

News from Class One

Happy 2026 to you all. We are looking forward to another exciting term of learning. We do not set formal homework in Class 1, but we do ask that you read with your child at home at least three times each week. This helps to consolidate what they are learning in school and helps them enormously to become fluent and confident readers. It only needs to be for five minutes each time. Please leave a positive comment in your child's reading record. Thank you.

English

This term, we will be looking at stories to go with our main topics of seaside and transport. We will use the lighthouse keeper stories and Katie Morag amongst others.



This helps the children to become familiar with words used in geography and history such as lighthouse,

cliff etc and to be able to understand their meaning and use them in their own written work. We have daily phonics sessions and this term, reception children will begin to learn long vowel phonemes e.g. ai in rain, ee in weep, igh in high, oa in boat and oo in boot. They will also learn a bank of tricky words which cannot be sounded out. These are detailed on the weekly sheet in their red books which are taken home every Friday.

Year 1 will revise these long vowel phonemes and learn the alternative spellings, which I have outlined in the table below so that you can support your child at home.

ai rain pain wait	ee weep keep seem	igh light high might	oa oak moat oats	oo moon soon shoot
ay pray way spray	ea seat sea clean	ie pie tie lie	ow blow grow snow	ue blue glue clue

a-e cake lane snake	e-e eve	i-e slide wipe shine	o-e bone home clothes	u-e flute
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Children in year 2 will be practising more complex words using the phonemes above and learning alternative ways of writing other phonemes, which are listed below:

- tch saying ch e.g. witch
- ture in picture and capture
- a and al saying or e.g. all, chalk, walk, talk
- mb in lamb
- saying u e.g. brother, love, month
- ey saying ee e.g. honey, monkey

They will also be learning how to use contractions e.g. isn't, won't etc.

In Class 1, the focus is on constructing sentences. For all children, this starts with saying sentences orally and retelling stories through drama. This helps to build their vocabulary and understanding of speaking correctly and clearly, which is an important skill for children to develop before they can write. We always rehearse sentences before we attempt to write, and we work in small groups to write simple sentences. This term, reception children will be beginning to move onto writing simple sentences using key words e.g. it is hot. The focus is not on capital letters or full-stops at this point.

In year 1, children will be rehearsing, writing and checking their sentences, and this term our focus is on adding "and" to join ideas e.g. It is hot and I need a drink. They are taught to use capital letters and full stops in Year 1. The Year 2 focus is on using a range of conjunctions e.g. It is hot today because the sun is shining.

To ensure this is interesting for the children, we take photographs of them throughout the day, and they write sentences to go with their pictures, which are then shared and put on display.

Maths

We will begin by revisiting place value and by children noticing how many objects without counting (subitising). Year 1 and 2 then use these facts to derive number bonds, doubles and other facts to help them with calculation. The children are excellent at noticing how many without counting! We will then move onto learning about UK coins and making different amounts, using our knowledge of number facts. Following this, we will learn about multiplication, which again relies on a secure knowledge of number facts e.g. doubles and halves. Year 1 will learn to count in twos, fives and tens, and Year 2 will learn the tables facts for these times tables. Reception will learn to put things in equal groups and to spot when the groups are not equal.

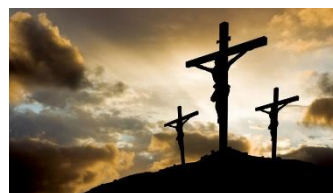
Our final focus is on division. We look at sharing fairly and then look at putting things into equal groups and use our knowledge of multiplication to help us to calculate.

In all areas of mathematics, we use real life problems to bring the learning to life, and we also link our learning to stories.

RE

We will be learning about Muslims and what it is like to be a Muslim. We will be using stories and pictures to help us to learn about mosques and Muslim beliefs and we will compare these to our own beliefs. In RE, we allow the children to present their ideas in creative ways e.g. by making pictures and models, which show what they have understood.

After half-term, we will be focusing on how Christians celebrate Easter. We will explore the Easter story and think about what this means for Christians around the world. We will also be learning about how Christians celebrate Easter.



Science

Our first topic is all about materials. We will be exploring the properties of a range of materials and describing and sorting them. We will use what we have discovered to carry out investigations to find the best materials for different jobs. This will be linked to some of the stories we are reading. For example, we will find the best material for the lighthouse keeper's coat by testing how much water different materials absorb. We will also be finding out how some materials change e.g. by freezing water and melting chocolate.

After half term, we will be looking at humans as animals and finding out about different kinds of animals e.g. mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds and we will be looking for wildlife around school. We will look at different parts of the body and what we use

them for, and we will also be thinking about our five senses.

Design and Technology

Our topic is all about wheels and axles. This links with our history topic this term. The children will learn how to make fixed wheels and axles and moving wheels and axles and they will then apply their learning when they design and make their own vehicles. They



can use their imagination to create an imaginary vehicle and use it to tell stories to link with our English work later in the term. They will then evaluate

their designs and will share them with Class 2.

Art

We are learning about weaving. We will learn some simple weaving techniques using a weaving frame, paper, and cardboard and we will use a variety of materials to make different textures and effects. As part of this project, we will learn about how tartan is designed and made and we will design our own tartan patterns to reflect our interests.

Computing

We are continuing to explore how to program a robot this term. We will link this to our geography work, and we will program the BeeBots to go to different coastal towns on our map of the United Kingdom. The children will move onto refining their skill at debugging their program when it doesn't do what they expected it to do.



Geography

Our topic is coastline, and we will be exploring different features of the seaside, focusing on human features such as

lighthouses and physical features such as cliffs. The children will look at photographs of various seaside locations and learn to identify different features. As with all our topics, we use stories to add interest and meaning to our learning and we will be using the Katie Morag stories to consolidate key vocabulary and to make a 3D map of the fictional Isle of Struay, which is based on the Isle of Coll. Children in years 1 and 2 will also draw their own maps and add simple keys.

History

Our history topic is all about how transport has changed over time. We will look at how people move from place to place today and we will compare this with how people used to travel in the past. I am hoping to organise a visit on the Severn Valley Railway and then possibly on the cliff railway in Bridgnorth on the same day. We will be reading stories about transport throughout this topic, including Mr. Gumpy's outing and the Hundred Decker Bus.

P.E.

In P.E. this term, the children will be learning multiskills with a coach from Lacon Childe and we will also be swimming at Ludlow later in the term. Physical activities are also built into the planning each day to ensure the children are active and have movement breaks, and we also do cool kids every day, which involves building up core strength and motor skills through a range of exciting activities.

P.S.H.E.

We use the Jigsaw resources for P.S.H.E. and the focus this term is on dreams and goals. The children will be thinking about things they would like to achieve and working

on ways to persevere when things are hard. They will be thinking of how they can break things into small steps to help them and how they can encourage and help other people to achieve their goals too.

Music

Music is part of every day in school and songs are used in maths and English lessons as well as in separate music sessions. We will be listening to songs and music about the seaside, and we will sing songs such as the drunken sailor. The children will be learning about how to play tunes this term and we will focus on pitch and recognising when notes are high and low, and we will use this skill to compose and perform our own music to link to the stories we are reading in English, which are linked to the seaside. After half term, we will continue to learn to write simple tunes and play them on chime bars and glockenspiels, as well as learning to play as a class. We will be performing our music to Class 2 in our sharing assemblies.

