



Emeralds Class Newsletter



Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Spring 1 January – 2026

Welcome Back & Updates

Welcome Back & Happy New Year, Emeralds Families!

We hope you had a restful and joyful Christmas break! Emeralds are gearing up for an **exciting half term** filled with fun and engaging activities as we explore the fascinating topic of **China**. Please remember to let the school office know if there are any **new updates** about your child so we can keep our records up to date. We're also continuing our lovely tradition of celebrating our '**Star of the Week**' every Friday. Keep an eye on your child's diary for their special certificate — each one even has its own **unique scent**!

If you have **any questions** or need to get in touch, please email myself Rachel.Whittaker@ivy.set.org **Rachel Whittaker – Class Teacher**



Key Concepts and Skills

This half term, our adventurous travellers are setting off on an **exciting** journey around **China**! We will explore China's rich and colourful **history** while engaging all our senses to discover a variety of delicious **culinary delights**. We'll even have a go at making our own fortune cookies — who knows, they might contain a special message just for you! Our curious explorers will continue to develop their **communication** skills by expressing their likes and dislikes and **making choices** during a fun Chinese-themed dance massage session. We'll also be moving our bodies in a joyful dragon dance and creating beautiful artwork inspired by Chinese culture. To make our learning even more special, a **visitor** from the Chinese community will join us to share traditions and stories in celebration of Chinese New Year. Our **PSHE** focus this term is on '**Healthy Lifestyles and Healthy Eating**', and we're sure there will be plenty of fun and learning along the way!



Reminders / additional information



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

This half term our hydro day is **Tuesday** 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.



Our **library** day is **Wednesday**, please ensure your child has their book bags and that you have written in the reading diary.



Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

Cognition and Maths



This half term in Emeralds, we have been using our physical skills to explore a range of **sensory experiences** inspired by China. You can continue this learning at home by helping your child to fill and empty containers with rice, or by encouraging them to **move their hands or feet** through the rice to explore the different textures and sounds.



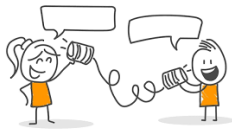
PHSE



In our weekly PHSE lessons, we have been learning all about **healthy lifestyles** and making healthy choices. You could explore this at home by creating a small basket of **healthy foods** such as fruits and vegetables for your child to explore using their senses. Encourage them to **look** at the colours, **feel** the textures, and **smell** the different scents. They could also have a small **taste** if appropriate. This is a lovely sensory way to learn about healthy eating and looking after our bodies.



Communication



In Emeralds, we love to **communicate** and make the most of every opportunity to express our choices. You can support your child's **communication skills at home** by offering simple choices throughout the day – for example, asking which jumper they would like to wear or which story they would like to share from a choice of two. Encouraging regular opportunities like these helps your child develop **confidence and independence** in expressing their preferences.



Physical Development



One of our favourite activities in Emeralds is creating beautiful pieces of artwork using both our **fine and gross motor skills**. We love using our hands and fingers to explore a variety of colourful art materials. You might like to continue this at home by helping your child create their very own Chinese cherry blossom tree using **finger painting** – a fun and sensory way to celebrate our theme!



Reading



This half term, we're excited to explore a wonderful selection of books that spark imagination, bring smiles, and inspire curiosity. Storytime is a special part of our day, where magical adventures unfold and creativity takes flight! Some of the stories we will be enjoying this term include:

- The Dragon Dance by Roderick Hunt
- The Great Race by Emily Hiles



Makaton signs



Repeat downwards movement + Tap twice



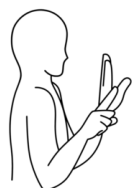
Healthy Eating



Chinese



New



Year