



Calke Class Newsletter

Spring Term 1 – January 2026

Working together to

inspire nurture empower



Welcome Back & Updates

Happy New Year and welcome back, Calke Class!

We're excited to begin a brand-new term together, and this half term our learning will take us on an inspiring journey as we explore the theme of 'Travel' across all areas of the curriculum. Whether we're discovering different types of transport or imagining journeys around the world, we'll be making the most of every day with fun, hands-on learning experiences.

Check out Evidence for Learning for photos of the fantastic work your children will be completing this half term, and keep an eye on our social media pages, too!

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please don't hesitate to contact me on:
Bethany.hill@ivy.set.org (Class Teacher)

Key Concepts and Skills

As we move through the term, we'll be creating imaginative travel-themed projects, building our geographical knowledge, and developing our understanding of how travel connects people and places. From map work to role-play adventures, it's going to be a half term full of curiosity, creativity and exploration!

In **Communication and Literacy**, we'll explore different modes of transport - cars, boats, planes and trains - using TOBIs, symbols, switches, Makaton and voices to support pupils in expressing their ideas and choices.

In **Physical and Cognition sessions**, pupils will explore how their bodies can travel in different ways and experience what various types of travel might feel like, including using the DriveDeck and activating switches for sensory travel equipment.

Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have a snack, please send it in with them or use Arbour to pay for it. We have a range of snack options, including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.

This half term our hydro day is a **Tuesday and Wednesday morning** but please send in your child's kit at the beginning of the week as we may take them in whenever there is a space. Please include a costume/trunks, 2 towels and some body wash/shampoo.



Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day and ensure you send appropriate warm clothing now it's getting much colder.

Thank you

Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

Cognition/Communication

At home, you could explore simple cause-and-effect travel toys, such as push-along cars, pull-back vehicles or toy trains, encouraging your child to notice what happens when they activate them.

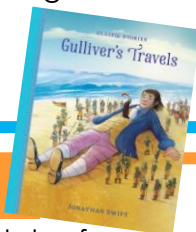
Or why not create a small world travel scene using household items (e.g., towels for water, cushions for mountains) and let your child experiment with moving different vehicles across the surface.



Communication

Look at pictures of different types of transport and encourage your child to choose their favourite using pointing, switches, symbols or Makaton. If you would like the symbols we use in school, please get in touch.

While out and about, comment on vehicles you hear or see together, modelling simple words like "car," "bus," "fast," or "go!"



Reading

Share books about travel using lots of expression and sound effects; pause to let your child join in with simple actions like "zoom," "beep," or "choo-choo!"

- 'Gulliver's Travels'
- 'The Big Book of Things that Go!'
- 'The Train Ride'

Look at the pictures together and encourage your child to explore the pages freely, turning them, pointing to vehicles or reacting to sensory elements.

PSED



In PSHE, we will be learning about 'Healthy relationships'.

Use turn-taking games with toy vehicles to help your child practice waiting, sharing and playing kindly with others.

Look at pictures of people travelling together and talk about how we keep each other safe, such as holding hands, staying close and listening to adults.

Travel Themed Baking



Make simple "travel-themed" snacks together, such as boat-shaped fruit slices or car-shaped biscuits, encouraging your child to help with stirring or sprinkling.

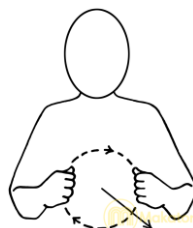
Talk through the steps as you bake, giving your child opportunities to anticipate what comes next and participate in safe, supervised actions.

Makaton Signs

Travel or journey



Two fingers journey forwards (or appropriate direction across stage)



To drive



Relationship

Locked hands move forward and back repeatedly. This is a directional sign

