





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.

Our topic for this term is "Journeys – Are we nearly there yet?", and 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, 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 that your children do 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. Alongside recording how many times you and your child read at home, we are now going to begin recording how many times the children practice their mental maths skills. There will be another 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. A recording chart will be stuck into your child's reading record over the course of the next week and we will count the number of days each Thursday and celebrate the class that completes the most practice each week during Celebration Worship on Friday mornings.

Key Information:-

- Forest School for Mr. Redpath's Class (Elm Class) – Wednesday 5th March, Thursday 20th March, Thursday 3rd April.
- Forest School for Miss Ellison's Class (Ash Class) – Thursday 27th February, Thursday 13th March, Thursday 27th March.
- Junk modelling – please send in any cardboard boxes, plastic bottles including lids, and other dry packaging materials, so that we can make vehicles as part of our topic this term. There is a very good chance that you'll get these and more back, probably covered in lots of tape and glue. Sorry in advance!
- Lent Prayer stations – On Tuesday 11th March, Elm Class will visit the church and on Wednesday 12th March, Ash Class will visit the church. Each class will leave school at 10am on their respective day, returning at approximately 11.10am. We will need at least 6 parent helpers per class to support us on the walk to and from the church and in the church itself. Please let your child's class teacher know if you can help as soon as possible.

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 2025

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 – To understand why Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?
- 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

- Maths Workshop – Wednesday 12th March at 2.00pm in the school hall, followed by a session where you can complete some practical Maths with your child in class. Please refer to the separate email on this sent earlier in the week.

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.