

Darling Class NEWSLETTER TERM 5 SUMMER 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We can't believe it is the Summer term already, the year seems to be flying by! We have a lot to pack into this shorter half term and there is much to look forward to.

Monday & Tuesday: Mrs Hunter

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: Mrs Breen

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Major & Mrs Harwood

Topic – The Secret Garden

This promises to be an exciting topic that allows us to combine our imaginations with the natural world.

Spring Term 1	
PSED / PSHE	This term we will be focusing on the topic of 'Being my best'. We will be thinking about the importance of healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle, including hygiene, dental hygiene and how we can help to protect ourselves against illness and viruses. We will look at our responsibilities and how we can be more independent as well as exploring our achievements, aspirations, growth mindset and resilience.
Maths	Reception: We will be consolidating and developing our knowledge of number and pattern. This will involve us counting on to add, counting to 20 forwards and backwards, doubling, halving and sharing. Year 1- We will be covering telling the time to the hour and half past, exploring money through recognising coins and notes and looking at volume, capacity and mass.
English	Listening to and engaging children in conversation, developing vocabulary and supporting children as they use talk in their play is central to the Early Years curriculum. Reception children have requested a Police Station role play area, which we have set up ready for their return and in keeping with our topic the children will help to create an outdoors 'Garden Centre'. Two books that we will be sharing to support our writing skills this term will be 'The Extraordinary Gardener' by Sam Boughton and Stanley's Stick by John Hegley. Year 1 children will work towards writing a letter which shows empathy and compassion, writing a recount in the form of a newspaper report and their own version of a story modelled on one of the books.
Science / Understanding the World	We are excited this term to be learning all about plants. We will be making observations, labelling, identifying plants and trees in our local environment and comparing these. We will of course be growing our own plants too!
Computing	Our topic this term is 'Grouping Data' which will involve us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labelling objects • Grouping objects which can be counted • Describing objects in different ways • Counting objects with the same properties • Comparing groups of objects • Answering questions about groups of objects
History / Understanding the World	Our Humanities topics will straddle both Summer terms as we learn about Grace Darling (this had been planned for earlier in the year but time did not allow for it); she is a heroic figure whose life events changed sea rescue missions forever more. The children will have the opportunity to look at newspaper reports and museum artefacts and how these are important resources for remembering lives and events in the past, before the digital age.
Physical Development / PE	Drumba - During the course of the EYFS unit we look at the basics of movement, identifying the beat, gripping, striking and playing to the music together. In year 1 we will build on these and explore new and closely related concepts such as hand to eye coordination, sequences and transitions in music and the effects of exercise. In this unit pupils will prepare to participate in group exercise, perform gross and fine motor movements whilst playing and moving in time to music. Striking and fielding skills - This unit focuses on rolling, throwing and striking a ball. These skills are closely linked to cricket, rounders and other striking and fielding games.
Art and DT / Expressive Art and Design	Children will explore how to construct a sliding mechanism, a lever and pivot mechanism, and finally a wheel mechanism, before applying their knowledge and understanding to design and make a moving minibeast picture for an author who is writing a book about minibeast!
RE / Understanding the World	This half term we will be looking at the Hindu Religion. We will be exploring what Hindus believe in. We will be looking at some special events that they celebrate during childhood; Hindu weddings; the Hindu festivals of Diwali and Raksha Bandhan; the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi and how other religions celebrate significant birthdays, including the birth of Jesus at Christmas. If you are a practising Hindu and are willing to come into Darling Class to share your experiences on any of these areas, please do get in touch.
Music	Year 1 will be having Ukulele lessons on a Wednesday afternoon. Reception children will be exploring patterns of rhythm and rhyme and will be encouraged to get creative with music and dance in their play

P.E

PE days will be **Thursday** and **Friday**. On PE days we ask that all children come to school wearing PE clothing (joggers or shorts, school t-shirt) and footwear (trainers, no lace ups) for PE to ensure that they can fully take part. Please help your child to practise taking off and putting on their socks and shoes independently.

Reading

Reception:

Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times each week and record this in your child's Reading Record Book and help your child to practice their weekly sounds and high frequency words. All Reception children will be read with once a week and all reading books will be changed once a week.

Year 1: Please continue to read with your child each day and help them to practise their spellings and recognition and spelling of high frequency words. Spelling tests will take place each Friday (unless no spelling have been given for that week). Whilst your child is learning to read, we ask that you encourage your child to re-read their phonics book until they are able to read this book fluently. Re-reading the same book for fluency supports young readers to become more confident and engaged in reading. Please briefly record when your child reads by writing your initials on their reading bookmark. Your child shall be supported to change their book once to twice a week, if they are able to read their book fluently. This will be judged by your child's class teacher or teaching assistant.

For support with correctly pronounced sounds, please watch our helpful video on the school website:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dVG6QoS_9iw&feature=youtu.be

Year 1 Phonics Screening

A reminder that all Year 1 children will sit the statutory Phonics screening assessment during the week of June 9th. Although this is in Term 6, please do keep practising with the cat book marks and QR codes at home, to best support your child.

Forest School – No Forest School this half term

Items to bring to school

Children **ONLY** need to bring in a named water bottle, named book bag with book folder inside, coat and hat. If your child requires items for toileting, these can be brought in a bag and left on their peg. Sunscreen will need to be applied to your child before they arrive at school.

Show and Tell

Children often like to bring in items from home to show to the class, which is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's confidence speaking to the class and oracy skills. To ensure that this is fair and each child gets a turn, a 'Show and Tell' box will be sent home with one child each day, for them to put something into the box to show to the class the next day.

How you can support your child & contacting us:

Your child's education is a partnership and we look forward to developing a close relationship with you.

We ask that you:

- Support your child in his/her learning through practice at home and promoting positive attitudes
- Encourage personal independence by making sure your child has the correct clothing, reading books and water bottles each day and practising taking off and put on their own socks, shoes, coats, hats and gloves
- Support the school's policies, including home learning
- Make sure your child is in school and on time
- Make sure that you have given us the updated permissions and contact information

The best way to contact us is to use the class email: admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk

For urgent messages please call the school office on 01666 837602.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries. The beginning of the day is a very busy time, so if you do have a longer message or enquiry, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment.

We look forward to a very exciting term together and wish to thank you for your support.

The Darling Class Team