

Buckingham Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2026



English – Reading, Writing & Spelling

The main text for this half term is 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo – a novel that depicts the life of two best friends during WW2. The boys, David and Tucky, are evacuated from London to a farm in Devon. Both boys relish the opportunity to discover a world that they have never experienced before. We will use the book to develop reading skills as well as a stimulus for writing. Children will be writing diary entries, letters, character and setting descriptions, dialogue, a discussion text and their own narrative. In the second half term, we will be studying poetry linked to Remembrance Day and children will be given the opportunity to compose their own poem. We will also be reading the book 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll which will again be used to develop reading skills and as well as a stimulus for writing.

On a Friday, Mrs Paul will focus on spelling, grammar and editing skills. Spellings will be practised within the school day, but we encourage children to practise them at home also - using assignments set on Spelling Shed- all of which builds accuracy and long term retention as they use the vocabulary in context through their writing.

Maths

The units for the Autumn Term include place value, the four operations and fractions. There will be a daily arithmetic session in which children will practise and rehearse number facts and calculations. It is vitally important that children know all their times tables so that they can re-call them with speed and accuracy. We will of course work on this at school but any support that you can give at home would be greatly appreciated. 'Hit the Button' (Free if you type into Google) is great for practising tables individually and 'TT Rockstars' is good for building speed and accuracy.

Science

In the first half term, we will be completing a unit on the human body and keeping healthy. There will be a focus on the circulatory system looking at the components and functions of the heart and blood. Children will learn about the importance of a balanced diet and the different food groups. We will investigate the effect of exercise on the human body and the importance of regular exercise. We will also discuss which drugs can be harmful to the human body with a focus on the effects of alcohol and vaping.

Other Curriculum Subjects

Our topic is: WW2 'The Home Front'.

In History, we will explore some of the causes that led to the outbreak of WW2. Children will learn about the Allied and Axis powers and the key figures that drove these. The main focus will be the on the Home Front and how everyday life changed during the war. Children will learn about evacuation, bombing raids and their impact on communities and infrastructure with a specific focus on the 1940 raid on Coventry, rationing, propaganda campaigns, the Home Guard and the change in role of women during the war. On Tuesday 29th September we will be visiting Coventry Cathedral to learn all about the 1940 Coventry Blitz and what life was like on the Home Front in the city.

In Geography, children will use atlases to locate countries involved in the war. They will locate countries that formed the Allied and Axis Powers as well as countries that were invaded by German Forces. Children will also look at maps of the UK to identify cities that were heavily bombed during the war and the locations of places where children were evacuated to.

RE: Y6 will focus on the theme of peace and reconciliation as they explore the key question 'How did the world heal after the conflict of World War Two? This will incorporate aspects of history, theology and social science through discussions, debates and a range of other activities.

PSHE: We will begin the year with our unit on 'Protective Behaviours' so that children are clear about how to keep themselves safe, know what they should do if they feel unsafe and recognise who their 'safe network of people are' who can help them if needed. This will be followed by 'Being Me In My World', which explores how children perceive their world and what it means, in a wider context, to be a 'global citizen'.

PE: Will be on a Monday (with Mrs Daly) and on a Wednesday with Leamington Football Club. Children should ensure they have PE kit in school on these days.

Art & Design: Children will be exploring the work of famous artist and sculptor Henry Moore, focusing on the work he produced during the war. Children will create pastel sketches as well as their own sculptures in the style of Henry Moore.

Design & Technology: In keeping with our WW2 theme, the children will be learning how to 'Make Do and Mend' by learning and practising different stitching techniques to make their own Christmas stocking from re-cycled materials.

Computing: Children will work on computing systems and networks – communication and collaboration and after half term, creating media- 3D modelling.

Music: We will be focusing on music appraisal with lyrics and melody from WW2 and the impact this had on lifting the spirits and morale of the nation.

Spanish: We will continue to develop vocabulary for a range of contexts to demonstrate the usefulness of being able to engage with native Spanish speakers eg. On holidays. In addition, we will be looking at Spanish culture including 'food tasting' and Spanish traditions.

Homework

Reading – 5 times a week is the expectation. Even though the children can read independently, it would be greatly beneficial if you could still read with your child as current evidence suggests it still highly impactful until mid-teens; try to include lots of discussion around the meaning of new or unfamiliar vocabulary.

Spelling – Children will be given new spellings every Friday; they will practise and use these in context, throughout the week and be given weekly assignments to complete on Spelling Shed.

Maths and English – We will give the children a few weeks to settle in before setting homework. Moving forwards, children will have a short Maths and English task each week – some of which will be online.

If you do have any worries or concerns, please do speak to us. You can make an appointment via the school office or contact us on MyChildAtSchool app.

Many thanks, The Year 6 Team

Mrs Daly, Mrs Paul and Mrs Wines

