



Robins and Puffins Classes Spring Term Newsletter



As we begin our 2025 new year, there are a few reminders to make sure children have everything they need. Please could you ensure that you send your child to school with the appropriate clothes for British weather, which is often very changeable! We advise a warm coat, wellies and a hat and gloves for those chillier days. We are looking forward to seeing how independent the children are at fastening buttons and zips and putting on their own clothing as we continue through the year. We enjoy our learning outdoors whatever the weather. Some parents like to provide a pair of wellies to keep at school should the weather be wet. **Please could we also ask that all items are clearly named.**

Your child will need a named bottle of water at school each day. You can provide squash for lunch time if you wish. If your child would like to bring a snack to school, it should be either a piece of fruit (please cut grapes in half lengthwise), or vegetables such as carrot or cucumber sticks. Fruit snacks are available at school each day.

Thank you for all your support.



Reading, Spelling and Phonics



Our aim is that all our children quickly learn to read and develop a love of reading for pleasure. To achieve this, we offer a range of teaching and learning activities.

The children will continue to take part in a range of phonics activities suited to their age and current stage in reading. We follow the Read Write Inc. Phonics Scheme each day.

- Our Reception children will continue to become familiar with the reading strategy of Fred Frog, who can say sounds but not yet words. They will be learning to blend those sounds orally to make words.
- All our children are learning a new sound and, when ready, apply their skills in practise reading words during a phonics session
- The children will also take part in a group Guided Reading session with an adult.
- Children will enjoy listening to a story read to them by an adult as part of a story time session.

Once our children can blend sounds to read words, they will bring home two pieces of reading material each week, appropriate to their reading level:

- A book or ditty for them to read to an adult.
- A book to be read to them by an adult.

Please sign your child's Reading Record each time they read and ensure that book bags come back to school each day.
Year 1 children will practise writing common exception words.



Maths



Reception children will continue to count and use numbers working towards understanding number bonds to 5 and counting, reliably to 20. We will also be using non-standard units to measure and use money during role play activities. We will learn through practical hands-on activities, songs, rhymes and stories. We will see numbers and quantities in many forms such as written numerals, dots on dice and groups of objects. We will explore addition through combining groups and subtraction through taking-away. Reception children will be encouraged to show curiosity to 2D and 3D shapes and to name shapes in their environment.

Year 1: Number and Place Value

The children will be counting, reading and writing numbers to 100. We will be making pictorial representations of numbers, using number lines and objects as well as recognising and recreating patterns with objects and shapes.

Year 1: Calculation

The children will continue to practise and interpret adding and subtracting numbers. They will be encouraged to record their answers using +, - and = signs. They will also be learning the related number facts to 20. We will look at the connection between arrays, number patterns and counting in 2s.

Year 1: Shape, Space and Measure

The children will learn the names of 3D shapes. They will also learn to compare, describe and solve practical problems for mass or weight, using words such as heavy and light, heavier than, lighter than.

English

This half term the children will be developing their writing skills, both through phonics lessons and through our topic learning. Reception children will be working towards both reading and writing simple captions and sentences. Our Year One children will be developing their writing skills, remembering letter names, punctuation, and careful handwriting. Our focus will be Instructions, Shape Poems, Character Descriptions.

Science- Plants and The Seasons

The children will learn to identify and name a variety of common plants, and those classified as deciduous and evergreen. They will also learn to identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common plants including roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers.

As the weather improves, we will get planting and growing!



History and Geography-

Alfred the Great

Brave Kings



We will be finding out about the life of Alfred the Great. We will learn about what made King Alfred great and explore the impact on Britain today. We will compare King Alfred and King Charles the third. We will look at the four countries that make up the UK and their seas to make connections between King Alfred's boats and the seas in which they sailed.

DT- Modelling

We will learn about boats, particularly the design and construction of King Alfred the Great's boats. We will use his boats as inspiration for our own model boats, where we will be investigating which materials work best for building a strong model boat which will float.



Physical Development - PE



PE will be taught on a **Wednesday for Puffins** and **Friday for Robins**. The children will need to bring suitable PE clothes for indoor or outdoor use, such as t-shirt and shorts and fleece and joggers. Long hair should be tied back and earrings must be removed for safety.

Physical Development - Handwriting

The younger children will continue to complete activities to develop both their gross and fine motor skills e.g. writing on our tummies, bead threading, sorting objects with tweezers, dough disco. All children will be taught to form lowercase letters as discrete shapes alongside the Read Write Inc 'Get Writing' programme.

aA bB cC dD eE fF gG
hH iI jJ kK lL mM
nN oO pP qQ rR sS tT
uU vV wW xX yY zZ

Art- Drawing

We will be learning about drawing. Our focus will begin with different types of drawing pencils and then move on to a variety of resources to support drawing skills. We will observe boats and carefully learn how to draw our own. We will learn about the Artist, Bridget Riley and her artistry Skills.



PSHE

During our PSHE lessons, we will be learning about Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me. We will be exploring our Aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this. In addition, we will learn about Being and keeping safe and healthy.



RE

In RE we will learn about being human - Islam. We will explore and reflect on what the Qur'an says about being Muslim.

