



## Lower Key Stage 2 Newsletter Spring Term 2026



Happy New Year  
2026

Happy new year!

Welcome back to the spring term. We hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas break and are feeling ready for an exciting term ahead in 2026.

The children have had a great start to the term this week and are showing lots of enthusiasm in their learning. If you need further details or information about anything in this leaflet, then please contact your child's teacher who will be more than happy to help.

### Lower Key Stage Two

Mrs Cribbens (Otters class teacher/ Team Leader)

Mrs Barrington (Frogs class teacher)

Mrs Shaikh (Newts class teacher)

Mrs Davies (Water Voles class teacher)

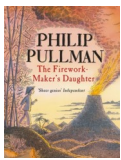
Supported by: Mrs Moore, Mrs Murphy and Miss Ashford

Student Teachers: Miss Harris, Miss French and Miss Rahman



### Curriculum Information

#### Literacy



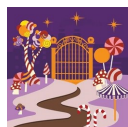
This Spring term, our Literacy learning will be full of imagination, creativity and excitement. In the first half of the term, children's Literacy and guided reading lessons will be inspired by *The Firework*

*Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. This enchanting story, rich in memorable characters and vivid settings, will support the development of adventurous vocabulary and engaging writing. Children will create character descriptions, write imaginative narratives based on the text and design persuasive adverts to hire a firework maker.

In the second half of the term, Literacy lessons will link to our History topic on the Mayans, with a delicious focus on chocolate. As part of this unit, children will write character descriptions and explore explanation writing by describing how the famous chocolate river works in Wonka's chocolate factory. They will also create persuasive adverts and write balanced arguments that explore different viewpoints.

Throughout the term, children will take part in regular speaking and listening activities, helping them to develop confidence when sharing ideas and opinions. Alongside class-based Literacy lessons, we will continue to build essential skills through guided reading, spelling, grammar and handwriting sessions.

Reading at home remains extremely important. Children are encouraged to read at least four times a week, enjoying a range of books, magazines or comics to support fluency and foster a love of reading.



#### Maths



Year 3 will spend the spring term learning to use written methods for multiplication and division, then applying these skills when solving problems. Also, they will look at statistics where they will interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables. They will learn to recognise, find, write and use fractions. Towards the end of term they will measure, add and subtract length as well as understand what perimeter is.

Year 4 will be applying their times table and division facts when multiplying and dividing. They will use formal written methods to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by a single digit. They will move on to learning about fractions where they will learn to recognise equivalent fractions as well as simplifying, adding and subtracting them. Towards the end of term, they will explore decimal numbers.



A vital part of maths is to know times tables and the matching division facts. The children are set Multipliers targets based on these expectations and should be practising them regularly as part of their homework.

Any help you are able to give with this would be much appreciated.

Year 4 will also be busy preparing for their multiplication check in June, please support your child at home to learn all their multiplication facts.

Useful websites for this are:

[www.trockstars.com](http://www.trockstars.com) and [www.timestables.co.uk](http://www.timestables.co.uk)

## Curriculum information continued

### Science

Year 3 will begin the term learning about forces and magnets. They will understand what a force is and how they are used. They will have the opportunity to explore different types of magnets as well as identifying magnetic objects. They will move on to learn about light and shadow where they will explore how light helps us see and how shadows are formed.

Year 4 will learn about states of matter. They will learn to identify the properties of solids, liquids and gases. As well as how temperature affects the states of these. They will move on to learn about the process of the water cycle. Pupils will learn how water moves through different stages and understand its importance in the natural world.

### Geography/ History:

Our first topic is about the way that natural resources such as food and energy are distributed around the world. We will have the chance to discuss topical issues within this such as pollution and protecting our environment in different, sustainable ways.

In the second half of the term, our topic will have a history focus and we will learn about the Ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include learning where they lived, what they believed and also what they left us.

### Art/ DT

In Art the children will have the chance to create abstract self portraits in the style of Modigliani.

During the second half of the term, we will have a very exciting DT project based all around chocolate!

### RE

In RE lessons this term, children will explore sacred texts: the Vedas and the Qur'an. They will learn about the importance of these texts within Hinduism and Islam and how they are used to guide beliefs and practices. Pupils will also explore stories linked to key religious festivals, helping them to develop understanding and respect for different faith traditions.

### Music

Year 3 will work to develop their knowledge of rhythm, pitch and beat using their voices and different musical instruments.

Year 4 will work with a specialist teacher to play instruments.

### Computing

Year 3 will first explore desktop publishing and later learn how to stay safe online.

Year 4 will build simple programs using algorithms in Scratch before using the CAD program Sketch Up to design a house.

### PSHE:

Children will begin learning about respect and relationships. Next half term they will move on to learn about substances.

### French:

Year 3: Children will learn about the seasons and then move on to learning about 'I am able'.

Year 4: Children will learn about their family and then learn about being at the tea room.

## Dates for your diary...

Thursday 29th January - Water Voles class assembly  
w/b 2nd February - Story week including book fair  
Tuesday 3rd February - Bedtime stories after school  
w/b 9th February - Internet safety week  
Thursday 12th February - Frogs class assembly  
Thursday 12th February - Last swimming lesson for Newts  
Thursday 26th February - Water Voles start swimming  
Tuesday 3rd March - Trip to Cadbury's World (more info to follow)  
Thursday 5th March - Newts class assembly

### Forest School

Children will have the opportunity to spend one afternoon a week at forest school with Coach Dave.

Year 4 - Spring 1

Year 3 - Spring 2

## Homework

Every week, the children should complete the following homework:

- Times table or division facts practise. (multipliers)
- Spelling practice - 4 times (Spellings will be tested on Friday and new words set on the same day)
- Reading - 4 times (Reading diaries will be checked on Fridays, please encourage your children to read regularly and sign their diary each week)
- My Maths to be completed each week (this will be set on a Thursday and is due back on the following Tuesday)
- TT Rockstars - Times table practise.

Teachers will be rewarding great home learning with Dojo points.

Children that read 4+ times a week at home and have their diaries signed each week will be put into a weekly raffle for a prize from the sparkly box.

## Reminders

### Year 4 Multiplication Check

This will take place at the start of June. The children will continue to practise their times tables in school. Please encourage your child to practise regularly at home too.

[www.timestables.co.uk](http://www.timestables.co.uk) is a great website as well as [www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com)

### Water Bottles

Every child needs to have a water bottle, filled with water only, in school so that they don't become dehydrated during the school day. Please make sure that the bottle is named.

### Snack

Children are welcome to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack to enjoy at break time.

### Labelling clothes:

Please could we ask that every piece of uniform is named clearly so that we can reunite it with its owner if it is lost. This includes coats, jumpers, PE kit, shoes and trainers.

### Enrichment

Last term we had a Stone Age Day, year 4 went to Campbell Park on an art walk and had a dentist visitor in. During the Spring term, we are planning a trip to Cadbury's World.

## PE

**Frogs:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Otters:** Monday and Wednesday

**Water Voles:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Newts:** Wednesday (PE) and Thursday (swimming)

All pupils in Year 3/4 need to bring their P.E. kits (black shorts, white t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers) every Monday. Kits can be taken home on Friday for washing. The PE cup is awarded to the class with the most children in full PE kit and working hard in lessons, so please ensure your child has the correct kit for each lesson. Every class would love to win the trophy!

Please note that Water Voles will start swimming after half term.

