



Year 1 and 2 Class Newsletter

Spring Term 1

2024 - 2025

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a lovely break over the Christmas holidays and are starting to regain some sense of normality and knowing what day it is! I cannot quite believe that we are now in January 2025, how quickly has this year gone already?!

As we make our way into our first half of Spring Term, Mrs Clarke and I would like to let you know a few of the things we will be covering this half term. This is just a whistle stop tour of what we are doing in school currently and might give you some conversation starters with your child if you are struggling to get some information out of them!

The weather is changing rapidly day-to-day so please ensure that your child comes to school equipped for the day! We do our best at Twyford, to keep our children outside even when it is a little drizzly or cold. Therefore, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather on a daily basis.

Curriculum

English	Year 1	<p>To start our English unit this half term, we will be exploring the traditional tale of <i>The Three Little Pigs</i>. Within this unit we will be focusing on using accurate spaces between our words, a capital letter at the start and a full stop at the end of every sentence we write. In addition to this, we will start to edit our work with a purple pencil. This is a skill we are going to teach in each lesson and then implement into our own independent work throughout this half term, spotting any mistakes they have made. We will be writing our own version of <i>The Three Little Pigs</i>; using simple but effective and strong sentences. We will of course, be thinking about the sequence of events in the book and following this within our own independent version too.</p> <p>Our second text for this half term is <i>The Dark, Dark Tale</i>. This text follows a little black cat through a dark, dark house, looking at all the dark, dark things. We will think about how and what the reader thinks when they are reading the text compared to the traditional tale of the <i>Three Little Pigs</i> as well start to write and create our own version of the text where the children will have autonomy about what creature will walk through the dark house in their story.</p>
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	Year 2	<p>For the first three weeks of the term, we will be using the story <i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> to inspire our learning. We will be focussing on writing cohesively, using linking words and following a logical sequence. We will also review our understanding of using subordinating conjunctions e.g. when, if, that and because and then use them correctly in our sentences.</p> <p>For the second part of the term, we will be writing instructions. This is a really fun topic and the children will get to make and write instructions for a variety of drinks including hot chocolates and smoothies. Our writing focusses will be writing commands, using commas to separate items in lists and using time adverbials e.g. after, next.</p>
Maths	Year 1	<p>For the first few weeks of Spring 1 we will be looking at recognising shapes, composing shape as well as manipulating 2D and 3D shapes too. Within this unit we will really delve deeper into how some shapes fit together and how we can create both repeating and radiating patterns using shape. We will have a look at solving some shape puzzles called <i>tangrams</i> and figure out how many animal shapes we can create using only the same 7 shapes. We will be thinking about how we can create block images using 2D shapes using examples and thinking about how and what we could create on our own with a set of standard 2D shapes. Our next unit will all be based around Numbers 0 to 10. Within this unit we will be matching the written number to the written name, representing numbers 6 to 10 using a '5 and a bit' structure. We will also be looking at these numbers using part-whole models; however, we will be looking at using part-whole models with more than two parts. Following this, we will be looking at odd and even numbers, knowing what they are and the differences between them. Once we understand odd and even numbers we will be thinking about the difference between them, how they can be partitioned in more than one way. We will then, be looking at additive structures - we will be introducing and using key terminology such as <i>addend</i>, <i>represented</i> and <i>communicative law</i>. We will learn how to write an addition equation, looking at finding the missing addend, read and understand stories and write the equation to match.</p>
	Year 2	<p>We will be starting our term by learning all about money. We will be able to make amounts, compare amounts, make sure we understand pence, pounds, coins and notes, and finally calculate with money.</p> <p>After this we will be multiplying and dividing. This is normally quite tricky for children so any practice you can do at home will be very much appreciated. The children all love doing TT Rockstars in school and they can all do 'rolling numbers' for 2s, 5s, 10s and some other times tables. Please continue to encourage this at home. In school we will show children arrays, make equal groups, and revise our doubles, halves and odd and even numbers. We will then go onto multiplying and dividing by 2s, 5s and 10s once this foundation understanding is secure.</p>
Phonics	Year 1	<p>We will continue with our journey using Little Wandle, introducing new phonemes and recapping previously taught ones too. Within our daily phonics sessions, we will be learning new digraphs and trigraphs as well as implementing these into words and then placing a select few of these words into a fully de-codable sentence for the children to read. Some children will start to write a sentence in their phonics book that correlates with the weekly learning on a Friday and by the end of the spring term most children will be doing this sentence writing on a weekly basis.</p>

		In addition to our daily phonics sessions, we will also start to write a daily 'silly sentence' and within these short but sweet sessions, Mrs Blane and I will come up with a sentence that includes lots of the spelling passport words. This just gives the children an additional time to develop their understanding of why these words are 'tricky' as well as getting them to work autonomously, being able to retain a short oral sentence and transcribe it.
Spelling	Year 2	Week 1: To go alongside our English learning, we will be starting our term on words with the suffix <i>-ful</i> e.g. colourful, careful. Week 2 and 3: Contractions e.g. didn't, doesn't, they're Week 5: Common Exception Words (linked to spelling passports) e.g. where, were, their Week 6: Suffix <i>-tion</i> : emotion, fiction
Geography	All children	For geography this half term, we are going to be looking at <i>Our Local Area</i> . Within this unit we will be making observations of the school grounds as well as out and about around Twyford village. We will be making comparisons between the features of different settlements like; towns, cities and villages. We will be using aerial photography of the local area to identify where school is located as well as other significant places in and around Twyford. We will be using simple mapping skills to plot the route that we take to school, either from the bus stop or from home if living in the village. Within this study of map drawing, we will be looking at what features are essential for maps (title, compass, key, labels etc) as well as thinking about using a handful of basic map symbols to show what amenities are in Twyford and where we can locate them.
Science	All children	Science this half term is all about germs! Within our <i>Investigate and Discover</i> unit we are going to be looking at a hugely influential scientist and their study of germs and the development of vaccinations – Louis Pasteur. We will be looking at the importance of hygiene for humans and what would happen to our body if we did not wash. In addition to this, we will also be looking at how easily germs can spread using glow in the dark face paint and some willing participants! Within this experiment, we will be developing our working scientifically skills and thinking about making predictions, developing our own ideas about how germs can be spread. Additionally, we will be thinking about how and where germs often like to live on our bodies, in and around our homes and at school and what we can do to try and prevent the spread of germs.
DT	All children	<i>Puppets</i> will be our unit of study for this half term in DT. The children will be given a design brief to follow and from here will be designing a puppet for a younger child in Reception or in Nursery. We will be thinking about how and what are the best joining strategies and why some joining methods might not be suitable for younger children. We will also be thinking about creating our own design ready to produce, practising our needle and thread skills! This can sometimes be a tricky task; however, with a little development and perseverance we mostly get there!
Computing	All children	To kick start our computing this half term, we will be working towards making an <i>Animated Story</i> . Within this unit, we will be designing a character, giving it a name and start to think about giving it some simple animations. The children will essentially be creating their own e-book that moves, has simple noises and even some captions too! Our next unit will be <i>Creating Pictures</i> . In this unit we will be looking at the work of lots of artists, including impressionist artists. Using 2Paint, we will be replicating or creating our own version, using lots of different features and effects. Our last unit will all be about <i>Presenting our Ideas</i> . Within this unit

		we will be looking at how we can present ideas in different ways, we will be making a quiz about a story or a topic we have already covered at school.
PSHE	All children	Our PSHE unit this half term will be all about <i>Relationships</i> . Within this unit we will think about our families, looking at how all families are different and do not always look the same. We will be thinking about what adults around us do to ensure we are looked after. Our next mini unit will be about the importance of telling someone if we feel upset or sad. This will include phrases that the children can use, if they want to, as well as letting them know why this is such an important thing to do. Safe relationships will also be covered within this half term. In this mini unit we will think about situations when someone's body or feelings might be hurt and whom to go to if they want help. We will also be thinking what the word 'private' means and linking this meaning to understanding the parts of our body are private. For context, we will be explaining that private parts are things that we cover when we go swimming. We will also be identifying different types of touches and how they make us feel e.g. tickling or cuddling and how to ask people to stop if they are making us feel uncomfortable.
RE	All children	Our overarching question this half term is <i>What makes some things sacred to some groups of people?</i> We will begin the topic by looking at special things that we have as individuals and start to branch out and talk about how we would feel if someone broke or lost our special thing. We will investigate why the cross and crucifix are sacred to Christians and discuss and think about how the Bible should be treated. We will then move on to talk about the Jewish Torah, Tanakh and Menorah and learn these should be treated with respect also. By the end of the unit, we will know how to treat sacred or special things with respect and understand the importance of honouring different people's opinions about sacred and special objects even if they are not so special to us.

As always, you know where Mrs Clarke and I are if you need us. It is never any trouble having a quick catch up at the door at the start or the end of the day!

Mrs Thurlow and Mrs Clarke
Year 1 and 2 Class Teachers