



Year R Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Happy New Year to all of you! We hope you had a lovely Christmas. Thank you so much for all of your kind Christmas cards and gifts, we were really touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity.

This half term the children's learning will be on the topic 'Tickets, Please!' and will focus on journeys and transport. After the half term break, the children will be learning a different topic entitled 'Come Outside'.



Literacy

'Tickets, Please!'

We shall be using a variety of short stories and non-fiction texts to help us explore this topic. The children will be developing their skills in sounding out words using their phonic knowledge in order to be able to write simple sentences. We will continue to retell and sequence a story using story maps. In Literacy lessons, we will be encouraging the children to listen and respond to stories and answer questions in full sentences. They will also be developing their understanding of journeys and transport through drama and role play.

'Come Outside'

We shall be using the stories 'Farmer Duck' and 'Oi Frog' to explore this topic. The children will now start to learn how to 'recycle a story' taking its narrative structure but changing some of its key elements, for example its setting or character types. This process will help the children to become independent story tellers and writers.

Maths

During the first half term the children will be introduced to different types of measure including weight, capacity, length and time this term.

In the second half of the term, children will be exploring numbers 6, 7 and 8 by making pairs, understanding odd and even numbers and finding 1 more and 1 less than a number. With all of our Maths teaching we use concrete resources to give the children a 'hands on' experience. For example, with measure they will use balance scales, sand and digital timers, jugs of water, tape measures, rulers and metre sticks thus making the learning far more 'real' for them.

We will continue to use the 'White Rose Maths' programme which lays solid foundations for the children and encourages their mathematical thinking through recognising patterns, reasoning and exploration.

RE

Our focus this half term is 'What can we learn from the stories of Jesus'. We will be learning how Jesus spread his messages using stories and the messages behind some of our favourite stories. After half term, we will be learning about the Easter story through the mediums of storytelling, art and drama, helping the children to gain an understanding and appreciation of this central aspect of the Christian faith. This term's Christian value is Wisdom and after half term it will be Hope.

Phonics

We will continue to use the phonics programme 'Essential Letters and Sounds' this term. Throughout the term we will be recapping Phase 2 and 3 phonics on a daily basis and continue to learn how to apply them to our reading and writing. During the first part of the term the children will learn more Phase 3 phonemes and review phonemes already taught. The Spring Term ELS covers more than just the Phase 3 graphemes - we will start to introduce some challenge from Phase 4 (in the form of adjacent consonants eg - the word 'stop') alongside the Phase 3 teaching to extend children's sounding out and blending skills. We will also continue to teach and revise our 'Harder to Read and Spell Words' alongside phonemes.

Reception/Primary 1 Spring 1: Phase 3-4					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Review week R:4 /oo/ <oo> (book)	/ar/ <ar> /ur/ <ur> /oo/ <oo> (food) /or/ <or>	/ow/ <ow> /oi/ <oi> /ear/ <ear> /air/ <air>	/ure/ <ure> /er/ <er> /oa/ <ow>	Assess and review week R:5	Review week R:6
	they, all, are		ball, tall	when, what	

Reception/Primary 1 Spring 2: Phase 3-4					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Review week R:7	Review week R:8	Review week R:9	Review week R:10	Assess and review week R:11	Review week R:12
said, so, have	were, out, like	some, come, there	little, one, do	children, love	

PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

This half term the children's PSED sessions will be supporting our topic 'Tickets, Please!' by learning all about different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing such as regular physical activity and being a safe pedestrian.

After half term the children will be learning about healthy living thinking about questions such as: what is a balanced diet? What do I need to do to look after my teeth?



Understanding the World

Using the topic 'Tickets, Please!' during the first half term the children will be exploring some similarities and differences between things in the past and now by comparing and contrasting different modes of transport throughout the ages. We will also be understanding the past through settings, characters and events when we explore the moon landings and famous astronauts.

After half term, to complement our topic, 'Come Outside' we shall be learning about the life cycles of certain animals and plants, where they can be found in the world and the type of environments they need in order to thrive. We shall then be planting sunflower seeds and once the seedlings are strong enough, the children will be able to bring them home to plant in their own gardens to watch them grow throughout the summer months.

Uniform

Please adhere to the school's uniform policy which can be found on the website and ensure that all items are clearly named.

We will play and learn in our outside area in all weather so please ensure your child brings a named coat, hat, scarf and gloves daily when the weather is colder. Please bring wellies in for our outdoor learning lessons. We are also missing clothes that we lent out last term, such as tights, socks and jogging bottoms. Please could you return these to us, if you have borrowed them. Many thanks in advance.

Physical Development

The children will continue to have their PE sessions on a Thursday afternoon in the school hall. Please could you ensure that your child comes to school in PE kit on this day. PE kits consist of a Yellow Nutfield Church t-shirt, navy blue jogging bottoms or navy blue shorts. Children may also bring a cardigan, jumper or fleece with them on these days too.

Once a half term, each teacher enjoys a 'Wellbeing' morning. As is the case with all other classes, the morning will be covered by an outside PE coach, Pete, who will teach the children alongside Mrs Kendall. On this day Mrs Kendall will greet the class on the playground and the children will need to be wearing their PE kits. The next Wellbeing morning for Reception class will be on Wednesday 11th February.

Expressive Arts and Design

This half term the children will make a collage hot air balloon and sing transport songs. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year with a variety of different craft activities. After half term the children will create information posters about life cycles, design a pot for their sunflower seedling and use natural objects such as petals, grass and seeds to make collages.

As ever, the children will have free access to our 'Arts and Crafts' room during their daily child-initiated sessions to create whatever they wish using the large selection of resources available to them.



Reading

Please continue to read regularly at home with your child as this is very important for the development of their reading and writing skills. Please keep updating your reading record book and ensure they are signed regularly. Your child is read with on a 1:1 basis twice a week and engages in reading activities on a daily basis during their Phonics and Literacy sessions.

We change the reading books during the first half of the week and your child will be read with on the same two days each week. We will also set a weekly E-Book on Oxford Owl for you to read with your child.

We have provided a new set of phoneme cards and Harder to Read and Spell words. All of these will be covered over the course of this term. Although optional, it would be great if your child could practise these as much as they can, even 5 minutes a day makes such an impact!

Dates to remember for the Spring term:

Year R & Year 5 Wonderdome	Thursday 29 th January
Happy School Bag Collection	Thursday 29 th January
PTFA KS1 Disco (Years R-2)	Friday 30 th January – 16.00pm-17.00pm
Digital Wellbeing presentation from YMCA	Friday 6 th February – 09.00am
PTFA Year 4 Cake Sale	Friday 6 th February – 15.15pm-15.45pm
Year R Wellbeing Wednesday	Wednesday 11 th February
PTFA Quiz Night	Saturday 28 th February 7.30-11.30pm – Village Hall
St. David's Day – yellow shirt	Monday 2 nd March (Sunday 1 st March)
Book Week	W/C 2nd March
PTFA Year 3 Cake Sale	Friday 13 th March – 3.15pm-3.45pm
St. Patrick's Day – green shirt	Tuesday 17 th March
Parent and Carer Evening	Monday 16 th March -3.30pm - 6.00pm
Parent and Carer Evening	Tuesday 17 th March -3.30pm - 6.00pm
Parent and Carer Evening	Wednesday 18 th March -3.30pm - 6.00pm
World Poetry Day	Saturday 21 st March
SSA Parent and Carer Evenings	W/C Monday 23 rd March
Sparkfish Think Space	Tuesday 24 th March
Sparkfish Think Space	Wednesday 25 th March
Sparkfish Think Space	Thursday 26 th March
Easter Concert	Thursday 26 th March 6.00-7.00pm
Easter Service Christ Church	Friday 27 th March? TBC
PTFA Easter Egg Hunt	Friday 27 th March – 15.15pm-16.15pm

Please always feel able to contact us if you have any queries or concerns and we can get together to talk it through; you can write a note in the home contact book or email us through the school office, alternatively you can catch us on the school playground before and after school. We are greatly looking forward to another term of fun, learning and adventures with your amazing children! Thank you for your continued support.

The Reception Team