



# Durham Class News

BE LIKE JESUS. BE YOUR BEST. BE SAFE. BE CARING.



## Welcome Back

We hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful Easter holiday with your families and we can't wait to hear about all the exciting things you've been up to. We've got lots of exciting things happening this half term and we're just itching to get on with our learning. Take a read of the newsletter to find out what we'll be getting up to.

## Religious Education 'To Know You More Clearly'

This half term, we are exploring Branch Five of our new curriculum, which is entitled 'To the Ends of the Earth'. The children will learn how Jesus' followers began to share the Good News far and wide after His Resurrection and Ascension. They will focus on retelling the stories of Pentecost Day and of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. We will discover how Saul – who once tried to stop Christians – met Jesus in a powerful way and became Paul, one of the first Christian missionaries. We will also learn about the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, recognising these at work in the lives of saints, such as St Francis and St Oscar Romero.

Through storytelling, drama, art, music and reflection, children will explore how God can change hearts and call people to share His love. We will reflect on what it means to be part of the Church today, and how we too can share peace, kindness and hope with others – to the ends of the earth.

Prayer and worship remain an integral part of each day and the children are very welcome to bring in and share any prayers or books on our class prayer table.

## English

During the first week back after the Easter holidays, the children will continue to be placed into groups for our Read, Write Inc programme following assessment at the end of the Lent term. The teaching in each group will support their early reading, spelling, writing and understanding of grammar.

In our Talk 4 Writing lessons, we will be developing our story writing skills. Our model text is 'Ma Liang and the Magic Paintbrush'. We will use this traditional tale from another culture to write our own wishing tale. In order to do this, we will practise using dramatic fronted adverbials to startle the reader, using adverbs to indicate how something happens, showing (not-telling) how a character is feeling and by using short, snappy sentences to build tension.

Following this, we will be learning how to write a non-chronological report based on our topic work. We will learn how to use headings and subheadings to organise information and we will use this unit to help build our understanding of using paragraphs.

## Mathematics

We continue to use Power Maths for the teaching of Mathematics. We will begin by continuing our learning about '**Properties of Shapes**'. We have been learning to recognise and name 2D and 3D shapes, count the sides and vertices on 2D shapes, and count the faces, edges and vertices on 3D shapes. We have also been learning about symmetry and will sort 2D and 3D shapes.

Our following unit is '**Position and Direction**'. In this topic, we will learn to describe movement and turns and make patterns with shapes. We will be developing our

mathematical vocabulary using terms such as: clockwise, anticlockwise, forwards, backwards, left, right, middle, turn, half turn, quarter turn, three quarter turn.

Our final unit this half term is '**Time**'. We will be learning to tell the time on an analogue clock to the hour, half hour, quarter hour and even to five-minute intervals. We will build on our understanding so that we can work out start and end times, calculate durations and compare amounts of time. Any extra practise you can't do at home will be hugely beneficial.

The children all have TT Rockstars logins. These can be found on the passwords page of their reading diaries. Pupils can practise their 2, 5, 10 and 3 times tables in a fun and engaging way. The more practise the children can get, the better. We're aiming for instant recall of multiplication facts. Each week, we present an award for engagement with TT Rockstars or effort in maths.

## Science

This half term, we begin a new science topic all about '**Plants**'. We will be learning about how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants. We will begin by dissecting a bean to observe all of its different parts and how they allow the seed/bean to grow. We will investigate and draw conclusions about what a plant needs to grow well and stay healthy. We will be learning about the life-cycle of a plant and learn to explain this, all the way from germination to seed dispersal. We will be learning what happens to plants if they don't get everything they need and we'll make recommendations to make them healthier. We'll also be learning how different plants are suited to different habitats. Of course, we'll also be growing some of our own plants too! You can support your child to remember more by accessing our knowledge organizer on the school website and asking:

- What do all living things, including plants, need to stay alive?
- What do plants need to grow well and stay healthy?
- What are the parts of a flowering plant?
- What's inside a seed?
- What are the eight stages of a plant's lifecycle?
- Do the words 'germinate' and 'grow' mean the same thing?
- In what different ways can 'seed dispersal' happen?

## Art and Design

In this short half term, the children will be learning about sculpture. Having already explored the figurative work of Alberto Giacometti, we will investigate the abstract work of Barbara Hepworth and environmental (land) art created by Andy Goldsworthy.

## Design and Technology

Our next topic in Design and Technology is called 'Moving Vehicles'. The children will learn all about wheel and axle mechanisms and how they can work in different ways depending on how they are attached to the chassis of a vehicle. The children will be designing, constructing and evaluating their own model fire engine. There's lots of fun ahead.

## PE

This half term our PE days will be Mondays and Fridays. On Mondays we will have dance and on Fridays we will be developing our knowledge and skills in athletics.

## Computing

Our computing work this half term links to our work this year in music. We will begin by exploring how music can make us think and feel. We will make patterns and use those patterns to make music with both percussion instruments and digital tools. We will also create different rhythms and tunes, using the movement of animals as our inspiration. Finally, we will share our creations and compare the processes of creating music digitally and non-digitally.

### Weekly Homework

We hope that you have found the homework sent out last term to be a useful exercise and we extend a huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents that have supported with this. We will continue to set weekly homework on Fridays for children to practise fundamental skills that they have already learnt in class, such as arithmetic, reading comprehension or sentence work. Homework should be returned by the following Wednesday. Children can further supplement this with regular use of Times Table Rock Stars.

### Reading at Home

Children are expected to read for at least 10 minutes every day and the more often they read the better! This includes reading to an adult. Children's reading should be recorded in their reading diary/planner. There are lots of other useful resources in here too so please take some time to have a good look through. Children will change their own books during our Phonics lesson on Wednesdays. They are encouraged to read the same book multiple times to develop fluency, expression and comprehension, just like we do in class. Our Read, Write Inc Book-Bag Books contain lots of questions and activities to support reading at home. Of course, children should also be encouraged to read more widely too, reading books they have at home or from the library with an adult or independently.

### Spellings

Spelling continues to be taught as part of our Read, Write Inc phonics lessons. The children practise spelling words with the day's focus and are encouraged to "pinch each sound on their Fred fingers" before writing the word. We are encouraging the children to make better choices as to which sounds are more likely to be seen in certain parts of words. You can support your child by practising the common exception words and red words listed in your child's reading diary/planner, and by revisiting words learnt in previous weeks!

Some children are now accessing our Read Write Inc spelling lessons. Each week, we will continue to look at a new spelling rule. We teach this rule explicitly in class and spend 15 minutes each day completing spelling

If you have any quick questions please feel free to speak to us at the end of the school day once all of the children have been dismissed. If, at that point, you feel you require a longer appointment, we can arrange a meeting via the school office (01773822278).

We are really looking forward to an exciting half term of learning together.

**Mr T Ward, Mrs D Parry and the Year Two Team**

activities. Children will decide on six words to spell and bring these home in their Log Books on a Tuesday. Children will be tested on these spellings the following Monday. Children should bring their Log Books to school every day.

### Year 2 SATs

Over the next half term, the children will sit the End of Key Stage 1 tests (or SATs). We are given the month of May to administer the tests, which we will do in small groups towards the end of the half term. The results of these tests inform our teacher assessment of the children and your child's results will be shared with you in their end of year report. The children are very familiar with the format of these tests and, from experience, enjoy showing-off everything they've learnt.

### Water Bottles

Children are asked to ensure they bring a water bottle to school each day, especially now the days are getting a little warmer. They are encouraged to drink water throughout the day to aid concentration. Water bottles should be taken home each night for washing.

### P.E. Kit

The children will have two P.E. lessons each week – taught by external coaches. Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their 'active uniform'/PE kit on Mondays and Fridays. Outdoor kit should include: plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, yellow polo shirt, yellow sweatshirt and trainers.

### Uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. This also included hair accessories, which should be either white, black, brown or yellow. Black shoes should be worn and not boots.

We have a significant number of items in the school's lost property basket. Unfortunately, we cannot return these to their rightful owners as they are not labelled with children's names. **Please ensure that every item of clothing clearly contains your child's name so that we can return anything that goes missing to them.**

### Reminders

Reminders	
<b>Monday</b>	PE (Come to school in 'active' uniform/PE kit) Bring reading books, diaries and spelling Log Books into school.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Bring reading books, diaries and spelling Log Books into school.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Bring reading books, diaries and spelling Log Books into school. Reading books will be changed. Return homework to school.
<b>Thursday</b>	Bring reading books, diaries and spelling Log Books into school.
<b>Friday</b>	PE (Come to school in 'active' uniform/PE kit) Bring reading books, diaries and spelling Log Books into school. Homework set.

<b>Dates For Your Diary</b>		
<b>22.04.25</b>	<b>Children return to school.</b>	
<b>21.05.25</b>	<b>18:00</b>	<b>SEA Movie Night</b> Children are warmly invited to the school hall for a mystery movie night. There will be a tuck shop serving refreshments. More information to follow from our amazing SEA.
<b>22.05.25</b>	<b>13:15</b>	<b>Marian Procession</b> The children are invited to bring donations of flowers into school to crown our statue of Mary in our Marian procession, to which all are invited to attend. The flowers will then be delivered to residents of Belper by Joe and our Faith in Action team.
<b>23.05.25</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>SEA Cake Sale</b> The children are invited to bring in money to buy sweet treats at our cake sale. More information to follow from our amazing SEA.
<b>26.05.25- 30.05.25</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	
<b>02.06.25</b>	<b>Children return to school.</b>	
<b>04.06.25</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Sports Day</b> The first of our provisional dates for Sports Day. The children will be competing in a circuit of events to win the cup for their house! Parents are warmly invited to spectate and cheer loudly!
<b>11.06.25</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>SEA Fathers' Day Gift Sale</b> The children are invited to bring in money to buy Fathers' Day gifts. More information to follow from our amazing SEA.
<b>26.06.25</b>	<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Year 2 Celebration of the Word</b> The children in Year 2 will be leading their final Celebration of the Word of the year for the whole school community. You are warmly welcome to join us in the school hall, and we hope to see you there.
<b>30.06.25</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>INSET Day</b> School will be closed to children today.