



Sandringham Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Year 1 we have lots of exciting learning to look forward to in our first half term in Sandringham Class. We begin by travelling to the Arctic with our topic 'Arctic Adventure.'

Teachers in your class are: Mrs Costello from Monday to Thursday; and Miss Aston on a Friday.

English – Reading & Phonics

In the first half of the Autumn term, we will be using the text *All Are Welcome*. This story celebrates diversity, kindness and belonging, helping children to understand that everyone is unique and valued. Through discussions and activities linked to the text, we will explore similarities and differences between ourselves and others, learn about inclusivity, and consider how we can make everyone feel welcome in our classroom and wider community. The children will be encouraged to share their own experiences and opinions, helping to develop their speaking and listening skills.

We will also be reading *Mrs Honey's Hat*. In the story, every day a different creature removes an item from Mrs Honey's large and outlandish hat, leaving behind something new in its place, so that by the end of the week she has an entirely new hat! We will be exploring the story together, comparing and contrasting, making predictions and sharing opinions, while continuing to develop the children's vocabulary, imagination and language skills.

The children will continue to be taught phonics using the multisensory scheme, *Monster Phonics*. During the Autumn term, we will begin working through the National Curriculum Year 1 graphemes, the Year 1 CEWs (Common Exception Words) and the first 100 HFWs (High Frequency Words). The addition of the suffixes *-ed*, *-s/-es*, *-ing*, *-er* and *-est* (with no change to the root word) will be introduced in specific spelling lessons and reinforced throughout the term and year.

English – Writing, handwriting, grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Year 1 writing will focus on securing the 'basics' of writing a simple sentence to ensure this is secure as the children move into Year 2. With a big focus on oracy, children will learn to orally construct a sentence, ensuring it makes sense, before attempting to scribe onto paper with increased accuracy. Lots of practise of letter formation will ensure children can print their letters clearly, starting and finishing each letter in the correct place. Children's spellings will focus on the Year 1 CEW (common exception words) and the application of new learned sounds in phonics.

Maths

We use White Rose Maths to support the teaching of our maths lessons whilst accessing a wide range of practical maths equipment to ensure our learning is hands-on and engaging. Over the Autumn term, the children will be taught the following units of maths:

Place Value (within 10 then within 20)

Addition and subtraction (within 10)

Shape

Science

Animals including humans

Within our interactive science lessons, the children will be taught the following skills through the Autumn term:

- identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals
- identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores
- describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets)
- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.

Other Curriculum Subjects

Geography: Arctic Adventure. In this topic we will be exploring the Arctic. The children will use a map to locate countries in the Arctic circle, identify physical and human features of the Arctic and compare the way of life in the Arctic to Bishops Itchington.

RE: What is religion? Who is a Christian and what do they believe? (Nativity story)

PSHE: Protective Behaviours; 'Being Me in My World' – exploring who I am and how do I fit.

PE: Throwing and catching balls skills for outdoor, fundamental movement circuits for indoor. PE sessions are on a **Tuesday and Thursday**. P.E. kit needs to be kept in school in a separate bag on you child's peg. We will send home at the end of every half term for you to check and wash it.

Art: In this Arctic themed art unit the children will learn to layer a variety of mixed media, begin to place subjects considering composition and explore the use of colour and line.

Design & Technology: Levers and linkages - moving Christmas cards.

Music: Stepping into the Musicals

An opportunity for the children to learn a song from a musical and join in a programme to perform.

Computing: online safety and exploration of Purple Mash.

Homework

Reading

- Children will bring home a Monster Phonics reading book and an additional decodable text matched to their current phonics learning. Some books may be repeated. Re-reading familiar texts is an important part of developing reading fluency, confidence and comprehension, so please encourage your child to enjoy reading them again.
- Please record all home reading in your child's reading log, which will be sent home as part of their reading pack. We encourage children to talk about their books both at home and in school. As well as listening to your child read, please discuss the story together by talking about their favourite parts, characters and events.
- A 'little and often' approach to reading is the most beneficial. We recommend reading with your child regularly throughout the week, even if only for a few minutes each day.

- To support regular reading opportunities in school, **children should bring their reading pack to school every day**. This enables them to read frequently with adults and share their books with their peers.
- Books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays.

Maths

Regular practice of key number skills at home will help your child become more confident and fluent in Maths. This term, please focus on:

- Counting forwards and backwards within 20.
- Starting from different numbers when counting (e.g. counting on from 7, 12 or 18, rather than always starting at 0).
- Recognising and reading numbers to 20 in everyday environments, such as on doors, clocks, buses, number plates and price labels.
- Practising correct number formation when writing numerals.
- Developing recall of **number bonds within 10**. Number bonds are pairs of numbers that combine to make a given total. For example, for 6 the bonds are 0+6, 1+5, 2+4 and 3+3; for 7 they are 0+7, 1+6, 2+5 and 3+4. Children should practise finding all the pairs that make totals up to 10, helping them to build fluency and confidence with number facts.

The following websites provide fun games and activities to support these skills:

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

Short, regular practice is most effective and can easily be incorporated into everyday activities, such as counting steps, spotting numbers during journeys, practising number formation, or finding different pairs of numbers that make a given total

We do hope that your child enjoys their first term of this academic year with us. If you do have any worries or concerns, please feel free to speak to one of us about any matter, however small.

Mrs Costello & the Year 1 Team