

## Class 1 Newsletter Spring Term 1 2025

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas with lots of fun filled activities. I'm looking forward to getting back into the routines in Class 1 and seeing the children doing lots of learning through both play and focused activities.

We welcome our Early Learners this half term and are looking forward to seeing them on their chosen days.

Our topic this half term is 'China' with the big question - How does life in England compare with life in China? We have lots of exciting things happening this half term including a Chinese New Year Wow Day.

I will teach phonics on a Monday morning but will then be out of the classroom in the afternoon. I will be in school, but this will be my non-contact time. Miss Bradford will be leading the class and teaching them the planned lessons on the timetable. I will also be out for non-contact time on a Thursday afternoon whilst the children do PE with Josh and then music.

### **Show and Tell:**

You have all hopefully received the show and tell timetable for this half term. There is also one displayed in the window.

Children may bring in one or two items/toys from home to show to the rest of the class and talk about them. Items linked to our learning would be great but if it is something that is not, that is also fine! We want to build the children's confidence at speaking in front of the group and to develop their speaking and listening skills. The children absolutely love this time of the day. If they aren't confident to talk in front of the class, or are feeling a bit worried, we are more than happy to support them. You may want to email me something such as a photograph/PowerPoint or send it to me via Dojo.

**Reading:** Book change day will continue to be on a Tuesday but please let me know if you feel like you need a different book before then. A week is a good amount of time to have a book so that the children become really familiar with it and build their confidence in talking about it or making up their own stories. They can also predict what might happen next, sequence the events and talk about the characters and how they might be feeling. There are suggestions in the back of the books that you can also try at home.

**Book Bags:** Please make sure your child brings their book bag, reading book and reading diary daily. We will put any letters in them, so please try to check them regularly too. We do try to check them, but if you could help with this that would be fab. It is best to hand any money/slips over to an adult at the door in a morning in case they get lost or forgotten about.

### **Water Bottles/Snack:**

Please could all children bring a filled water bottle in daily. Children have a free access to this throughout the day. Children will be offered a fruit/veg snack daily (mid-morning), as well as milk if you have applied for this via Cool Milk. (Please see Mrs Beddoe if you need assistance with this.) If you would like your child to bring in a **small healthy snack**, please ensure these are in named container. Please no NUTS as we do have allergies in school.

**Outdoor Learning:**

Our Outdoor Learning session is a Friday morning. Children need to come to school on a Friday in outdoor learning clothes. This can be joggers, leggings, t-shirts, jumpers etc. Waterproofs and all in one suits are great but as long as your child has appropriate outdoor clothing on for all weathers, they will be fine! It is a good idea to bring wellies on a Friday. We are happy for them to be left at school.

If children are coming to school in their own wellies, they will also require a **pair of indoor shoes please**. As the weather will be cold this half term, children will need hats, gloves and scarves. As there are a lot of us in the class, we will try and keep these in the children's individual trays but if you could name them, that would be really appreciated.

**Naming Belongings:**

Please can you ensure that ALL belongings are clearly named. Some name labels are wearing/falling off so a check would be much appreciated.

**Dojo:** Please keep your eye on dojo for updates about weekly learning and day to day messages. You may also contact us via Dojo private message if you need to ask us anything or please do approach us when we are around.

**Drop off:** The door is open for drop off from 8:35pm and a member of staff will always be available to welcome children in. We ask to aid transition and develop independence, that parents/ carers say goodbye at the door. However, we understand if you need to come in and we will support the children to separate as quickly and happily as possible.

**Collections:** We release the children from the main office door at 3:15pm,

Please let us know directly if someone different will be collecting your child. We do operate a password system, but this is often not needed if we have seen individuals before.

Below is an overview of some of the things that the children will be doing this half term.

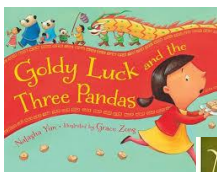
If you have any questions or queries about anything, then please do not hesitate to phone/email: [j.johnson-cooper@southwellholyltrinity.org.uk](mailto:j.johnson-cooper@southwellholyltrinity.org.uk) or message via dojo.

Miss Johnson-Cooper, Miss Bradford & Mrs Mulligan



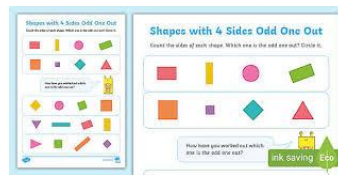
## English

During the first week, we will talk and write about our Christmas holidays and learn about new year including making new year resolutions. We will do lots of name writing practice as part of the morning activity when then children come in to school. We will continue to make sure that the children have a comfortable and appropriate pencil grip. Anything you can do at home to aid this is much appreciated. (Please see attached information about pencil grip). We will look at stories and books related to our topics such as 'The Magic Paintbrush,' 'Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas' and 'The Name Jar.' Children will write labels and captions with support. We will also create story maps and write character descriptions.



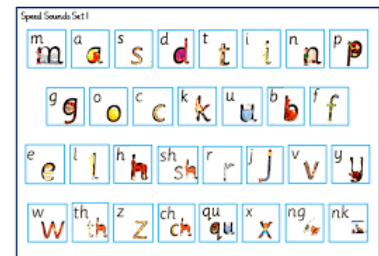
## Maths

We will continue with the White Rose units of work: Shapes with 4 sides, Alive in Five, Mass and Capacity and Growing 6, 7 and 8. We will explore the composition of the numbers, 1 more and 1 less. We will compare and explore mass and capacity in a practical way using balance scales and different sized containers in the water tray.



## Phonics

We will continue with our Read Write Inc scheme of phonics and continue to teach the last group of the Set 1 phonemes. Children will learn the sound letters make, the phrase that goes with this to aid the letter formation. Children have a writing book to practise this, but I will continue to send home the focused phoneme sheet. We will practise orally blending words. We use Fred frog who speaks in 'Fred talk'. For example: Fred saw a c-a-t. What did Fred see? We will begin to introduce common exception words which you can find in the back of the reading diaries.



## RE

This half term, we are focusing on Salvation and think about how we can help others when they need it. We will learn that Christians believe that Jesus came to show God's love. We will focus on the story of the Good Samaritan and how Jesus told the story to someone who needed to understand that anyone 'in need' was someone we should try to help.



## PE

Monday PE we will focus on dance, and I will be teaching PE this term as it will now be on a Monday morning. This will still be in church. Josh our lovely coach from ACE Sports, will do PE on a Thursday afternoon and will focus on games and multi-skills,



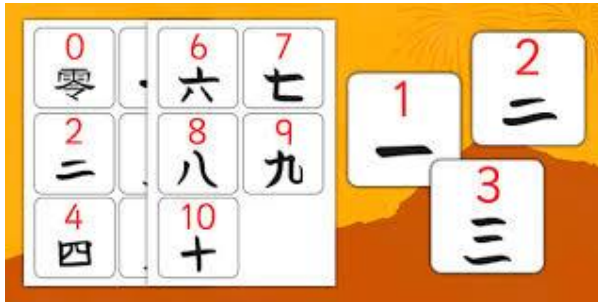
## PSED

Heart Smart - Our theme this half term is 'Too much selfie isn't healthy'. We will learn: There are special things we like to do with special people. All families are important and special but other peoples' families may look different to ours. Our other learning links really nicely with our RE this half term as we will also think about how we can show love to others when they need help. We will thank all of the people who help us at school.



### TOPIC

We will learn about China - What the flag looks like and the capital city. We will learn that in China they speak mostly Mandarin. We will learn the Chinese numbers and have a go at writing the symbols for them. We will learn about the Chinese New Year story using props and masks and try some Chinese food. We will compare life in China to life in England and learn about the Great Wall of China. We will have a competition to see who can build the strongest wall!



### Expressive Arts & Design

We will do some printing using foam boards and rollers to print a Chinese snake as it is the year of the snake. We will learn how to do Chinese dancing and make Chinese lanterns. In music, we will learn all about musical movement by doing action songs and finding the beat. We will explore tempo and pitch through dance and finish with a class performance of an action song using the things we have learnt about tempo and pitch.



### Outdoor Learning

This half term our outdoor learning will focus on maths activities. We will be exploring shape and number through nature by doing lots of collecting of natural objects, making shapes using natural objects. We will also explore weight, length and capacity using brown paper bags and filling them with light/heavy materials, long and short items and full and half full bags.

<p>Can you make a repeating hexagon pattern?</p>	<p>Try and make an octagon shaped sign using sticks.</p>	<p>Using lots of stones, design a triangle.</p>	<p>Can you find 1 feather?</p>	<p>Can you collect 2 sticks?</p>	<p>Find 3 leaves.</p>
<p>Create a square or rectangular picture frame using sticks and string or pipe cleaners.</p>	<p>Design a pentagon shaped house for your family to live in.</p>	<p>Can you make a happy circle or oval face from natural materials?</p>	<p>Can you collect 4 stones?</p>	<p>Can you find 5 sticks?</p>	<p>Find 6 small leaves.</p>

Please see the Spring Term dates letter for things happening this term. I will send out any extra details about any events as and when necessary, so watch out for any dojo posts or emails.