

Year 1 Spring Term 1 Newsletter - January 2026



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the new school term. We hope you and your family had lovely Christmas and spent lots of lovely family time with friends and loved ones. We are so excited to get started with our new half-term planned with lots of exciting learning opportunities for your child. This newsletter includes information regarding curriculum information and important reminders and dates for your diary. Our topic this half-term is **Shiver Me Timbers** and we are so thrilled to be learning all about pirates and explorers. A knowledge organiser for our history and science topics has been sent home at the end of last term. Please have a look at these with your child to familiarise them with the vocabulary that will be coming up this half term. This is a great tool to support the retention of new knowledge around our topic. We hope you find it useful. We look forward to an exciting term working with you and your child.



PE



on P.E days.

PE for both classes is on **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Please could you ensure your child has their **full PE kit**, including appropriate footwear, e.g trainers, in school, as we may go outside weather permitting. Please can you make sure your child's earring are removed

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY– More info to follow

Here are those all important dates for your diary:

Pirate Day - Friday 13th February

Pirate Day - Children will need a pirate costume for this day. They will take part in a variety of pirate themed activities .

Parent and Child Reading Afternoon– Friday 30th January 3pm

READING AT HOME

We hope you are enjoying reading at home. Every child now has a reading book and a 'Belton Lane Library' book. We just want to remind you to bring in your **reading books** and diary each day. This allows us to read their new book with them. Your '**Belton Lane Library**' book you may keep for a bit longer but we will be changing them on Wednesday.

CLOTHING

As you may have already noticed the weather has become very cold and we are having some very cold and icy days. We continue to access the outdoor area as part of our learning and as such we would advise that all children dress appropriately for the weather. This includes a warm, waterproof coat, hat and gloves. This should ensure that every child can continue to access the outdoor area whilst staying warm. Please make sure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.



SPELLINGS

Spellings will start to be sent home once a week and tested the following week on a Friday. It is very important that children practice spellings on a regular basis to improve their spelling in their everyday writing. children will receive 5 spellings a week to practice, which are linked with the their phonics learning. Thank you for all your support at home helping your child to learn their spellings.

What will we be learning this half term?



Please take a look below at what we will be learning in each subject area as part of our 'Shiver Me Timbers' topic.

English

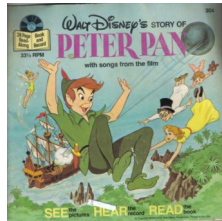
We begin this half term with an exciting hook lesson - a pixie needs our help...she's lost her Pixie Dust! We look at the clues, using our prediction skills to predict what the story will be. We then reveal the front cover, one part at a time

Our focus text this half term is Peter Pan. We begin by looking at adjectives to describe the characters. We then move onto using our VIPERs skills of retrieval and inference to answer questions about the story. After this we

look at settings and using adjectives to describe the setting of the story. Finally we finish off by writing a retell of the story of Peter Pan using story language.

Our non-fiction element is writing a persuasive letter to encourage people to visit Neverland.

Our poetry focus is learning to recite and perform a poem about



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Computing

Algorithms Unplugged:

This topic takes children away from computers to relate algorithms, decomposition and debugging to familiar contexts, such as dressing up, drawing a picture, following directions or making a sandwich while learning why their instructions need to work. They learn to 'debug' and make correct a set of instructions.

Maths

In maths your child will learn about the number system and place value. We will begin by looking at addition and subtraction using a number-line as well as how our number bonds can help us to solve other addition problems.

We will also recap 2D shapes and their properties, learning to describe and sort them in different ways. We will then move on to looking at 3D shapes and their properties and thinking about how we can sort them too.

Building upon on our work on addition we will begin to dip our toes into the world of multiplication through repeated addition. As part of our fractions work we will recap our work on half, and begin to look at how to find a quarter.

PE

Invasion games and yoga

Children will learn to complete simple team games, working together and deploying tactics. Children will focus on breathing and basic yoga moves.

Art

Painting and Mixed Media: Colour Splash

Children will continue to develop their colour mixing skills. They will be able to recite the Primary colours and explain what secondary colours are made when they are mixed. They will explore the artists Jasper Johns and Clarice Cliff.

Music

Superheroes

Pupils learn to identify changes in pitch and tempo and how to use these within music before composing their own superhero theme tune with instruments.

Science

Polar Adventures:

Children will plan an arctic adventure. They will plan the clothes they will need to wear following investigations into materials and discover the best material for making a pair of gloves. Children will learn about the Arctic and the Antarctic and the animals that live in these locations.

RE

What is God's Job?

Investigating the roles of God through stories and sacred texts, children look at the things God does and what this means to different people.

History

Explorers

Children will find out about events and people beyond living memory, children particularly think about explorers and what makes them significant. They create a timeline and investigate which parts of the world they explored, before comparing explorers and discussing ways in which these significant people could be remembered. They will learn about Christopher Columbus, Matthew Henson and Dame Ellen MacArthur.