



Welcome back and a Happy New Year!

We are excited to be back at school and looking forward to a wonderful Spring term full of great learning opportunities. Our inquiry this term has a history focus as we explore how inventions have changed communities with a focus on transport.

During the week, the children will continue to be taught by Mrs Preece on Monday - Wednesday and Mrs Hector on Wednesday - Friday. Mrs Bethell will continue to support the class throughout the week. We are all really looking forward to another fantastic term, it is great to see how well the children have settled back into school with such enthusiasm for their learning.

Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions or want to discuss anything about your child's learning.

Many thanks

Mrs Preece, Mrs Hector and Mrs Bethell

Inquiry Question - How have inventions changed communities?

How has travel helped us?
How do inventions change the way people live?

Community and Citizenship

Learning Skills

Through our inquiry we continue to teach specific learning skills. Children are recognised for these skills through the weekly Learning Skills Class award. The skills we encourage children to develop are: **Thinking, research, communication, social and self-management skills.**

Writing

Non-fiction writing focussed on information texts about the SS Great Britain.
Letter writing - writing letters from the SS Great Britain. Key Text: When Jessie Came Across the Sea - Amy Hest.

Maths

This term, Year 2 will begin learning their 2, 5, and 10 times tables. These are key number facts that will help children become more confident and fluent in mathematics. Children will be sent home with simple activities to practise their times tables.

On a **Friday**, children will take part in a **short mini quiz**. This will be fully supported in school and used as a positive way to build confidence and recall key multiplication facts they have learnt.

Spellings

Children will continue to have new spellings set on a **Monday morning** and a spelling quiz held on a **Friday morning**.

Please can you ensure spelling books are in school on these days and continue to ensure spellings are being practised at home ready for the quiz on Friday. There is space in the green spelling books to practice, your child may also like to write their spellings in different styles as detailed on the bottom of the spelling list each week. Further information will also be sent home weekly via Class Dojo with additional activities to support your child.

Times Tables

Shape

Addition and Subtraction of 2-Digit Numbers

Multiplication

Reading

When Jessie Came Across the Sea - Amy Hest
Amazing Transport - Tom Jackson
Coming to England - Floella Benjamin
Sophie Scott Goes South - Alison Lester
Reading Skills - Twinkl Totally Pawsome Reading Gang



Comprehension - Inquiry based investigation focusing on community and travel by boat.

Humanities

History: Methods of transport over time, focusing on comparing travel between Victorian times and today. How inventions in travel methods have helped communities. Looking at timelines and identifying chronological order.

Geography: Using maps to identify travel routes from England.

RE: What do Jewish people believe about God and the Covenant?

Science

Plants - This term the children will be learning about plants and how they grow. As part of our learning, they will plant, grown, and care for a broad bean, observing changes over time and learning what plants need to stay healthy.

Our **Scientist Spotlight** this term is Janaki Ammal, a botanist whose work has helped us understand plant diversity and growth. Her work will support our learning and inspire curiosity about the natural world and the importance of science in the real world.

Art

Mixed media - creating signal flags as used on ships such as the SS Great Britain.

PE

Sports Masters

Gymnastics

Class PE

Multi-skills: Bat and ball games

PE Days will be **Monday** and **Friday**.

PSHE

Healthy Me - JIGSAW unit of work.

Music

Play three notes on a tuned instrument, understanding which is the lowest, middle and highest pitch.

Computing

Programming A - Robot Algorithms

Scratch jr

Further information about reading



Book change

It's really important children continue to read as much as possible outside of school. At level 6 and above, books will be changed when they have been read once, as the books become longer. As such, children do not need to read a whole book at once, please continue to record how many pages have been read and ensure the reading record is signed by an adult. Furthermore, please discuss their reading with them and ask them questions about what they have read. This helps show their understanding and is a vital skill to develop as they move through school.



Pawsome Gang Reading skills

As children progress through Key Stage 1 and become fluent readers, we begin to focus on developing their reading comprehension skills. This includes being able to retrieve information, discuss vocabulary, make inferences about characters and plot and consider the meaning behind the text. To support this, we use the Twinkl Pawsome Reading Gang. Each skill has a dog associated with it. To help develop these skills more at home, your child has already come home with a book mark with Pawsome Gang questions and discussion points. These are great to help you discuss your child's reading with them, especially if they are reading more independently.



Reading awards

It's been wonderful to see so many children already achieving their bronze reading award with many well on their way towards silver and even gold. Please help them achieve these awards by encouraging them, listening to them read, and signing their reading record daily.

Bronze - 50 reads **Silver - 100 reads** **Gold - 150 reads** **Platinum - 200 reads**



Reading for pleasure

We love reading in Chestnut Class and enjoy sharing books as a whole class. Last term we enjoyed taking part in 'book vent' and sharing our favourite books, we certainly added some to our class wish list! We are always happy to receive recommendations so please do let me know of any good books your child has read recently that they would like to share with the class.

Life in Chestnut Class

As we settle back into the term it has been wonderful to see the children are positive and ready to learn! We will continue to have our class 'Happy Helpers' which change each day and 'Table Captains' which change weekly.

Showing:

Every Friday we will continue with showing. The names will be displayed on the window as last term and we would now like the children to link their showing to our current learning. It can be linked to our inquiry or something else that the children would like to talk about from activities they have found interesting at school.



Fruit and milk for Snack Time:

Fruit is available at snack time. If your child prefers to bring in fruit from home, please can you ensure this is in a labelled container so we can easily identify it. If you would like to order milk for your child, please contact the school office for an order form. All children need to bring in a water bottle each day.

Uniform:

Please ensure all school uniform is clearly labelled. Any items that are not claimed and do not have a label will be put in the lost property box which can be located in the school office. PE kit must be worn on Mondays and Fridays. If your child has a school hoodie, these are to be worn on PE days only. Trainers are also only to be worn on PE days.

Please ensure children have a warm coat in school every day as PE and playtimes usually take place outside.



Homework and Learning Conversations

It's been great to see the work children have completed in their learning conversations and conversations that are happening at home. Please do continue to encourage and support your child to complete these and thank you for your continued support. Learning conversations will continue to come home on a Friday and must be handed in by the following Thursday at the latest. Children are expected to put their Learning Conversation book on the shelf at the front of our classroom when they have completed it.

Reading: Please continue to read daily with your child to encourage confidence and fluency.

Spellings: Spellings will be checked on a Friday and the scores will be recorded in green spelling books. Further activities are also available via Class Dojo.



Trip: This term we will be boarding the SS Great Britain to find out more about the famous ship and what made it special. We will find out how the ship was built and spend time learning about Brunel's various projects. All details have been sent out via letter on Class Dojo, payment and consent for the trip needs to be completed via the MCAS app.