



## Achieving the best

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EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER of South Petherton Schools Partnership  
Mrs Shan Weston B.A. Hons, PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Families of McDermott Class,

Welcome to the Summer Term in McDermott Class. We have been delighted with the calm and settled start the children have made, demonstrating positive attitudes, enthusiasm for learning and a clear readiness for the term ahead.

This promises to be a busy and exciting half term, with a wide range of engaging learning opportunities planned, including creative projects, practical activities and opportunities to develop independence and teamwork. We are very much looking forward to building on this strong start, celebrating successes along the way and making the most of all that the Summer Term has to offer.

### Curriculum News

#### English

We have begun the term by exploring *Children of the Benin Kingdom*, which links closely with our history topic. The children have already written mini letters from the perspective of a character and taken part in collaborative tasks while exploring the opening of the text. Later this half term, the children will be learning about poet Joshua Seigal and enjoying creative poetry-writing sessions.

Children will continue to take part in regular reading sessions, developing and extending their comprehension skills through a combination of adult-led guided sessions and independent tasks. All children will continue to bring home a reading book and reading record as part of our *Free Reading Summer*. We expect children to read at home at least **five times per week**. Please check and sign your child's reading record when you hear them read. Once children achieve their reading stamps (recorded at the back of the reading record), they will continue to be invited to our half-termly Reading Café.

Spellings will continue to be taught daily using the *Unlocking Letters and Sounds Key Stage Two Spelling Programme*. We have already received many positive comments, and the children are making good progress in retaining spelling patterns.

#### Maths

This term, children will continue to strengthen their arithmetic skills through daily revision of previously taught concepts. They will also focus on shape and space, time and measures. Regular arithmetic challenges will take place, alongside ongoing work to secure times tables knowledge. Children are encouraged to use Times Table Rock Stars at home to support this learning.

#### Science

In science, the children will be learning about living things and their habitats, with a particular focus on lifecycles. They will work scientifically by carrying out careful observations and asking pertinent questions as well as suggesting similarities and differences.



## Computing

This term's computing lessons will focus on photo editing. Children will learn skills such as cropping, recolouring and erasing parts of an image. Online safety will remain a key focus, with regular discussions about how to stay safe when using devices and the internet.

## History

Our history topic this term is a historical study of the Ancient Kingdom of Benin. The children have already begun exploring how the kingdom was formed and locating important regions within Africa.

## Religious Education

*What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?*

In this unit, pupils will build on their understanding of Brahman by exploring lived experiences, including puja at home, worship in a mandir and the festival of Diwali. Pupils will also reflect on the idea of *dharm*a through a range of stories.

## PSHE

Through the Jigsaw programme, our topic *Relationships* will focus on building positive relationships, developing self-esteem and learning how to stay safe online.

## Art and Design

The children will learn about the artist Chris Ofili and create vibrant African-inspired pattern work, linking closely with our English and history learning.

## General Reminders

- **PE Days:** McDermott Class will have PE on **Monday and Thursday**.
- **Water Bottles:** Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school each day. These can be refilled at school.
- **Outdoor Wear:** Please remind your child to bring a coat to school when the weather is cold or wet or as we begin to see more sunshine, please remember to apply sun cream and bring a hat to school.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to speak with me or contact the school office if you have any questions.

Best wishes

**Mrs Chapple**

Class Teacher

