11th May – Year 6 SATs week
Wednesday 13th May – 2:30pm VIP Assembly (invitation only)
Wednesday 20th May – Sports Day
Friday 22nd May – end of term

Summer 2 (7 weeks)

Monday 1st June – Term Starts
Monday 1st June – MTC 2-week window begins
Monday 8th June – Phonics Screening Check window begins
Friday 19th June – Father's Day Event
Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th June – Y6 Residential
Friday 26th June – Summer Fayre
Thursday 2nd July – Transition Day (Y6 to Lord Grey)
Friday 3rd July – Winning House Team Celebration
Wednesday 8th July – Aspirations Day
Wednesday 8th July – 2:30pm VIP Assembly (invitation only)
Thursday 9th July – 6:30-8:00pm Y6 Leavers Performance
Tuesday 14th July – 6:00-8:00pm Y6 Prom
Wednesday 15th July – 9:30am Rocksteady Concert (invitation only)
Friday 17th July – end of term
Monday 20th July – INSET Day

Please continue to check our school website, MCAS and our Facebook page for further details regarding the dates mentioned above.

Year Group Information



Nursery

Our Learning:

In Nursery over the coming half term our focus will be Winter.

We will look at snow, frost, hibernation and what it means. We will try to make frozen ice bubbles, ice sculptures and look at how ice changes back into water.

We will treat our focus in a holistic way, looking at relevant mathematical ideas, doing a Big Artwork together, introducing regular stories to tie in with the theme, making the use of the outdoor environment and plenty of hands-on artwork using different mediums.

We will also have a week preparing for Big Bird Watch Week in January making a bird hide outside, having relevant spotter sheets for birds we regularly see in our playground and school grounds. We will make bird feeders and water stations for the birds. We will take a walk with binoculars and mark the birds we see on a chart.

We will have a second mini topic the first week of February: National Story Telling Week. This will enable us to look at traditional tales, role-play, telling our own stories, making books and acting out stories together as a way of immersing ourselves in the importance of stories.

Home Learning Ideas:

[https://www.laurahenryallain.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ITAV-Poster-Nov-2025-A3.pdf?](https://www.laurahenryallain.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ITAV-Poster-Nov-2025-A3.pdf?fbclid=IwRIRTSaOU2BFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xNzM4NDc2NDI2NzAzNzAAAR70mCvI3EwGjfO-i724eAERIBjBh3NH5_z_cfUTTc8CPv2n1UyxS8uRSXAGyA_aem_4IE4G5Em3QCDtL2UktmU8g)

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[i724eAERIBjBh3NH5_z_cfUTTc8CPv2n1UyxS8uRSXAGyA_aem_4IE4G5Em3QCDtL2UktmU8g](https://www.laurahenryallain.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ITAV-Poster-Nov-2025-A3.pdf?fbclid=IwRIRTSaOU2BFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xNzM4NDc2NDI2NzAzNzAAAR70mCvI3EwGjfO-i724eAERIBjBh3NH5_z_cfUTTc8CPv2n1UyxS8uRSXAGyA_aem_4IE4G5Em3QCDtL2UktmU8g)

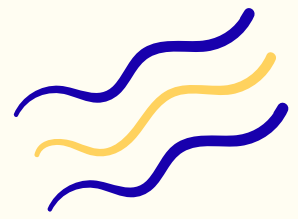
This is an amazing poster to help everyone understand the importance of stories and reading to children.

Reminders:

Please can you remember we are out in all weathers in Nursery, so hat, gloves, scarves and warm coats are essential.



Year Group Information



Foundation

Our Learning:

This half term our topic 'Ticket to Ride' will spark the children's curiosity and support learning across all areas of the EYFS curriculum. Through exploring different types of transport (such as cars, buses, trains, boats and planes), the children will learn in a fun, meaningful and practical way.

In our Drawing Club lessons, we will enjoy a range of transport-themed stories, animations, signs, labels and mark-making opportunities. We will be encouraged to write tickets, draw maps, or to recognise letters and sounds through vehicle names and road signs.

In our maths lessons, we will continue to use the White Rose Maths Hub materials within our lessons. However, our transport topic also provides many opportunities for counting wheels, comparing sizes and speeds, sorting vehicles, measuring distances, and learning about shapes and numbers in a meaningful context.

Please talk to your child about the journeys you take together. How do you get to school? Point out road signs and different vehicles when you are outside. Listen to some transport-themed stories and encourage drawing, building or role-playing vehicles. Talk about how vehicles have changed over time (in the past we had horse-drawn carts, steam trains, old cars) and they have changed over time to become what we use today (electric cars, modern trains, aeroplanes).

Home Learning Ideas:

Please read **daily** with your child at home and make use of the QR codes linking you to pre-recorded lessons. Some children have now moved onto paper ditty sheets and red books – please ensure you log that these have been read at least three times in their reading record or whether they need further time to consolidate.

Reminders:

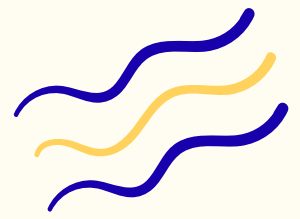
PE – Monday PM

Library – Wednesday PM

Please ensure your child's reading record and reading book are brought into school daily so we can check if they need changing / further support.



Year Group Information



Rickley Robins

Our Learning:

We have welcomed the children back after the holidays and we are very excited about our next topic!

The children will be looking at and listening to a range of 'Winter' themed stories. They will have the chance to play with props and explore different materials that tie in with our Winter theme.

A few stories the children will be looking at are *The Gruffalo's Child*, *Little Robins Red Vest* and *Stick man*.

We are going to be looking at people who help us by using plenty of visuals and interactive games to support the children with finding out who are those around them that help them. We are excited about setting up a tuff tray with a fire scene where the children must use pretend hoses to wipe away the fire!

In maths we have a variety of learning objectives that we are working on. Some of our pupils will be learning how to build a tower with different sized blocks by taking in turns and being modelled how many blocks are being used. Whilst other pupils will be sorting and exploring numicon and tens frames and learning about the value of numbers 1-10.

The children in Rickley Robins will be exploring a range of musical instruments and learning how to play them effectively. We will be showing the children different sounds and asking them to find the sounds upon request. We are interested in seeing if the children can stop and start playing an instrument after an instruction too.

We are starting to introduce a different sign to the group each week. Please ask the adults what this sign is and maybe you can use it at home too.

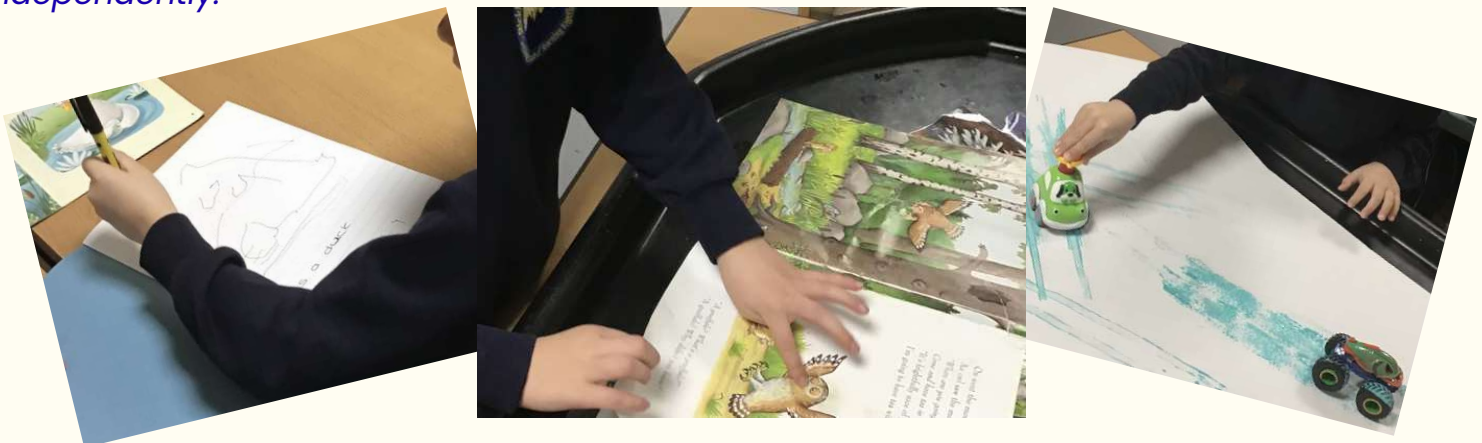
Home Learning:

Look through books with your child and encourage them to point to pictures after you have asked them 'Find me the...'

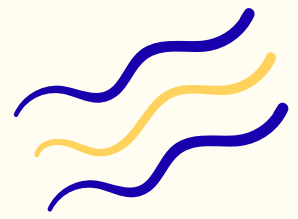
If you would like a communication board to use at home, please ask one of the adults in the room and we can sort this for you.

Reminders:

As the weather is very cold at the moment, we encourage all of our children to have gloves, hats and scarfs in school. We will be teaching the children how to put these on independently.



Year Group Information



Year One

Our Learning:

Welcome back!

In **English** the children will be continuing to use fun and exciting stories to develop their own writing. They are encouraged to use their knowledge of phonics to write a sentence including full stops and capital letters. They will be focusing on using words with suffixes 'ing' 'ed' 's' 'es' and creating more interesting sentences using the conjunction 'and'. We are also learning the set 3 sounds in our RWI in phonics and trying to spot these in words.

In **Maths** we are learning all about the numbers to 20. We will be focussing on number composition and developing our reasoning skills around numbers. Children will be taught key problem solving skills and use these to solve simple one step real life problems.

This term in Year 1 **Science**, we will be exploring the exciting topic of Materials. The children will become curious scientists, investigating the world around them and learning how different materials are used in everyday life. They will categorise objects according to the material they are made from and will identify key advantages and disadvantages of each material, which they will then use to make a raincoat for a teddy bear.

This term in **music** we will be thinking about tempo and will be singing at different speeds. We will also be exploring musical instruments and changing the tempo that we play them.

In **History**, year 1 will be learning about inspiring people in the past and present day. We start by talking about the person who invented the world wide web and gradually move further into the past with the person who invented printing the first book.

Home Learning Ideas:

Please continue to read daily with your child, filling in the reading record. You could also practice the phonics sounds from the yellow phonics book and encourage your child to write words at home.

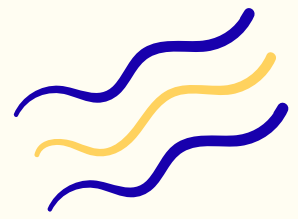
To support your child in Maths play fun counting games and dice games. Encouraging your child to count forwards and backwards will help them in Maths. Also encourage them to think of what is 1 or 2 more/less than a given number to 20.

Reminders:

Library day is Friday and PE day is on a Thursday.



Year Group Information



Year Two

Our Learning:

Happy New Year! What is happening this half term? Well...

In **English** this half term, we will be working on ensuring that we correctly form our sentences. We will be using our checklists to make sure that our sentences include subjects, verbs and extra information. We will also be making sure we use our always checklists for capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and writing on the line. We will use our sentence writing skills to support us writing our own circular narratives. Our focus book to inspire us will be A River by Marc Martin.

In **Maths** this half term, we will be expanding our knowledge on multiplication and division. We will focus on understanding what equal groups and arrays are, consolidating the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and understanding the connection between multiplication and division.

In **History** this half term, we will continue to learn how the past has influenced our lives today. This term we will research and learn about the impact of 4 significant nurses. We will conclude our History nursing topic with a visit from a local nurse who will educate us about the NHS and what nursing is like today. In **Science**, we will be continuing to learn all about plants. We will be looking at what plants need, where they will grow and how they change. We will be looking at how to look after different plants and if they all need the same things.

In **Music**, we will be learning how events, actions and feelings within stories can be represented by a range of pitches, dynamics and tempos from instruments. In **Art**, we will be learning about primary and secondary colours, colour mixing, and creating textures using different tools. We will also use collage techniques, where the children will be encouraged to experiment with a range of materials that they will then evaluate. In **D.T**, we will learn about preparing a range of ingredients by peeling, grating, chopping and slicing. We will describe the types of food needed for a healthy and varied diet. We will then apply this knowledge to design and make a simple, healthy snack. This links to our exciting trip to Pizza Express!

Home Learning Ideas:

Continue to listen to your child read and please record this in their reading records – this is really important and we love to hear about the books you have enjoyed at home.

Use TT Rockstars to continue to practice the 2s, 5s and 10s. On Showbie, in the Maths toolkit, there are a range of resources that you can access at home to support your child with recapping these times tables.

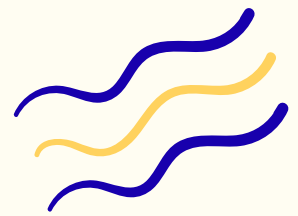
Our weekly spellings will be given out on a Friday for the spelling test the following week. Please learn and practise these at home with your child.

Reminders:

- *Our library day is on Thursdays, please bring in your library books to change them.*
- *PE is on Friday, please ensure children are wearing school PE kit / colours.*



Year Group Information



Year Three

Our Learning:

Reading - This half term, Year 3 are reading 'Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball'. We are developing our inference, vocabulary and retrieval skills as we explore the text. Pupils are learning to find clues in the story to understand characters' thoughts and feelings, as well as learning new word meanings and strategies to work out unfamiliar vocabulary. We are also enjoying performing and learning a new poem, Child's Song in Spring, focusing on rhythm, expression and confidence when reading aloud.

Writing - In writing, pupils will be creating an instruction text based on the story 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. They will write their own set of instructions, focusing on the use of imperative verbs, time adverbials and clear sequencing. We will then move on to writing our own narratives inspired by the book *The Wolves in the Walls*.

Maths - In maths, we are beginning our new topic, multiplication and division, where children will understand the difference between sharing and grouping and use their times tables knowledge to support their learning in class. Pupils will practise using a range of strategies to solve problems and explain their reasoning clearly.

History - Year 3 are moving on to their second history topic, Ancient Egypt. Pupils will learn about how and where the ancient Egyptians lived, as well as exploring the story of Tutankhamun and understanding why the pyramids were built.

Science - In science, we are starting our new topic: Light. Children will learn about different light sources and how shadows are formed. Through experiments and observations, pupils will develop their scientific enquiry skills and learn how to draw conclusions from their results.

Home Learning Ideas:

- Parents can support learning at home by encouraging children to practise their times tables regularly, using TT Rockstars or timestables.co.uk to build speed and accuracy.
- Daily reading at home is also very important; children can use the ReadTheory app alongside reading books to strengthen comprehension skills.
- Please continue to support your child with weekly spellings, helping them practise spelling patterns and apply these in their writing.
- We also recommend using the daily lessons on Showbie as a conversation starter to discuss what your child has learned each day and reinforce key skills taught in class.

Reminders:

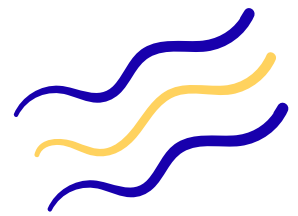
PE day remains on Wednesday, please ensure children are wearing school PE kit / colours.

Our library day is Monday, please encourage your child to bring in their books to exchange.

We also have forest school this half term. Children will need to bring warm clothing and suitable footwear with them in a carrier bag every Friday.



Year Group Information



Learning Lounge

Our Learning:

Welcome back and a happy new year to you all!

This half term our theme is Exploring the World! The children will be exploring the different countries of Great Britain and showing us where they are located on a map. We will be looking at iconic landmarks in London and finding them on Google Earth. During this half term, we will also be looking at hot and cold countries and seeing if we can find them on a globe!

We are continuing to use Drawing Club every day where the children can listen to different stories every week and learn how to write sentences, making sure they use their phonological skills and remember to use full-stops and capital letters. We have started to introduce colourful semantics which teaches children how to form sentences.

In music, the children will be looking at how to make a beat using different body parts and instruments. To develop phonological awareness by clapping out names, places and animals. The pupils in the Learning Lounge will be learning short songs and be encouraged to clap, tap and play instruments to the correct beat. We're looking forward to watching the children play different instruments in front of their peers and showing off their talents!

It's important for us all to understand what happens inside our bodies when we experience different emotions so therefore the children will be learning different ways on how to manage their heightened emotions and be supported to self-regulate with the use of a variety of resources and tools that Miss Hasie has in the classroom.

Home Learning Ideas:

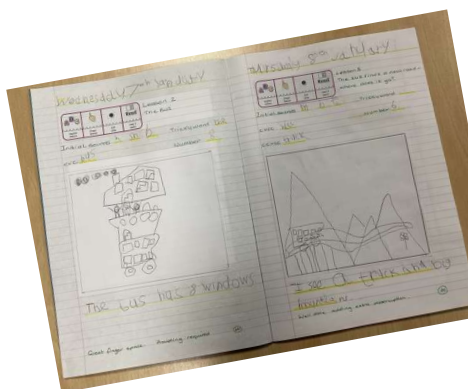
Reading at least 5 times per week.

Asking your child Blank level 1 and 2 questions to help them understand what they are reading.

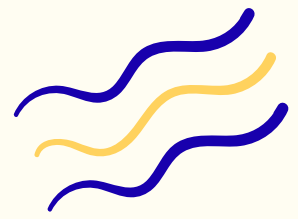
If your child has visited another country, please tell Miss Hasie about the experience so your child can have support when discussing it with peers.

Reminders:

Named water bottle and snack money for break time if your child is in year 3 and above and requires a snack.



Year Group Information



Year Four

Our Learning:

In Maths, children will continue developing their understanding of multiplication and division, focusing on recall of times tables up to 12×12, written methods, and solving multi-step word problems using reasoning and explanation.

Our Reading lessons begin with *VI Spy* by Maz Evans, where pupils will practise key Year 4 comprehension skills, including developing vocabulary, retrieving information from the text, and making inferences supported by evidence. We then move on to *Alex and the Really Big Stink*, a class favourite that supports discussion and deeper understanding of characters and themes. Once a week, children also take part in a reading skills lesson, practising exam-style questions in preparation for end-of-term assessments.

In English, we will be identifying and analysing the features of newspaper reports, including headlines, formal tone, third person and factual language, before writing our own. Following this, we will use *Leaf* by Sandra Dieckmann to write a narrative and an information report, focusing on structure, expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and accurate punctuation.

In Science, we are completing our States of Matter unit before starting Electricity. This hands-on topic allows children to build simple circuits, identify components and explore how electricity flows, meeting key investigative and enquiry skills from the Year 4 curriculum.

In History, we will begin our exciting new topic on the Anglo-Saxons. Children will explore who the Anglo-Saxons were and why they came to Britain, developing a secure understanding of chronology by placing key events on a timeline. They will investigate different sources of evidence to learn about Anglo-Saxon life, including settlements, beliefs and daily routines, and will compare this period to other times in history. Throughout the topic, the children will ask and answer historical questions, using evidence to explain change, continuity and significance.

Home Learning Ideas:

- Parents can support learning at home by encouraging children to practise their times tables regularly, using TT Rockstars or timestables.co.uk to build speed and accuracy.
- Daily reading at home is also very important; children can use the ReadTheory app alongside reading books to strengthen comprehension skills.
- Please continue to support your child with weekly spellings, helping them practise spelling patterns and apply these in their writing.
- We also recommend using the daily lessons on Showbie as a conversation starter to discuss what your child has learned each day and reinforce key skills taught in class.

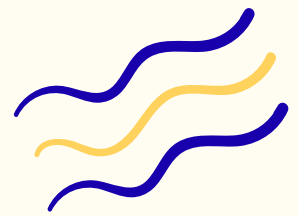
Reminders:

Yr 4 PE day will switch to a **Friday**, please ensure children are wearing school PE kit / colours.

Our library day is Friday, please encourage your child to bring in their books to exchange.



Year Group Information



Year Five

Our Learning:

Reading Comprehension - This half term, Year 5 will be developing their comprehension skills through the texts *Wonder* and *Brightstorm*. Children will explore themes such as empathy, courage and resilience while practising key reading skills including inference, summarising, vocabulary development and explaining their ideas using evidence from the text.

Writing - In writing, children will be creating a setting narrative inspired by the picture book *Farther*. They will focus on building atmosphere through descriptive language, varied sentence structures and figurative language, while developing their ability to plan, draft and edit their own imaginative writing.

Maths - This half term, children will be covering a wide range of mathematical concepts, including:

- Multiplication and division
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Perimeter and area
- Statistics

Children will develop their fluency, problem-solving and reasoning skills, applying their knowledge to real-life contexts where possible.

History - our history topic, *History Around Us*, encourages children to explore history that is relevant to their own lives today. Children will investigate local and familiar historical influences and consider how the past has shaped the world we live in now.

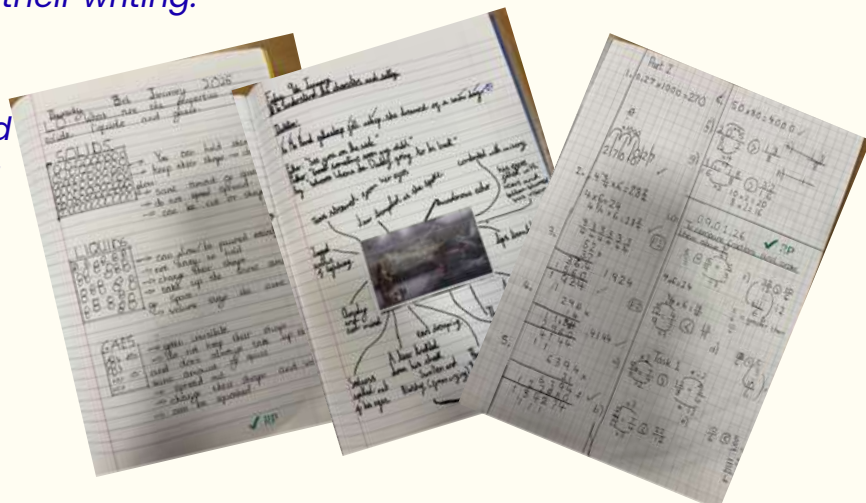
Science - In science, children will be learning about materials. They will investigate the properties of different materials, how they can be changed, and why certain materials are suited to specific purposes. This topic will include hands-on investigations and opportunities to work scientifically.

Home Learning Ideas:

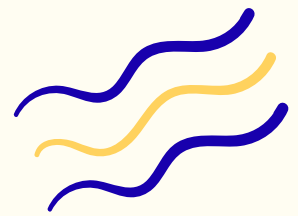
- Parents can support learning at home by encouraging children to practise their times tables regularly, using TT Rockstars or timestables.co.uk to build speed and accuracy.
- Daily reading at home is also very important; children can use the ReadTheory app alongside reading books to strengthen comprehension skills.
- Please continue to support your child with weekly spellings, helping them practise spelling patterns and apply these in their writing.

Reminders:

- Swimming will begin on Tuesday and will continue weekly up to and including the Tuesday before Easter.
- Children must bring a swimsuit and a towel every week.
- iPads should be brought into school fully charged each day.



Year Group Information



Year Six

Our Learning:

In English lessons, we will be finishing our work on persuasive writing. This will include a travel brochure, a Trip advisor review and a letter of complaint. We will be focusing on ensuring we can use higher level punctuation in our work, such as semi-colons, brackets and dashes. We will also be working very hard on our editing abilities, as this is a crucial skill.

In reading lessons, we will cover lots of texts related to World War 2. We will focus on ensuring that everyone is able to answer SATs style questions as well as increasing fluency. Our history this term is all about World War 2, which is always a fascinating topic for the children. We will find out about rationing, evacuation, Anne Frank and much, much more.

In maths lessons we are beginning with a unit on ratio - a new concept. We will then move on to the algebra unit. This is often something children think of as extremely tricky and advanced! We always approach it from the perspective of thinking about missing number calculations (which they have done many times before, right from Year 1!) and we are simply replacing the missing number with a letter that means the number. Finally this half term, we will be working on developing and improving our decimal knowledge, ensuring our place value is accurate and secure.

Our science unit this half term is light, building on skills learnt earlier in Key Stage 2.

Home Learning Ideas:

If any parents have WW2 memorabilia or a relative who has memories of the war we would love to hear from you!

Reminders:

PE is on Thursday afternoons – please ensure your child has the correct school PE kit.

