



Aspen Class Newsletter

Autumn 2026

WELCOME BACK!

We hope you and your children had a lovely summer break and they are excited to get to be back at school. We have been so impressed at how well the children have settled in. They have already impressed us with their positive attitude and some of the work that they have created. We are looking forward to getting to know them even more.

GEOGRAPHY - MAGICAL MAPS

Our geography unit this term will teach children to develop key map skills through a range of engaging geographical activities. Children will explore a range of maps at a local, national and global level, developing their understanding of how to navigate around an atlas to find key countries, continents, oceans and seas along with devising their own maps and routes. They will learn how to 'view from above' looking at aerial photographs to spot human and physical features, understand simple map symbols, compass directions and develop key geographical vocabulary.

HISTORY - THE GUNPOWDER PLOT

Our history topic this term, The Gunpowder Plot, will teach the children about this significant event in British history. The children will increase their awareness of the past by finding out about Guy Fawkes and other significant individuals involved in the plot, such as Robert Catesby and Thomas Percy. They will deepen their understanding of the events of the Gunpowder Plot through several speaking and listening activities, such as hot seating and role play,

as well as sequencing events and designing posters. We will also explore how and why bonfire night has been celebrated in Britain since the 1930s.

MATHS

To start the year, we will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction and shape. The children will learn how to partition numbers, write numbers in expanded form and develop knowledge of number bonds and their skills in addition and subtraction problems.

PHONICS

We continue to use the Twinkl Phonics scheme in Year 2. The children will focus on Level 6 sounds, while regularly revisiting the sounds taught in Year 1. Phonics is taught daily, with a focus on new sounds each week. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are also woven into these sessions.

GUIDED READING

Reading will remain a key priority in Year 2. During the week, the children will take part in a reading carousel, giving them the opportunity to experience a range of different reading activities. Some tasks will be completed independently, while others will involve working with an adult or as part of a group.

Throughout the year, we will also share a wide variety of class texts and reading books with the children. These will expose them to different authors, characters, genres and styles of writing, helping to develop their vocabulary, comprehension and enjoyment of reading. Some of these books will link to our English work.

To support your child's reading development and help them make excellent progress, regular reading at home is extremely important. Please try to read with your child as frequently as possible and record their reading in their reading diary/planner. This allows us to keep track of their reading experiences and monitor their progress.

Reading books will be changed once a week, on the day your child reads with us. Please make sure that your child's reading book and diary are in their school bag every day.

SCIENCE - ANIMALS INCLUDING HUMANS

In this unit the children will find out about and describe the basic needs of animals (including humans) for survival. They will also be able to describe the importance of exercise and eating a balanced diet for humans.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This term, we will be discussing the question 'How should we care for the world, for others, and why does it matter?' This topic explores how different religions teach people to value, care for and respect others. The children will learn about Christian and Jewish beliefs about the value of every person, as well as the importance of the Golden Rule and being a good friend. They will explore how different faiths encourage people to show kindness and support others through charity and caring for those in need.

PE

PE will take place on: Wednesday and Friday. This year we are returning to the children coming to school in school uniform and getting changed for PE. Please make sure all their uniform and PE kits are labelled to help with this.

A few important reminders:

Earrings must be removed for PE. This needs to be done at home, as adults in school are not permitted to remove children's earrings. Long hair must be tied up for PE.

ART - EXPLORE AND DRAW

We will begin the half term by exploring our topic, 'Explore and Draw'. The children will be introduced to the idea that artists can find inspiration in the world around them. They will learn about artists such as Rosie James and Alice Fox, who are both collectors and explorers. The children will then explore our

school grounds, collecting natural materials and using them to create patterns. Afterwards, they will observe and draw their collections in their sketchbooks.

DEIGN & TECHNOLOGY- LET'S MAKE A WRAP

This term, we will be exploring the importance of eating a balanced diet. The children will learn about the main food groups and discover which foods belong to each group. They will also become food detectives, using their senses to investigate the taste, texture and smell of a variety of foods.

The children will then put their learning into practice by designing, making and evaluating their own wraps. They will consider different flavour combinations and create a wrap based on a specific design brief. Finally, they will make, taste and evaluate their finished creations.

HOMEWORK

This year, we are focussing homework across school on the importance of reading, spellings and number fluency.

~ Read daily for 15-20 mins. This is important even for accomplished readers to help improve fluency, accuracy and comprehension. Remember to record in planners.

~ Phonics information sheets will let you know the sounds or grammar focus the children have been working on during the week and contain ideas to help reinforce this learning at home.

~ Hit The Button is a really good website to help the children practice a range of number fluency facts.

EXTRA BITS

We will be making the most of our school field throughout the year, whatever the weather, so please provide a pair of named wellies to be kept in school.

Forest school will continue to be on a Wednesday. Our first session will be Wednesday 23rd September.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Jackson & Mrs Postil