



Redwood Class Newsletter Spring 2026

Welcome back!

With Christmas behind us and the days getting longer, I'm excited for a Spring term full of great learning opportunities. Our inquiry this term has a geography focus as we explore landscapes, human settlements, map reading and take a close up look at the wonderful county of Somerset and the Mendip Hills.

During the week, the children will continue to be taught by myself and supported by Mrs Lange, and Miss Hart on a Friday. Mr Shillabeer will teach the class on a Friday morning whilst French will be delivered by Mr Sage. It's been so wonderful to see the children becoming such confident and independent learners in Year 3 and I know we're in for another great term. As always, please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions or want to discuss anything about your child's learning.

Many thanks

Inquiry Question - How do communities use landscapes?

What do landscapes look like?
Why do some landscapes need protecting?

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

Tin Forest by Helen Ward - Descriptive writing focussing on settings and characterisation.
Non-fiction writing - information leaflets focussing on the Mendip Hills and local area.

Maths

Measurement - volume and mass
Column addition and subtraction
Shape - Right angles, parallel and perpendicular lines

Spellings

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

Please remind children to bring in their spelling book with them each week to write their new spellings, it makes it much easier if they have them in school.

To help children learn their spellings, they use precision spelling methods in school - we call them the **Fab Four**. Please see more information at the end of the newsletter.

Times Tables

Thank you so much for your support with Times Table Rock Stars. It is great to see children who are practicing regularly making such great progress. This will really help them with their times table speed and fluency for Year 4. Please continue to support your child to practice.

TTRS = 3 minutes a day, 3 times a week

In school, children are having a daily times table quiz as part of their maths lesson. We are currently focussing on our 2s and will progress on to our 5s and 3s this coming term.

Reading

Stories exploring community and belonging
The Comet - Joe Todd Stanton
Our Tower - Joseph Coelho and Richard Johnson
Non-fiction texts around settlements and UK maps



Reading Skills are supported by the Twinkl Totally Pawsome Reading Gang resources. More information to support your child with their reading will be sent out the first week of term.

Humanities

Geography: Different physical and human landscapes, how settlements differ and key features of settlements, understanding OS maps and 8 points of a compass, knowledge of UK counties, understanding the physical and human geography of the Mendip Hills landscape.

History: How landscapes have changed over time.

RE: Understanding Christianity - **Salvation** - why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?

Science

Forces and magnets - understanding different forces including friction and magnetic force.

Art

Landscape painting.

Using watercolours to mix secondary colours.
Focus on tone to show light and shade.

Artist study - Tilly Mortimore, local landscape artist based in Cheddar.

PE

Sports Masters

Gymnastics

Class PE

Invasion Games - focus on attack and defence in a range of sports.

PE Days will be **Tuesday** and **Thursday**.

PSHE

Understanding our brain.
Healthy Me - JIGSAW unit of work.

Computing

Programming - sequencing sounds

Modern Foreign Languages - French

Describing animals
Colours
Learning to say *J'ai.../ As-tu... ? Je suis...*

Music

Learning the Ukulele with Somerset Music teacher, Anna Davies.

Further information about reading



Book change

It is really important children continue to read as much as possible outside of school. As children progress through Year 3 and become more confident readers they will have longer books to read. We encourage children to read at least 5 pages a night to count as a read in their records. More confident readers can also start to read more independently and only need to read some of their book aloud to an adult. Please discuss their reading with them and ask them questions using the Pawsome Gang resources to help (see below).



Pawsome Gang Reading skills

As children progress through Key Stage 2 and become fluent readers, we 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 will 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**

Life in Redwood Class

It has been wonderful to see the children start back after the break with such a positive attitude and to see how quickly they have settled back into our classroom routines.

Junior Dukes

We are excited to start the Junior Dukes Award this term with Redwood Class. Children will work through a series of tasks and challenges to work towards the award. Some of these will be completed in school and some at home. I will be setting a few of these as a learning conversation through the year. Please make sure you have given permission for your child to take part by following the link <https://forms.office.com/e/TTh3k3ytZQ>



Fruit for Snack Time: Please do remember to send a snack in to school for your child. If this should be in a separate box or bag from their lunch, it makes it a lot easier when we hand them out at snack time, many thanks for your help with this.



Homework and Learning Conversations

It's been great to see children engaging with the learning conversations and the work and discussions children have been having at home around their school learning. Please do encourage and support your child to complete these as they are a useful way to help them cement their learning and share their school week with you. Thank you for your continued support in other homework, as mentioned above, regular practise in these areas really helps children feel confident:

Reading: Daily to maintain their fluency and continue to develop their vocabulary.

Times table practise: Regular practice on Times Table Rock Stars is really important and helps your child gain confidence in their times tables. Please continue to encourage them to do a few minutes a day to help develop confidence and speed.

Spellings: Practise their weekly spellings using the precision spelling activities outlined below.

Precision Spelling (Fab Four)

To help support children to learn their spellings, we use precision spelling methods. This focusses on a few words a day and practises them in ways to help your brain remember them. In class the children came up with the name **Fab Four**.



Activity 1 boxes - Draw boxes around each letter to give the word a shape. Tall letters and letters that go below the line like q and g take up 2 lines, small letters take up 1 line and f takes up 3 lines (as it is tall but also goes below the line).

Activity 2 chunk it up - break up the word into 3 or 4 easy to remember chunks. These might be different for different people e.g. difficult could be diff-i-cult or di-ffi-cult depending on what they find easiest.

Activity 3 coloured vowels - highlight the vowels a different colour or use a different colour pen.

Activity 4 how many? - Count the number of letters and write it underneath.

Children choose 3 or 4 words a day from their spelling list and write each word 4 times using the different activities. Start with the words they find hardest to remember. Children will be given slightly different spelling books as they finish their old ones to help with practise in this way.