

Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School

School Lane, Ampney Crucis
Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5SD

Tel. & Fax No: (01285) 851440

E-mail: admin@ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk

Head teacher: Mrs Balloch

A Voluntary Aided School

"Together we live, learn and flourish."

5.1.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new term and a new year! We hope you all had a lovely festive break and want to say another 'thank you' for the generous and thoughtful gifts we received from you all.

Our new big question for this term is, 'I wonder where people live?' and through this, we will be learning about what it is like to live in different places around the world as well as looking at different types of homes such as castles and cottages. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year and having our own Chinese New Year celebration and parade which we would like to invite you to see just before pick up on Wednesday 11th February. We hope to do our parade outside the front of school so will keep fingers crossed for a dry day! We are lucky enough to have Mel's Kitchen working with the children on Thursday 12th February to cook vegetable chow mien and spring rolls, in preparation for Chinese New Year.



*Chinese New Year Parade!
Wednesday 11th February @3pm*



We will be having a whole school Literacy Festival day on Tuesday 27th January when local authors will be coming into school to give workshops to the children. We hope this will inspire the children to develop a further love of reading and stories.

Reading and Writing

This term, we will begin to learn Level 3 sounds. You can find an overview of all of the sounds we have learnt so far and those that we will learn between now and Easter (Level 2 & 3) in the phonics section of our website. If you would like a hard copy of the sounds, please let us know. It is imperative that the children have daily practise of these in different ways – quick recognition through flash cards; building words using the flash cards; reading books daily and writing words containing these sounds. As you will see, the new sounds are predominantly digraphs (one sound made from 2 letters eg 'ai' in 'rain') and the children need lots of practise to reinforce these and to be able to apply them independently and confidently to their reading and writing. In addition, we will be focusing more on reading and writing two syllable words, short captions and sentences and finding and using finger spaces in between each word.

We really want to embed the love of stories and reading this term and would love for the children to bring their favourite stories from home for us to share with the class at story time and for them to tell us why they like it. It is important for children to be able to discuss stories, recall what has happened, identify their favourite parts and characters and say why they like them. The children will continue to bring books home

each week, please ensure you are reading the books several times as this helps to build sight vocabulary, thus becoming more fluent, and when discussing the text as they read, the children to gain a deeper understanding of it each time. Please remember to make a note in their reading record each time you hear your child read. We have noticed that several reading records are still not having regular entries which is a concern. We cannot emphasise enough the impact that regular reading at home has on a child's progress.

Maths

This term, we will learn about the composition of numbers up to 6 and calculations within each, introducing addition and subtraction. We will partition each number into two groups in different ways, combine groups to make totals and take away groups to find how many are left. The children will also be applying their skills by finding hidden numbers in simple number sentences eg. $2+__=3$.

We will introduce the mathematical language *add, addition, more, plus, total, equals, take away, subtract, subtraction, less, partition*.

PE and Forest Schools

This term PE will be on a Tuesday, where we will be doing yoga, and Forest School will be on a Friday afternoon. Please ensure children come to school wearing their PE kit and Forest School clothes on these days.

A few housekeeping things and reminders:

- Please ensure all clothing is named
- Please ensure your child brings their reading books, reading record, sound card ring and tricky word ring to school everyday
- The children need to bring in fresh cold water (not juice or squash) to school each day in a named water bottle.
- Please ensure your child brings a coat with a hood each day.
- Please can ask you to come close to the school gate at pick up to make it easy for both the children and adults to see you.
- If someone else is collecting your child at the end of the school day, please ensure you email the office (admin@ampneycrucis.glos.sch.uk) even if you have spoken to someone on the door at drop off.

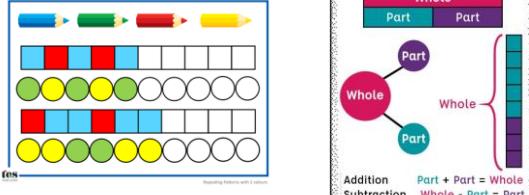
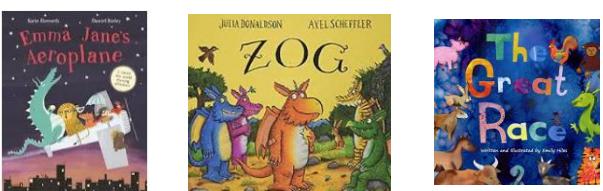
Please ask if you have any questions or queries.

Many thanks,

Maple Class Team

Maple Class Spring 1 2026

I wonder where people live?

Personal, Social, Emotional Development	Communication & Language 	Physical Development 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Courage and resilience * To see themselves as individuals * Managing own needs * Building constructive and respectful relationships 	Reading & Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Level 3 phonics * Read tricky words: <i>he, she, me, be, we, was, my, you, they, here, all, are</i> * Spell tricky words: <i>I, go, no, to, the</i> * Segmenting for spelling * Blending and segmenting 2 syllable words * Reading and writing captions * Form all lower case letters correctly 	Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Composition and calculation of 2,3,4,5,6 * Awareness of repeating patterns, continuing patterns and making own repeating pattern using 3D and 2D shapes, sounds, movements and numbers 
Understanding the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Understand the past through settings & characters (castles) * Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps. * Changing states of matter – ice Seasons – Winter * Comparing environments around the world * Forest School – signs of winter/clay faces/charcoal pictures/mud paint 	Expressive Arts and Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Texture: (<i>textiles, clay, sand, plaster, stone</i>) * Handling, manipulating and enjoying using materials * Sensory experience * Simple collages * Create props for role play * Move in time to music – Chinese New Year Parade * Focus artist – Paul Klee (city scapes) 	

Homework:

- Daily practise of sounds and words; word building using new sounds
- Daily reading of school book, discussing what has happened and why and what might happen next
- Partitioning numbers using everyday objects such as cutlery, apples, toy cars or animals
- Practise doing up coats and pulling jumpers on and off and turning them the right way round.