



## Reception Newsletter – Term 4 – Journeys – Are we nearly there yet?



We hope that you have managed to enjoy a break over the half term and that the children are ready for another exciting term. Although there have been some signs of Spring, with the weather showing signs of becoming warmer, please do continue to work with your child to do the zips up on their coats. We also have a growing supply of hats, gloves and scarves that we would love to reunite with their owners. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you think you might be missing something and don't forget to label individual socks and gloves.

Following our email before the holidays, we wanted to remind you about our topic for this term, which is "Journeys – Are we nearly there yet?". We have already enjoyed listening to stories about you and your child's adventures. Don't forget to save any tickets as we can use these in our role play area or put them on display. If you visit any places of interest, such as National Trust or English Heritage properties, we would love a copy of the facility map. Access to local area maps, bus and train timetables and tube maps, would all be a fantastic resource for us to talk about and use too. If you are happy to share any photographs, these can be emailed to [office@bridge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@bridge.kent.sch.uk), and they will be forwarded through to us to show on the large screen in class.

We are really pleased to see how excited all of your children are to come into school in the morning, however please can we ask once again, that your child does not play with any of the equipment under the canopy, or in our outdoor area and please stand well back from the classroom doors in the morning until they are opened.

We would like to raise the profile of reading next term and will be presenting each child who reads 20 times to you, over the course of the term with a certificate. This equates to four times per week. We will start counting the comments you make in the Reading Records from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and will finish counting on the final day of term, which is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Reading is such a vital skill for the children to learn now, and to develop as they progress throughout their school life and on into their adult lives. We really are grateful for any support that you can offer at home. Thank you in advance.

We would also like to begin recording how many times the children practice their mental maths skills. There will be a sheet inside your child's reading record that can be coloured each time they complete 5 minutes of quick maths at home. To begin with, where possible, we encourage you to take a look at 1-minute maths.

1-minute maths is available on any device via the website -   <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths> or by downloading the app. (Search for 1-minute maths). This app is free and helps the children build their number confidence and fluency through engaging one-minute tasks. The sections we would recommend are all of subitising, addition – section 1, 2, 3 and 11, subtraction – section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11, multiplication – section 6 and section 7, division – section 16. You will find that some areas are trickier than others, however the hint button usually makes this become clearer. All that we ask is that you do not try to move on to any of the more challenging things too soon. Pitch it lower than you might expect your child to achieve. Let them be really good at it before trying the next stage.

### **Key Information:-**

- Forest School for Mr. Redpath's Class (Elm Class) – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- Forest School for Mrs Ellison-Jones' Class (Ash Class) – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please note the change of day here.**
- Junk modelling – please send in any 'small' cardboard boxes, plastic bottles including lids, and other dry packaging materials, so that we can make vehicles as part of our topic this term. We are also collecting plastic milk bottle lids which we will use for Literacy or Maths activities in the environment.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- To learn about making healthy choices and having a healthy balanced diet.
- To understand why it is important to be physically active.
- To learn about keeping ourselves and others safe.
- To know how to be a good friend.
- To work on keeping calm and dealing with difficult situations.

### Communication and Language

- To express ideas and feelings about their experiences (journeys, travel, holidays etc.)
- To ask and answer questions using where, when, why.
- To talk about some events in the past that have been important for today, (Wright Brothers – flight).
- To explain and describe some changes that occur, (e.g. plants, seasons).

### Physical Development – Play

- To explore how the body moves through dance.
- To find different ways to move around by playing games.
- To develop a variety of ways to move.
- To understand personal strengths and weaknesses through play.
- To be artistic and imaginative through basic gymnastics.
- To understand the importance of exercise.

### Understanding the World

- History – to understand similarities and differences between now and in the past – related to vehicles, transport, holidays.
- Geography – to talk about the lives of people around them and their roles in society, such as the emergency services.
- Science – to explore forces, e.g. push and pull, plus investigate floating and sinking linked to boats.



# Journeys

## Term 4 – Spring 2026

### Expressive Art and Design

- Using our knowledge of joining materials to design, plan, construct and evaluate junk modelled vehicles.
- To learn about printing and patterns, incorporating textiles by printing on materials.

### R.E.

- Salvation – How does celebrating Easter help Christians feel part of a family around the world? We will also revisit some of last term's new testament stories and the things that are important to Christians.

### Literacy

- Two of our focus texts this term will be the *Naughty Bus* by Jan and Jerry Oke and *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin. We will explore, recreate and extend the adventures within each story and discuss different methods of transport from the everyday to the make believe. The children will share their experiences and ideas of each through speaking and listening times as well as reviewing their creative tasks. They will use what they have learnt in phonics to write labels for their models and pictures and will write simple captions. They will work to build their words into sentences and begin to understand what is needed for a sentence, writing simple sentences about their vehicles and the journeys that they went on.

### Phonics

- We will refresh our knowledge of the phonemes, ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur oo ow oi ear er air, and use this to read words with double letters, words with two or more digraphs and other longer words, also ending in "ing".
- We will also read words with s in the middle, that acts as a /z/ and words ending in -es /z/.

### Key Dates

- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – 2.15pm – Walk-In Wednesday** – an opportunity for you to do some writing with your child and to see what writing looks like in action in the Reception Class. Please meet at the main playground gate at 2.15pm.

### Maths

- In Maths, we will be continuing to focus on the composition of numbers to 10, by partitioning them into two "parts", which when combined make a "whole."
- We will also focus on 3D shapes and sorting objects based on colour, size and function, later developing our own criteria for sorting.
- We will also consider different and creative ways for recording our work, such as when calculating or when recording measurements.