



Autumn 2023 Bluebells Class Newsletter



Dear Families,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year! We hope you've had an enjoyable summer and that your children are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term. Below are some reminders, useful information and an overview of our learning for autumn.

Staff

Teachers: Mrs Gaskell (Monday), Miss Maddocks (Tuesday to Friday).

Teaching Assistants across Lower Key Stage Two: Miss Goodwin, Mrs Harding, Mrs Smith, Mrs Hart, Mrs Jones and Mrs Dillon

General Information

- All equipment needed for lessons will be provided (pens, pencils, felt tips etc.) so there is no need for individual pencil cases to be brought in
- Morning tuck will be available to purchase or children can bring their own **healthy** snack, ideally fruit
- Individual reading books should be brought into school every day. Reading records should also be brought in every day and will be reviewed weekly
- Your child will need a named water bottle in school each day. Please could we ask that only water is brought into school, rather than juice

PE including swimming

On your child's PE day, they should come to school in their kit and remain in it for the whole day. Our **PE kit is red school logo PE shirt/plain red t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and pumps/trainers. Football kit should not be worn.** Our usual days for PE this term will be Monday and Wednesday.

Pupils will be swimming during the autumn term, and will have opportunities in future years to further develop their skills in the pool. Parents will be notified if their child is swimming that week and they will need to bring their swimming costume/trunks, goggles if worn and a towel in a waterproof/plastic bag. Bluebells class will not be swimming until the second half of the autumn term, and we will notify you when these lessons are due to begin.

Expected Homework

- Reading – please read at home as often as possible and complete the reading record including how many pages they have read. Your child will either have a reading scheme book or a book of their choice, if they are a free-reader
- Maths homework – a weekly/fortnightly task will be posted onto the class Homework page of the website, set on MyMaths or sent home each Wednesday. This will usually be an online task, a game or a times table activity

Optional homework

- There is also a menu of termly optional homework tasks on the class web pages. All activities are linked to our learning in class so it's a great way for your child to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subjects we're covering. Please encourage your child to complete these tasks and they can bring in their work to celebrate on a Wednesday.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Please contact the office via admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk to arrange a time for a phone call or a meeting. We're so excited to welcome our new Bluebells back to school and we can't wait to see what they'll achieve this term!

A big thank you for your support,
Helen Maddocks and Jo Gaskell



AUTUMN 2023 Bluebells Years 3 and 4



English

We have a books-based approach to the teaching of writing and we choose books that will inspire, entertain and excite our children. We ask that you don't read these books in advance as it's lovely to discover them together. It's also important that we can develop their prediction skills which is difficult if they already know the book!

Core text for autumn 1: *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin which we'll use to develop our letter-writing skills

Core text for autumn 2: *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister which we'll use to inspire a fantasy story

In Guided Reading, we'll be exploring a nonfiction text about the Windrush story, and in autumn 2, we'll read the fantasy story *The Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells.

Maths

Geometry – Shape

Place Value

Addition and Subtraction

Multiplication and Division

Religious Education – Christianity

Answering the Big Question *How do Christians use the Bible to help them with their lives?* and exploring the symbolism around the celebration of Christmas will be the focus of our learning this term. We'll learn about the Bible as a sacred text, why it is important to Christians and the meanings behind the symbolism in the Christmas story.

Science – Forces and Magnets (Autumn 1)

We'll learn about how objects move on different surfaces, different types of forces and how they act on objects, whether objects are magnetic and making predictions.

Science – Light (Autumn 2)

In this unit of work, we will be learning about how light reflects from surfaces, how we can protect our eyes from light sources such as the sun, how shadows are formed and how we can alter the size of shadows.

Geography

Our theme this term is *Our United Kingdom*. We'll focus on both the human and physical geography of the UK, naming the counties, using a range of maps including OS maps, and studying two contrasting cities in more detail.

Art and Design

Our artwork will be inspired by an autumn-themed poem, and we'll be developing our skills in sketching, telling a story through images, using colours sparingly for impact and working in a range of media such as pencils and charcoal.

Design and Technology

Structures will be our focus this term. We will explore nets and how they can make different shapes, while linking this with our work in Maths. Our final outcome will be to design and make packaging to protect biscuits from being broken!

Computing

Pupils will learn how to keep themselves safe while using the internet as well as looking at computer simulations.

How you can support at home...

- While we request that you avoid the core English texts (so we don't get any spoilers!), any reading or further research you can support your child with, which we call pre-learning, will be of huge benefit. We'd almost always favour the local library over online research, but any additional learning linked to any of our topics would be great.
- Supporting your child with their quick recall of multiplication and related division facts will make so many areas of maths easier and will stand them in good stead for the next stage of their learning. Pupils have to know all facts to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. There are links to games and activities on our class pages to support with this.
- All the activities on the optional homework menu (which you can download from our class pages) link with the learning taking place during the autumn term. We'd recommend encouraging your child to choose from the menu – the activities can be done in any order and at any point during the term – so they have opportunities to deepen their understanding and practise their skills.