

Holden Clough Primary School's Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 1 - 2026-27

Maths

This half term will commence with a unit of work on place value. We will start with a recap of Roman numerals and expand our knowledge with numerals up to 1000, which will be put into practice by writing the date in maths books in this format. Next, we will be working with numbers up to 1,000,000. The children will develop their understanding of partitioning, powers of 10 and rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000 and 100,000. We will explore visual representations of numbers using a range of formats, such as part-whole models, place value charts and bar models to name a few. We also expect children to explain methods, make connections and use reasoning to solve a range of problems. Every day will begin with our Tough Ten, during which the children will practice their arithmetic skills and understanding of whole and decimal numbers.

Welcome back to another school year - we hope you've all had a restful summer break! This half-term will be very busy and exciting with many things to look forward to.

Geography

'What is life like in the Alps?' is the theme for our geography topic. We will be using maps at different scales to locate the Alps along with identifying the human and physical features of this Alpine region, before comparing the location and lifestyle to our local area.

Computing

In computing, the children will be using the chromebooks to explore computer systems and networks.

Art

We will be looking at the work of Pablo Picasso this half term, learning about cubism and his use of geometric shapes. We will be using oil pastels and sketching. The end product will be a self-portrait in Picasso's style!



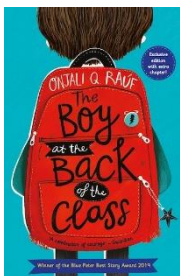
Spanish

Phonics will be the main focus in Spanish this half term. The children will learn a selection of the key sounds to facilitate accurate and authentic pronunciation as part of their language learning experience.



Guided Read

In guided reading, we will be focusing on mastering our retrieval skills whilst studying the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf.



RE

In R.E we will be considering what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today. This unit enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life. Pupils explore the five pillars of Islam and the importance of these to Muslim believers. Pupils will gain a greater understanding of Islam and what we can learn from its beliefs, values and ideas.

PE

In PE This half term the children will have swimming. Please see DOJO for the class schedules.

In 4/5HN, the children have their indoor PE slot on a Monday afternoon. In year 5, the children have their indoor PE slot on a Friday.

Both classes are practicing their balancing and transitional skills in gymnastics, and will be completing partner work in the coming weeks.

Information on the children's outdoor PE slot will be released when swimming lessons draw to a close. Children will need to attend school in their PE kits on PE days.



English

This half term in English, we have the privilege of studying two fantastic books.

The first book we will study is called 'The Man who Walked between the towers' by Mordicai Gerstein. We will use this book to write emotive and descriptive poetry using figurative language and writing a short narrative. At the end of the unit, we will decide as a class how we want to 'publish' our work. This will allow the children to share their work with the wider world.

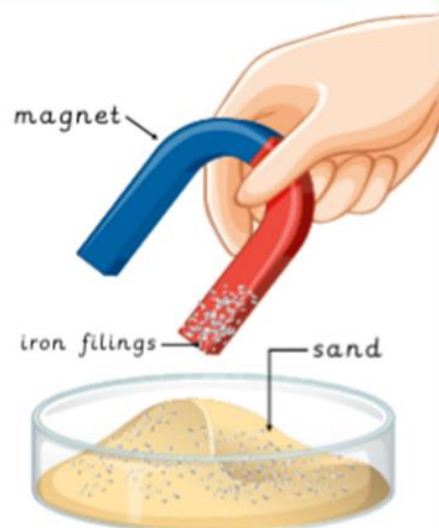
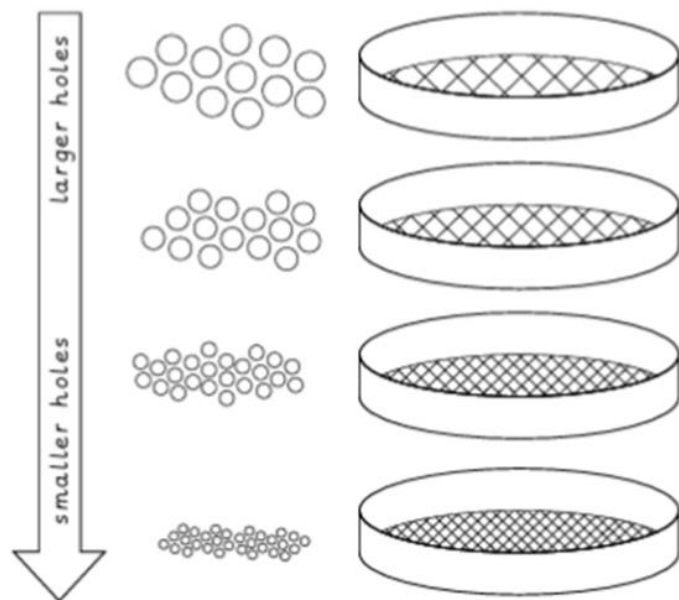
Next, we will explore the book 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterley. Here, the children will develop their skills in writing biographies, whilst learning about the achievements of significant historical black female figures, and their contributions to science and the Space Race.



Mixtures and separation

Mixtures: a mixture forms when two or more substances are mixed and remain present. The different parts of a mixture can be separated. Some examples are air, sand, gunpowder, fizzy drinks, soil and seawater.

Sieving: used to separate mixtures of solids which are different sizes, such as soil. A series of **sieves** with increasingly small holes separate out the particles from largest to smallest.

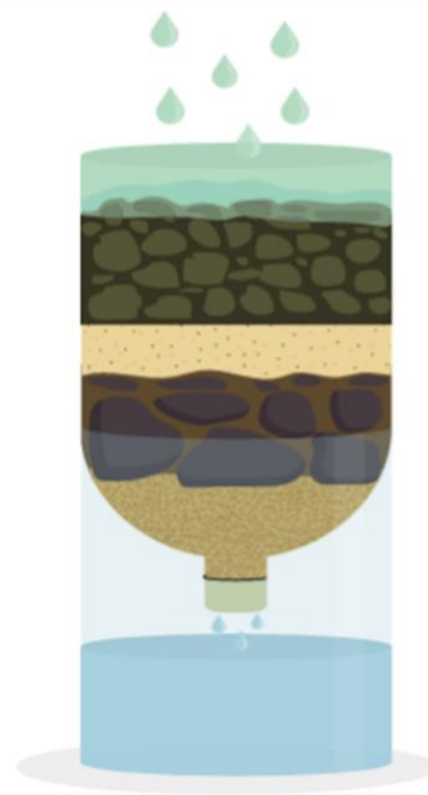


Magnets: used to separate mixtures of solids where the particles are similar sizes (so sieving is not practical) and one of the substances is **magnetic**, such as iron.



sand under a microscope

Filtering: used to separate mixtures containing a liquid and undissolved solids, such as sand and water. The mixture passes through a **filter** or **filter paper**. The gaps in the filter are small enough to let the liquid through but not the solid.

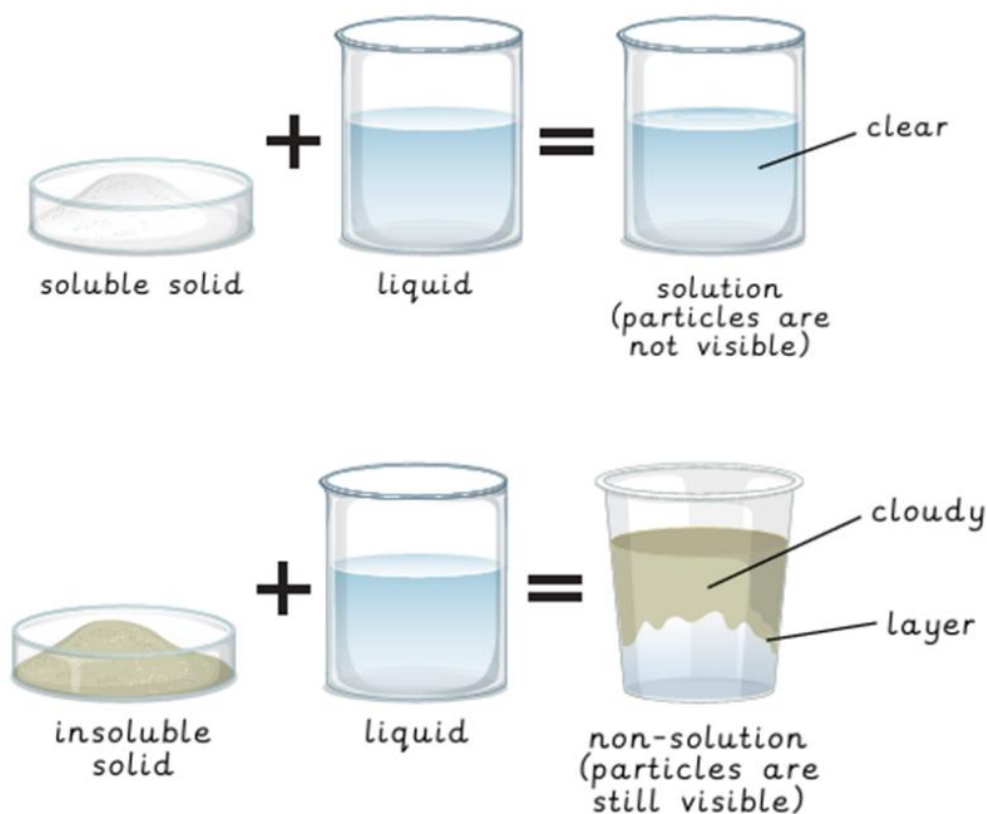


Mixtures and separation



Kapow
Primary

Solutions: some substances can **dissolve** in a liquid to make a **solution**. Dissolving is when a substance spreads evenly throughout a liquid. Some examples of substances that are **soluble** (will dissolve) in water are: salt, sugar and tea. Some examples of substances that are **insoluble** (will not dissolve) in water are: sand and flour.



Factors affecting dissolving:

- Stirring decreases the time taken to dissolve.
- Smaller pieces of the soluble solid (e.g. loose sugar granules) will dissolve faster than larger pieces (e.g. a sugar cube).
- If the liquid is warmer, the solid will dissolve faster.
- Some solids are more soluble than others. For example, sugar is more soluble in water than salt and will dissolve faster.
- If a solid will not dissolve in water, it may dissolve in another liquid, such as alcohol.



Evaporation: separates solutions. The solution is heated until the liquid evaporates. The dissolved substance will **crystallise** as the liquid **evaporates**. Salt flats form because of evaporation.

Number and Place Value

Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary	Compare and Order								
millions	equals	greater than	less than						
thousands	$26 + 38 = 8 \times 8$	$23\ 873 > 8256$	$901\ 198 < 1\ 091\ 098$						
hundreds	Both calculations have the value 64.	The number on the left has 2 ten thousands and the number on the right has 0 ten thousands.	The number on the right has 1 million and the number on the left has 0 millions.						
tens									
ones									
zero									
place value	smallest	<table><tr><td>898</td><td>6735</td><td>6835</td><td>7019</td><td>9002</td><td>11 235</td></tr></table>	898	6735	6835	7019	9002	11 235	greatest
898	6735	6835	7019	9002	11 235				
greater than									
less than									
order									
round									
rounded									
negative number									
partition									
digit									
interval									
sequence									
linear sequence									
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Negative Numbers		
		

Counting in Powers of 10													
Counting in 10s	Counting in 100s												
<table><tr><td>365</td><td>375</td><td>385</td><td>395</td><td>405</td><td>415</td></tr></table>	365	375	385	395	405	415	<table><tr><td>2841</td><td>2941</td><td>3041</td><td>3141</td><td>3241</td><td>3341</td></tr></table>	2841	2941	3041	3141	3241	3341
365	375	385	395	405	415								
2841	2941	3041	3141	3241	3341								
The tens increase until 9 tens becomes one more hundred and 0 tens.	The hundreds increase until 9 hundreds becomes one more thousand and 0 hundreds.												
Counting in 10 000s	Counting in 100 000s												
<table><tr><td>276 109</td><td>286 109</td><td>296 109</td><td>306 109</td></tr></table>	276 109	286 109	296 109	306 109	<table><tr><td>2 972 151</td><td>3 072 151</td><td>3 172 151</td><td>3 272 151</td></tr></table>	2 972 151	3 072 151	3 172 151	3 272 151				
276 109	286 109	296 109	306 109										
2 972 151	3 072 151	3 172 151	3 272 151										
The ten thousands increase until 9 ten thousands become one more hundred thousand and 0 ten thousands.	The hundred thousands increase until 9 hundred thousands becomes one more million and 0 hundred thousands.												

Number and Place Value

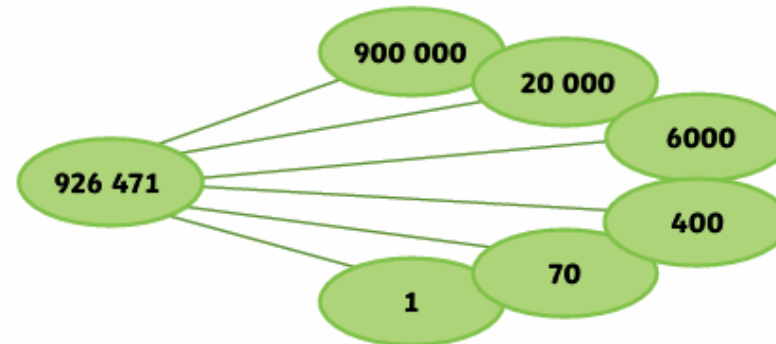
Knowledge Organiser

Numbers to One Million

926 471

Hundred Thousands	Ten Thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
9	2	6	4	7	1

nine hundred and twenty-six thousand, four hundred and seventy-one



Roman Numerals

	I = 1	II = 2	III = 3	
IV = 4	V = 5	VI = 6	VII = 7	VIII = 8
IX = 9	X = 10	XI = 11	XX = 20	XXX = 30
XL = 40	L = 50	LX = 60	LXX = 70	LXXX = 80
XC = 90	C = 100	CL = 150	CC = 200	CCC = 300
CD = 400	D = 500	DC = 600	DCC = 700	DCCC = 800
CM = 900	M = 1000	MC = 1100	MD = 1500	MM = 2000



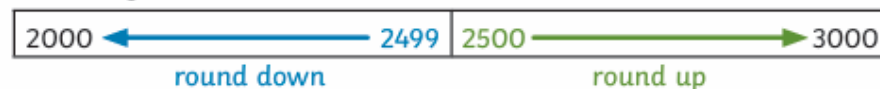
CCXLVIII = 248 DCCLXXXIV = 784 MMXIX = 2019

Rounding

Rounding to the nearest 10



Rounding to the nearest 1000



Rounding to the nearest 100 000



Islam

Key Vocabulary

Islam	Islam is the second most popular religion in the world.
Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam .
Allah	The Arabic name that Muslims use for God.
Five Pillars of Islam	The five things that Muslims are expected to do.
Prophets	Special messengers sent from Allah .
Muhammad	The last prophet and the key prophet in Islam .



Key Beliefs

Muslims believe that there is only one God called **Allah**. They believe **Allah** is the only ruler of the universe. The word '**Islam**' means submission and obedience to **Allah**.

Muhammad is so highly respected by **Muslims** that they will say "peace be upon him" after his name is spoken.

The Six Main Beliefs

1. Belief in **Allah** as the one and only God.
2. Belief in angels.
3. Belief in the holy books.
4. Belief in the **prophets** and that **Muhammad** was the final **prophet**.
5. Belief in the Day of Judgement (the day when **Allah** decides if a person goes to heaven or hell).
6. Belief in predestination (the belief that **Allah** has already planned out what will happen).

The Five Pillars of Islam

As well as the six main beliefs, there are **Five Pillars of Islam**.

Shahadah: **Muslims** say a declaration of faith.

Salah: **Muslims** pray five times a day. Before prayer, they must wash themselves and then face **Mecca** whilst praying.

Zakat: **Muslims** must donate to charities.

Sawm: **Muslims** fast for one month during a time called **Ramadan**.

Hajj: **Muslims** have to travel to **Mecca** once in their lifetime, if they can afford to.

Key Vocabulary	
Mecca	Mecca is an important place to Muslims. It is where Muhammad was born. Muslims face Mecca to pray and try to visit it sometime during their lives.
Hajj	The name Muslims give to the special pilgrimage to Mecca.
The Qur'an	The holy book of Islam.
Ramadan	A Muslim festival where Muslims fast during the daylight and only eat after the sun has set.
fast	A period of time when Muslims do not eat.
mosque	Muslim place of worship.
pilgrimage	A journey to a special place of religious meaning.

Place of Worship

The Muslim place of worship is called a mosque. Services are held in mosques every day. The most important service for Muslims is on a Friday.

Mosques often have a domed roof. There are no images of people or animals in mosques. They are decorated with patterns and words from the Qur'an.

Muslims take off their shoes before going into the mosque and wash before they pray. Muslims pray kneeling on the floor on a prayer mat. The wall of the mosque which faces Mecca is called the qibla wall. It has an empty arch to show the direction of Mecca.

Symbol of Islam

There is no official symbol of Islam, but the star and crescent symbol is the symbol most commonly associated with Islam.



The Qur'an

The Muslim holy book is called the Qur'an. Muslims believe that it is a record of the exact words that Allah said.



Eid al-Fitr

The main Muslim festivals are: Ramadan, Eid-al-Fitr, Eid-al-Adha, Dhu al-Hijja. During Ramadan, Muslims try to give up bad habits and become better Muslims by praying more.

Muslim Festivals

Mecca

Mecca is an important place to Muslims. It is where Muhammad was born and the direction that Muslims face when they pray five times a day. Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lifetime.

