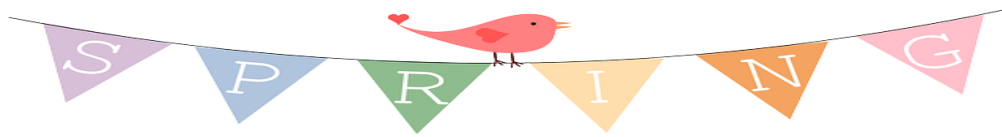




Class 1 Newsletter

Spring Term 2026



I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back after the Christmas break. I would firstly like to thank all the children for the effort they put into our Christmas play – Knock, Knock The Nativity. I am sure that you will agree, it was a lovely performance and we were very proud of the children’s achievements. Now that all the children have settled into the school routines and classes, we are looking forward to further developing the children’s abilities through a wide range of exciting and challenging activities. Our key focus this term is Geography.

Main Focus for Project i.e. subject & programme of study:	Explore - Geography
Enquiry Question:	Does <i>where</i> you live, affect <i>how</i> you live?
Concepts:	Adversity, Identity, Fairness
Connections i.e. links to other subjects:	RE – Jesus showing care and love for everyone Journey in Love – friendship PSHE/RSE -What is the same and different about us Science (Sustainability, Consequences): Everyday materials and how we use them. Recycling. Seasonal changes and the impact of climate change. DT (Sustainability, Responsibility): Building strong structures to safeguard communities affected by climate change. Sustainable Development Goals: (Good health and wellbeing) 3 and (Decent work and economic growth) 8 (Climate Action) 13

Religious Education/personal and social development (EYFS & Y1)

During our RE lessons we will be exploring the following areas:

Branch 3: Galilee to Jerusalem. The children will learn about the journey the wise took and the gifts they brought for Jesus. This will then lead onto learning about Jesus blessing the children and the story of Feeding the 5,000. We will share and talk about how Jesus cares for everyone and about how we can do the same. We hope to do some fund-raising events to allow the children to experience the feeling of caring for others.
Branch 4: Desert to Garden – We will explore signs of Lent and Easter and learn about the Easter story, all linked to symbols of new life.

We will be continuing to develop the children’s personal and social skills through a wide range of activities including collective worship, the PSHE/RSHE curriculum, circle time, stories, role play and turn taking games.

Communication, Language and Literacy (EYFS)

We will begin this term by looking at texts linked to our geography topic. We will be using our key text, Paddington, to look at different places around the world. Paddington will send us postcards from the places he visits, allowing us to explore what the weather is like, the kinds of animals that live in these conditions

and how the weather affects the lives of people who live there and some of the landmarks in those places. We will explore language that could be used to describe these environments. We have set up an arctic environment in our role play area where the children can pretend to be Arctic explorers and write captions during their explorations. Later in the term we will be looking at rhymes and rhyming books. We will of course be learning ongoing spelling patterns throughout the term and high frequency words. The Reception children will use the texts we read to practise recall and sequencing and using story language and vocabulary. They will also use the stories to practise using their phonic knowledge to write simple sentences, labels, and speech bubbles, supported where appropriate.

The Reception children have already worked on correct letter and number formation. We will be using a variety of media to continue to work on this, such as writing in trays of sand, shaving foam, whiteboards and erasable pens and finally pencil and paper. I would appreciate it if you could encourage your child to practise their letter and number formations regularly in order to consolidate the learning already taking place in school.

Mathematics (EYFS)

Throughout the term the Reception children will be working on:

- Introducing zero
- Comparing numbers to 5, composition of 4 and 5
- Comparing mass and capacity
- 6,7,8, making pairs, combining two groups
- Order two and more items by length and height.
- Time
- 9, 10, comparing numbers to 10, bonds to 10
- Pattern
- Recognise the properties of 3D shapes

These objectives will be met through a cross curricular approach, for example applying these objectives when appropriate to the cold/hot topic we are studying.

Phonics (Year 1 only)

The children have been making fantastic progress in phonics so far and are starting to use lots of newly taught sounds, both in their reading and writing. We will continue to embed the sounds already taught, and also introduce some less common alternative sounds, followed by tying it all together in a full sound family (complete set of phonemes which all make the same sound). Spellings will continue to be sent home on Friday and will be linked to the phonics scheme.

English (Year 1)

We will begin the term by looking at the fictional story Paddington. This quality text will encourage the children to complete short writing tasks such as character descriptions, speech bubbles, instruction writing, writing postcards. The grammar objectives will be focusing on adjectives to describe nouns, commas between adjectives, exclamation marks and question marks and suffixes.

In the second half of the term, our quality text is the 'Hairy McClary' series of books. These beautiful rhyming books, will encourage the children's understanding and knowledge of rhyme. We will attempt to write our own rhymes using the format in the books.

We will be using other individual titles throughout the term to develop the children's understanding of non-fiction and poetry. The main writing objectives in all pieces of written work are as follows:

To say sentences out loud before writing them down, use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. To write neatly with letters on the line and all letters formed correctly, and to hold a pencil correctly (tripod grip). To re-read what has been written to check that it makes sense, to use 'and' to join words and clauses to make sentences, and to use adjectives.

Maths (Year 1)

For the first four weeks we will be focusing on addition and subtraction. The children will learn to:

- Represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20.
- Read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs.
- Add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, including zero.
- Solve one step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems such as $7 = () - 9$.

During weeks five – seven we will be focusing on place value within 50 including multiples of 2, 5 and 10. The children will learn to:

- Count to 50 forwards and backwards beginning with 0 or 1, or from any number.
- Count, read and write numbers to 50 in numerals.
- Given a number, identify one more or one less.
- Identify and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations including the number line, and use the language of equal to, more than, less than, fewer, most, least.
- Count in multiples of twos, fives and tens.

During weeks eight – eleven we will be focusing on measurement. Firstly length and height, followed by weight and volume. The children will learn to:

- Measure and begin to record lengths and heights.
- Compare, describe and solve practical problems for lengths and heights, for example long/short, longer/shorter, tall/short, double/half.
- Measure and begin to record mass/weight, capacity and volume.
- Compare, describe and solve practical problems for mass/weight, for example heavy/light, heavier than, lighter than. For capacity and volume, full/empty, more than, less than, half, half full, quarter, quarter full.

Maths homework will continue to be sent home every Wednesday, and returned to school the following Wednesday. Homework should be marked at home at the time of completing the homework, so that your child can be proud of their achievements in the moment. We award a house point for completion of homework each week.

Understanding the World/Seasons and weather/Geography (EYFS and Y1)

Our topic this term is about cold/hot environments and looking at the physical and human aspects of places for the Year 1's. We will be looking at a variety of environments, including arctic environments and we will be linking this to all the other areas of learning e.g. studying ice through water play, arctic role play area, study of cold colours in the creative area. We will also be looking at our own environment and hot environments, focusing on the area our partner school is based in Uganda. The aim is to compare these environments and think about how people live in these places given the weather, climate, geography and seasons.

Later in the term we will learn about the 7 continents and 5 oceans, using maps and globes to learn where they are in the world and learn some simple facts about them.

Understanding the world/ Science (EYFS and Y1)

This term we will be studying uses of materials, we will explore the different properties of materials and why they are used for specific purposes, how some materials can be change, man-made materials and natural materials. The Y1's will carry out practical experiments to allow them to decide how materials can be changed and to work on recording results. The Reception children will explore a variety of materials including ice and foam. Later in the term we will be looking at seasonal changes in this country, focusing on the plants and animals we see in our local environment.

Information Technology (EYFS & Y1)

Over the term we will continue to use a wide range of programmes on the I-pads and develop children's control and keyboard skills. We will be encouraging them to use other equipment effectively such as the remote-control devices. The Year One children will be looking in more detail at on- line safety and using technology to enhance their work.

Expressive Arts and Design/Design Technology (EYFS /Y1)

The children will have permanent access to creative materials during the first half term and later in the term we will be doing some baking linked to our Easter topics.

We will also be exploring how to build structures and make them stronger. We will link this topic to our work on the uses of materials.

Creative Development (EYFS & Y1)

During our music sessions we will continue to learn new songs and develop instrumental skills, we will also be listening to different types of music and learn how it is created and talk about what we like and don't like about the music. During our creative art sessions we will continue to develop drawing skills by using a variety of different media, and encouraging children to pay particular attention when doing observational drawings.

Physical Development (EYFS & Y1)

We will do as much outdoor physical exercise as we can this term but obviously we are very dependent on the weather. Over the term we will be looking at performing dances using simple movements, copy and explore basic body actions from a range of stimuli like how penguins move.

I hope this brief outline has been a helpful insight, and once again if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us after school or by prior appointment.

From all the staff in Class 1, we would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and healthy 2026.

Mrs J Clark