



Redwood Class Newsletter Autumn 2026

Welcome to Redwood Class.

I am really looking forward to a term packed full of exciting learning and lots of fun. Through our inquiry-based learning, we have some great questions we will be exploring this term which will take us right into the centre of the earth as we explore plate tectonics, earthquakes, rocks and fossils – I can't wait!

During the week, the children will be taught by myself and supported by Mrs Lange and Mrs Maunders. Mr Shillabeer will teach the class on a Friday morning alongside Miss Hart. In the afternoon, the children will have French with Mrs Molinas and PE with the Sports Master Coaching team. I'm really looking forward to a great first term in Year 3 and working with the children and yourselves. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to me if you have any questions or want to discuss anything about your child's learning.

Mrs Emery and the Redwood Team

Inquiry Question - How does the Earth move and change?

Inquiry 1 - How does geology change over time?

Inquiry 2 - How does geology impact people?

Learning Skills

Through our inquiry approach to our curriculum, we teach the children learning skills which underpin their learning both in and outside the classroom. The skills children will be introduced to are:

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

Writing

Writing foundations and expectations focussing on accurate punctuation and grammar, conjunctions and creative vocabulary.
Stone Girl, Bone Girl - non-fiction writing around the life of Mary Anning introducing paragraphs.

Spellings

Children have a weekly spelling quiz. New spellings are set on a **Friday morning** which children write in their books and will also be posted on Class Dojo. Children have a spelling quiz on a **Thursday afternoon**. In addition we will have a daily spelling spotlight that we will practise.

Children will need to practice spellings at home and will be provided with a practice book which they need to bring to school each Friday.

Maths

Securing mathematical foundational skills from Year 2.
Arithmetic fluency.
Composition and calculation of three-digit numbers.
Place value of numbers up to 1000.
Securing multiplication and division facts 5, 10 and 2 times table.

Times Tables

We use **Times Table Rock Stars** to help children become fluent in their times tables. Children will have their own login for this. We also complete a daily times table quiz within our maths lessons.

To help children develop their fluency, it is essential that they login to Times Tables Rock Stars at home. We recommend **3 minutes a day, 3 times a week** to help them develop fluency and recall. <https://ttrockstars.com/>

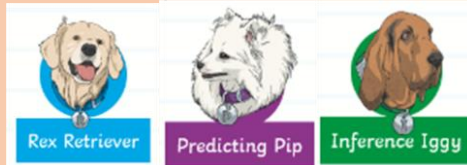
Reading

Reading Skills - Reading in Key Stage 2 continues to develop fluency but also focusses on reading comprehension including retrieval of information and developing inference skills. We use the Twinkl Totally Pawsome Reading Gang and focus on whole class reading to help develop these skills.

The Street Beneath my feet - Charlotte Guillain and Yuval Zommer

Stone Girl, Bone Girl - Laurence Anholt

Inquiry based investigation and responses around rocks, earthquakes and fossils.



Humanities

Geography: Plate tectonics, earthquakes and tsunamis - case study on 2011 Japan earthquake. Working like geographers: Understanding different types of maps and diagrams. Class trip to Batts Combe Quarry and follow up workshop looking at restoration.

History: The story behind Mary Anning and her important discoveries.

RE: Understanding Christianity - People of God. What is it like to follow God? Understanding the Bible and key people of God (Noah and Abraham). School Christian Values.

Science

Rocks and Soils - understanding how different rocks are formed, categorising rocks, understanding the creation of fossils and soils. Local rock walk and visit to town museum.

Art

Skills - Tone and shading.
Observational drawing - self-portraits focussing on drawing faces and accurate facial features using shading.

Artist focus - Hokusai and print making.

PE

Sports Masters
Tag rugby

Class PE
Fundamental movement skills

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

PSHE

Brilliant Brain and Dinosaur Brain
Being Me in My World - JIGSAW unit of work.

Computing

Computing networks and systems -
Connecting computers

Modern Foreign Languages - French

Greetings/how you're feeling
Days of the week and alphabet
Numbers 1-10

Music

Percussion power: Using percussion instruments to create sounds.

Further information about reading



Book change

As you already know, daily reading is a really important part of your child's education and something we encourage across the school. In Year 3, your child may begin to have longer books to read. With this in mind, we focus on how often they read during the week, rather than how many times they change their book. We ask children to bring their book to school every day and put it in the Redwood Reading Box so we can keep track of how your child is progressing. Children who have finished a book can change it for a new one. It is really important all children bring their book in each day, whether they need a new book or not.



Reading awards

The Reading awards continue to be used to reward the children for their great effort when reading. Children start from Bronze in September and work towards the awards through the school year. **Please continue to sign your child's book** each time they read 4 or more pages of their school book and send them into school on a daily basis to allow them to be checked.

Bronze - 50 reads

Silver - 100 reads

Gold - 150 reads

Platinum - 200 reads



Reading for pleasure

We love reading in Redwood Class and have lots of great books for children to read during the week in our class library. We always share a book together during snack time which might be a short story book, non-fiction or a longer chapter book. I'm always on the lookout for new books to add to our class library so please encourage children to let me know any books they would like to see added.

Reading Comprehension

To support our reading comprehension, we use the Totally Pawsome Gang from Twinkl Reading Detectives. Each character has a role in helping children understand and interpret what they read. We use a whole class approach to reading where we focus on part of a book or text and look at key features. This allows children to access challenging texts and develop their comprehension and knowledge of language further.

As you can see reading continues to be an important part of everything we do so it is essential that your child continues to read and expand their sight vocabulary and understanding of words. For confident readers, regular reading at home and discussions around the text is really important and helps develop greater understanding of the book.

Life in Redwood Class

Moving into Year 3 can be a big step. We expect children to become more independent in their learning and organisation and take more responsibility within the classroom. Below is some information you might find useful to help ease the transition.



Fruit for Snack Time: In Key Stage 2 fruit is no longer provided for snack time. Can you please ensure your child brings a piece of fruit or vegetable in with them to school each day in a suitable container or bag. To help with organisation at the end of the day, **please write your child's name on the container or bag.**



Water bottles: It is really important that children stay hydrated as it helps with their concentration. Please make sure your child has a water bottle with them each day. These can be accessed regularly during the school day.

Homework and Learning Conversations

To support your child's learning we would like you to try a few activities at home with your child. Please don't panic, they are things you have done before and they are fun!!!

Reading: We would like your child to read **daily** to maintain their fluency and continue to develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Spellings: Practice their weekly spellings using the suggested games and activities (see further information below).



Times table practice: Times table Rock Stars – we recommend 3 minutes a day, 3 times a week. Other maths practice websites include Hit the button (Topmarks website, search for Hit The Button) and Timestable.co.uk (games and a speed test for your child to practise)

Weekly learning conversations: The Learning Conversation will be posted via Class Dojo on a Friday and sent home in their Learning Conversation Book. All tasks can be completed in this book.



We will use Class Dojo to share Redwood Class information, letters, learning conversations and messages. You can also send me messages. I do my best to check these daily but please be patient if I do not respond immediately. Any urgent messages should be phoned through to the school office. Please do not use ClassDojo to alert the school of an absence, but contact the office who will pass on any messages.

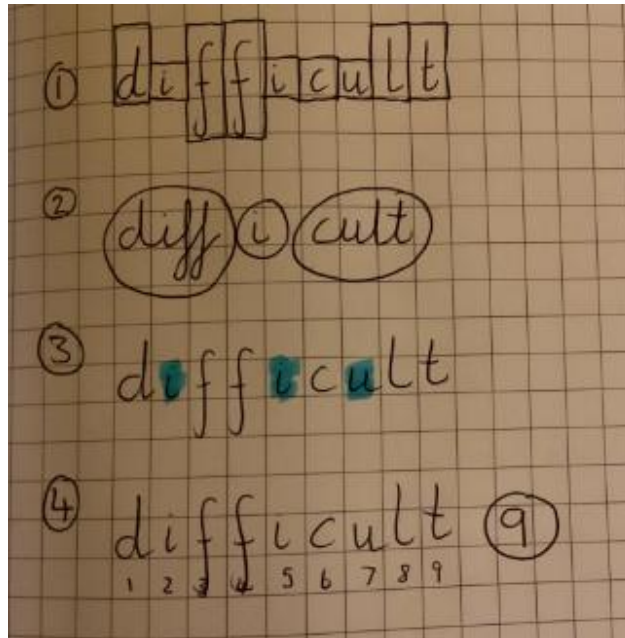
Squawky

Squawky is the Redwood Class mascot and comes home with a different child each weekend on a Friday. He has a diary which your child can record their weekend and what they and Squawky have done. The focus of this is your child's work – writing and drawings are encouraged. Your child has the opportunity to share the diary entry with the class during the week. This encourages speaking and listening and is something children often look forward to.

Further information about spelling practice

Precision Spelling (Fab Four)

To help support children to learn their spellings, we have started using precision spelling methods. This focusses on practicing a few words a day in ways to help your brain remember them. Redwood Class last year called it the **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 spelling practice books with squared paper to allow them to practice in this way. Please support and encourage them to do so as it really does help when they do their quiz on a Friday.