

KS1 Class Newsletter

Spring 2026

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a fantastic Christmas, played lots of board games and enjoyed some family time together. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Dann to the KS1 team this half term.



A BIG thank you!

Thank you so much for all the lovely cards and presents we received. It was incredibly kind and generous of you.



Pole to Pole!

How were the poles discovered and which animals live there?

This term we will be learning about the cold regions of our world. It is a fantastic topic which encompasses lots of areas of the curriculum. This topic will give us lots of opportunities for creative writing in English, based on some lovely texts such as *Lost and Found* by Oliver

Jeffers. The children will explore the world geographically, looking at the seven continents and five oceans to discover where Antarctica and the Arctic are. We will discover why they are cold, what animals can be found there and how their bodies are adapted to survive in such conditions. We will use this knowledge to design our very own polar animal that is suited to their environment and we will be producing information texts all about them.

Our historical aspect is investigating explorers who have braved this part of the world, including Wheldrake's own; Frank Wild!



In art lessons, we will be exploring using watercolours with the plan to create some stunning scenery based on Antarctica. We will be finding out about the primary colours and mixing to make secondary ones. We will be looking at pieces by Paul Klee and Emma Burleigh and will use our sketch books to express our feelings and thoughts.

Maths

Year 2's are beginning with shape this half term and then moving on to multiplication and division. Practising to count at home forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s is really helpful for this. If your child is interested in TTrockstars, this is also a useful tool for increasing number recall but there is not an expectation for the children to use it. They have a login in their diaries. In year 1, the children are starting the term with place value using numbers to 20 and then moving to addition and subtraction within 20.

Religious Education

For the first half term the children will be exploring the question "What makes some places sacred to believers?" This topic gives us an opportunity to explore different religions - we will be thinking about the importance of different places of worship to different religions, focusing on our church, a synagogue and a mosque.

Our PE days this half term for both classes will be Tuesday and Friday. This half term the children will be doing gymnastics on Tuesdays and dance on Fridays. Please could you make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit and that they will be warm enough for playtimes. Hair must be tied back and any **earrings should be removed at home** before they come to school please.

Jigsaw

In Jigsaw, we have a lovely unit looking at dreams and goals. We will be looking at how goals and successes can be different for different people. We will be looking at successes we have had and how they made us feel and why. We will be taking on group challenges and finding out how we can stay motivated and keep trying even when things are tricky.

Reading and Reading Books

The children take part in guided reading every day. They rotate in a carousel of reading with an adult twice a week, phonics activities, reading follow up activities and some free reading. The children will be reading their home reading books with an adult as often as possible within school so please make sure they have their reading book and planner with them every day. To boost their reading progress even further, it is essential that the children read at home as often as possible. Please use your child's planner to record what they have read and to let us know how they are doing with their reading. We have a number of children that are not reading consistently at home which will impact their progress. The children have two books, either 2 phonics books linked to the current phonics levels or a phonics book and a challenge book which may be more challenging than their phonic learning at school. Please mark reading at home in the diary, even if it is a tick and initials or the children can write in the diaries if that is appropriate. Thank you for your support.



Daily Routine

Don't forget the doors open at 8:50am for our soft start and will **close at 8:55am** ready for the start of the school day.

Please can the children have a pair of indoor shoes in school. These can be crocs, appropriate slippers or plimsol type shoes. Thank you.

We are looking forward to another fun term!

The Key Stage 1 Team