



Shaw
Education
Trust

Diamonds Class Newsletter

January Spring 1 2026

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Welcome back, Diamonds! 💎

I hope you all had a lovely break, enjoyed Christmas and had a happy New Year! As we begin the new term, we're looking forward to a busy and exciting half term ahead, with lots of fun activities and engaging learning experiences planned. There's so much to look forward to, and we can't wait to share it all with you.

Please remember to keep up to date with your child's learning via the EFL app. If you experience any issues accessing it, please let us know and we'll be happy to help. If anything has changed over the break, please ensure the school is informed by contacting the office, or you can contact me directly at jordan.thompson@ivy.set.org. I'm always happy to answer any questions or queries.

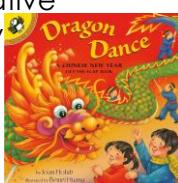
We're excited to get the term underway and look forward to all the fantastic moments ahead!



Key Concepts and Skills



This half term in **Diamonds Class**, topic is **China**. We will be exploring the wonders of the country and learning about its culture through a range of engaging and sensory based activities and stories. Our students will have many opportunities to express their preferences using their communication skills while exploring different materials and taking part in creative activities. We will be creating our own stories inspired by *The Dragon Dance*, which we will use to further enhance and support our learning.



We will also be exploring a variety of music, giving students opportunities to listen to and experience sounds from different cultures.

In **PSHE**, we are learning about healthy lifestyles and healthy eating, with opportunities throughout the term to develop our understanding in a practical and meaningful way.

Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have snack, please use Arbor to pay for it. We have a range of snack options, including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.



This half term our hydro day is **Thursday** 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, thank you.



As the weather changes and gets colder, students are welcome to bring hats, scarves and gloves if they are able, to keep warm, as well as waterproofs for rainy days. This will allow us to continue accessing the outdoors regardless of the weather.

Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

Cognition



To support learning at home, why not explore different textures linked to **Chinese culture**, such as fabrics, paper or food packaging. Try feeling and comparing different fabrics like silk or cotton which are commonly used in traditional Chinese clothing. You could also explore textured paper used in Chinese lanterns or origami.

You could also try making a simple **weighing game** using dumplings (or pretend dumplings). Explore **heavy and light** by comparing different sizes or fillings.



Communication



Why not try **listening to different Chinese music** at home, or **trying a variety of Chinese foods**, and observe how your child expresses their preferences. Do they enjoy certain music? Do they like the smell or taste of soy sauce? If you would like any resources to support communication during these activities, please don't hesitate to **contact us**. You could also try **tracing Chinese writing** to promote early handwriting skills and explore new shapes and patterns.



Library

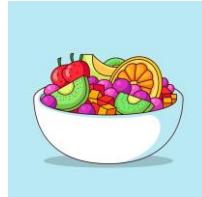
On Wednesday afternoons, we will be visiting our **Train Library** to enjoy some special reading time and explore all the wonderful books it has to offer. Each week, your child will **choose a book to bring home** to share with you. We hope you enjoy reading it together and talking about their exciting choice! Please **return the book the following week**, so your child can select a new one and continue their reading adventure.

Happy reading!

PSHE



In **PSHE**, we are exploring **healthy eating and lifestyles**. Try **making a fruit salad** or another healthy meal at home with your child! You could also take part in **fun outdoor activities**, such as going for a walk, to promote physical activity and well-being.



Physical Development



To keep our **physical development** going, why not **create your own Chinese parade** at home? You can make simple props like paper dragons, lanterns, or fans, and explore different types of movement marching, dancing, and even moving like a Chinese dragon! Encourage your child to copy different dance steps or make up their own, which helps develop coordination, balance, and creativity.



Key Signs



Like



Dislike



Finished

Feelings

