

Cover Class – Spring Term 1 Class Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the start of Spring 1, we're excited to see the children settling back into routines and embracing the opportunities this half term will bring.

PE

This term, PE will take place on Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on both days. For safety reasons, all **jewellery** must be **removed** and long hair tied back **before school**.

Learning at home

This term, homework for **Year 5** will consist of a **spelling sheet** and a **short maths activity** with ten short questions that revisit key learning from across Key Stage 2. This quick retrieval practice helps to keep important skills fresh in their minds and builds their confidence in using what they've learned before.

Year 6 children will continue with their **maths**, **SPaG** and **reading homework books** and their **spelling sheets**. These books contain short tests that recap a key area of learning, and there will be one to complete in each book each week. This homework is designed to be short and focused - around ten minutes per task is plenty.

At home, please continue to **read regularly** with your child and talk together about what they have read, and to record this in **reading records**. Even if your child can read fluently, reading out loud and book talk help support comprehension.

Alongside this, please remember that your child has access to **Spelling Shed** and **Grammar shed**, **Arithmagicians** and **Times Tables Rockstars** at home. All passwords are in their reading records. These help embed learning from school in a fun way through games and challenges.

Thank you for supporting your child in completing these activities each week.

Ready, Respectful, Safe, Kind

This half term, we will be revisiting our school expectations of being **Ready, Respectful, Safe and Kind**. We will be discussing what this looks like both in the classroom and around the school, including during playtimes and transitions. I am looking forward to recognising and rewarding the children as they demonstrate these values, with plenty of house points given along the way.

Stickers become House Points

From this half term, we will be referring to stickers as **house points**. Since September, stickers have contributed towards team rewards, but this change in name will help the children to better recognise how their individual efforts contribute to their house and to something bigger. We hope this will further encourage teamwork, pride, and a shared sense of responsibility across the school.

SATs Club (Year 6)

For our Year 6 pupils, SATs Club will begin on 13th January and run through until SATs week in May. This is a great opportunity for children to revisit and practise some of the trickier topics, ask questions in a small group environment, and build their confidence as we move closer to SATs.

Welcome Mr Tattersall

We are delighted to welcome Mr Tattersall to our class as a full-time Teaching Assistant. The children already know him from swimming and after-school club, and some parents may recognise him too. We are very much looking forward to having him working with us and supporting the children throughout the school day.

Our learning

Subject	
English	Y5 and 6 will be using the book 'Can we save the tiger?' by Martin Jenkins to learn about endangered species before choosing one to write a discussion text looking at the pros and cons of saving that animal. In guided reading, we are reading 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold and we will go on to use this to write a scientific report.
Maths	Y5 and 6 will be continuing their fractions learning before moving onto understanding and calculating with decimals. We will also be focusing on fluency and number confidence with arithmetic – times tables, mental arithmetic and improving our efficiency solving calculations.
Science	In Science, we will be learning about light. We will learn how we see, how light travels and how shadows are formed. We will practice our working scientifically skills during our shadows investigation.
RE	Our big question this term is: Why do Hindus want to be good? We will explore how the Hindu belief in the cycle of life, death and rebirth and how their belief in karma influence the choices they make.
Geography	Our geography topic is 'Why do Oceans Matter?'. We will be learning about ocean currents and how they influence the weather, how the ocean helps world trade, and why our oceans need protecting.
French	In French, we are learning about verbs in French and how they change when the tense changes. We will be speaking, reading and writing in French, including writing an extended paragraph.
Computing	Year 5 and 6 are learning about blogs in Computing through their unit '2Blog'. We will learn what blogs are and why they are used. We are also learning about computer networks and how they are connected.
PSHE	Our PSHE unit is Rights and Respect. We will be considering what a right is, and what rights we have. However, we will also be learning about how this gives us responsibilities, and that it is important to respect the rights of others.
DT	We will be using our design skills and our previous learning about electricity in science to design, make and evaluate steady hand games.
PE	In PE, we are learning about invasion games through netball and we are continuing gymnastics where we will be practising and performing partner balances.

Thank you for your continued support. It really helps the children to thrive both in and out of school.

We are looking forward to another fun, busy, and positive half term together!

Warm regards,
The Cover Class Team
 Miss Joyce, Mrs Tattersall and Mr Tattersall