



Redwood Class Newsletter Summer Term 5 2026

Welcome back to the summer term!

I hope you have had a lovely Easter break and are ready for the exciting and engaging term ahead. We are looking forward to a busy term with swimming lessons, our class activity day to Mendip Outdoor Activity Centre, the continuation of our Junior Dukes award and lots of new learning through our inquiry.

During the week, the children will continue to be taught by myself and supported by Mrs Lange. On Fridays, the children will be taught by Mr Shillabeer and Miss Hart and we will welcome Mrs Molina who will now be teaching French on a Friday afternoon. The children are going from strength to strength and it's so wonderful to see them developing into confident and independent learners. 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

Mrs Emery and the Redwood Team

Inquiry Question - Why is water such an important resource?

How does water cause change over time?

Why should we conserve water?

Expression
and Creativity

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 and daily house points. The skills children develop are:

Thinking, research, communication, social and self-management skills.

Writing

Non-fiction - persuasive letter writing based on *The Great Stink* by Colleen Paeff. We will be writing to our MP, Tessa Munt, to raise awareness around water pollution in rivers.

Non-fiction - recount of our trip to Mendip Outdoor Centre.

Maths

Multiplication of 1 and 2 digit numbers

Understanding unit fractions

Arithmetic fluency

Times table fluency

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 **every Monday** to write their new spellings, it makes it much easier if they have them in school.

Please help your child practise their spellings as they do get trickier through the year. Use the Fab Four spelling techniques as outlined at the end of the newsletter.

Times Tables

Times tables continue to be really important and regular practice on Times Table Rock Stars is really important.

<https://trockstars.com/>

By the end of Year 3 children should be fluent in their 2,5,10,3,6,4 and 8 times tables. Regular practice at home helps develop fluency which is an essential skill and supports much of their maths learning in Key Stage 2 and in Middle School.

Another website to use is hit the button.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Reading

The Great Stink - Colleen Paeff and Nancy Carpenter

Once Upon a Raindrop - James Carter

A rivers Journey - River poetry by Angela Yardy

Fiction and non-fiction texts around our inquiry into water, rivers and water pollution.



Twinkl reading skills include retrieval of information, making inference, predicting what may happen based on what has been read and understanding key vocabulary

Humanities

Geography: The water cycle and river systems including landscape formations influenced by rivers. Environmental issues surrounding water use and pollution (explored through our writing outcome) Understanding the River Thames using maps.

History: The history of the River Thames and it's importance to the City of London as a water source. Understanding historical maps and noticing change over time.

RE: How do Muslims in Somerset show submission? Exploring key elements of the Islamic faith.

Science

Animals including humans - understanding healthy eating and nutrition, skeletons and bones in animals and humans and how muscles work.

Art and DT

Understanding bridge design and key features of bridges.

Designing, building and testing our own bridges.

PSHE

Axbridge Emotions Toolkit.

Online Safety

Dreams and Goals - JIGSAW unit of work discussing how to achieve their goals.

Modern Foreign Languages - French

Likes and dislikes of animals/ colours- *J'adore.../ J'aime.../ Je déteste...*

PE

Sports Masters

Cricket

Class PE

Swimming

Kit requirement

Wednesday - swimming kit (including goggles) in separate bag. Normal school uniform to be worn to school.

Thursday - PE kit worn into school.

Computing

Desktop publishing including word processing.

Music - Sound Exploration

Aurally identify dimensions in music such as pitch, duration and texture.

Further information about reading



Book change

It continues to be really important that children 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. **Comprehension** becomes more important as children become more fluent in their reading. Please use the Pawsome Gang reading bookmark to help discuss your child's book with them. Ensuring children are able to understand what they have read is a really important skill moving through Key Stage 2. This is especially important if your child is reading more independently to themselves rather than aloud. Reads still need to be signed by an adult in their reading record.



Reading awards

It's been wonderful to see so many children already working their way up through the reading awards. Please encourage them by 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

The children have had a super start back into our daily routines and are really ready for their learning. Thank you for your support in this.

Activity Day

We are really looking forward to our team building and activity day at Mendips Outdoor Centre on **Tuesday 5th May**. More details of what children need will be sent out closer to the time but please note we will be returning to school at a later time of between **5.15 and 5.30pm**. Please make sure you have paid and given permission for your child to take part via the MCAS app.

JUNIOR

DUKE Junior Dukes

It has been great to see how enthusiastic the children have been with the new Junior Dukes award. Please encourage your child to work through these at their own pace and share their work with the relevant adult in school when they complete a challenge.

Showing

Most of the children have had the opportunity to share something from home. We will continue our Friday sharing but will change the focus to be **interests and hobbies**. When it is their turn, your child will have the opportunity to talk about a hobby they have. This could be a formal club like a sport or Cubs or Brownies or an interest they have. They are welcome to bring in a prop or photos to share with the class.



Homework and Learning Conversations

Thank you for all the support you give the children outside of school. It really does have a big impact and helps them develop skills and confidence.

Learning conversations: It's always lovely to see the work the children have done and shared with you outside of school. This work is a great way to help cement or extend their learning or give them additional time to practice things they might find tricky. Please do encourage and support your child to complete these. Learning conversations can be handed in up to the Thursday after it has been set.

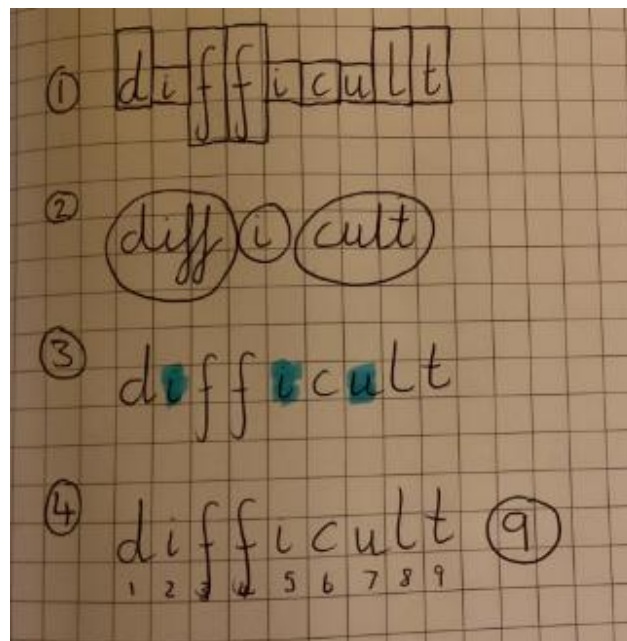
Reading: Daily to maintain their fluency and continue to develop their vocabulary. Regular discussion to secure comprehension.

Times table practise: Times Table Rock Stars 3 minutes a day 3 times a week. Can your child turn their **heatmap green?**

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

Precision Spelling (Fab Four)

The children are now very confident using their Fab Four approach to practising spellings. As a reminder, these are the different activities they can do to help practise their spellings using their approach.



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.