

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the New Year and a new term, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. Thank you all so much for your lovely cards and presents - they are much appreciated.

This term we will be very busy packing a lot of learning into six short weeks !

English EYFS	EYFS will continue to focus on hearing and talking about a range of books both fiction and non-fiction They will continue to be supported to form letters and numbers correctly with daily inputs for this. Phonics continues daily this term, the children will focus on phase 3 phonics which they will use to help them begin to write whole phrases, labels and short sentences.
English KS1	We will begin the term with a unit on Traditional Tales. We will continue to place high importance on forming letters correctly, holding pencils with the correct grip and sitting correctly in order to write effectively. Children will continue to practise these foundational skills by writing sentences based on either Year 1 or Year 2 objectives depending upon their age. The focus will be on accuracy and independence at this stage. Later in the term we will practise writing instructions. In our grammar lessons we will focus on objectives matched to year group with dedicated work to develop confidence and accuracy with each objective. We will then look to see if children can apply these skills in their independent work.
Maths EYFS	We will continue with our work on number this term. Children will continue to practise subitising quantities less than 5 (recognising how many they have without counting), recognising numerals 0 - 5 and working on their number bonds for 3 and 4.
Maths Year 1	We will begin a unit on 3D shape learning the names for cubes, cuboids, cones, pyramids and spheres. We will then move onto another addition and subtraction unit, this time focused on numbers 11 - 16. Children will continue to practise recalling their number bonds within this unit.
Maths Year 2	We will begin by finishing off our unit on 3D shape and symmetry. We will then move onto a unit on multiplication and division. The children will learn that multiplication can be seen as repeated addition ($5 + 5 + 5$ can be written as 3×5). They will also explore sharing and grouping as ways to divide.

	We will then complete a short unit on position and direction (using terms left, right, forward, backward) before using their understanding of multiplication and division to calculate and learn their times tables and division facts ($\times 2$ $\times 5$ $\times 10$)
Science	We will be investigating forces this term. We will explore the effect of forces on objects by creating our own experiments. As part of this, the children will learn how to ask and investigate scientific questions. We will also investigate how objects can change shape by being pulled, pushed, squashed, squeezed and bent.
History	We will look at some important inventions this term and how they changed our society. We will focus on the first flight by The Wright Brothers and the impact of railways and the work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and George Stephenson. This unit will include a trip to STEAM Museum in Swindon during the last week of term. Here we will look at an example of the first train 'The Rocket' as well as exploring the impact of railways for how we travel.
RE	Year 1 and Year 2 will complete a unit on what it is like in a Muslim home in the UK whilst EYFS will complete a unit on what Christians believe God is like.
DT	We will be teaching a food technology unit this term. The children will be thinking about a healthy diet and finding out about how fruit and vegetables promote good health. The children will research and plan their own fruit salad, learn food preparation methods, think about toppings and dips before creating their own salad. They will evaluate their work and share their findings. Once children have designed their salad, we will send home a list of ingredients for them to bring to school for the production part of the unit.
Music	We will be teaching a unit which explores musical dynamics and tempo. The children will explore how music can stimulate different emotions using changing dynamics and tempo.
Computing	We will be learning how to code computers using Espresso Coding with separate units for Year 1 and Year 2.
PE	We will be completing units on Gymnastics as well as completing another 6 week block of multi -skills. PE is on Tuesday and Fridays - please can all children come to school in school uniform rather than in PE kit as dressing skills form part of the curriculum and is a vital skill to be mastered.
RSE	Our theme will be Valuing Differences. We will explore topics such as what makes us the same and different, we will talk about the definition of unkind and the definition of bullying. We will talk about what we can do to help make sure our friends are happy and making the right choices.

	We will also talk about people who can help us well as discussing what to do when we think something is unfair.
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Homework

Homework continues to be focused on daily reading and learning of key facts for Maths. As a school, we have decided to trim down the key facts to learning number bonds for numbers to 10 off by heart for Y1 and learning (2x 5x and 10x times tables off by heart for Year 2. Please do everything you can to support your child in learning these facts. I will send home resources for you to use with your child.

Reading - please hear your child read their school reading book daily. Research shows a clear link between practise and progress for reading and whilst we endeavour to hear every child read every day, extra reading at home is vital for your child to make progress.

Trips and visits

We will be taking the children on a day trip to Steam Museum in Swindon alongside North Cerney KS1 as part of their work about inventions and the railways. More information will follow regarding dates.

If you have any queries at all, please do come and see me at the end of the school day.

With very best wishes

Mrs Spring