

## Spring Term in Pine Class

'Learn Together, Work Together, Grow Together'



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a huge welcome back to you all. We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that 2026 has got off to a good start for you.

Please ensure all children have a named warm coat, hat and gloves at school this term, as the playground can be very chilly this time of year, if you have bought new items please show your children what they are looking for so they can recognise their own items.

We will also be using the woods on a regular weekly basis so a pair of wellies and waterproofs is necessary to have at school.

We will be moving our weekly reading morning to **THURSDAYS** this term, so please come in and share a book with your child at the start of the morning from 8.30-8.50am.

We will be holding another **reading cafe on 24th February** this is an opportunity for all families to come in and listen to a story and carry out some craft related to the book, all parents and younger siblings are welcome to attend, following parent feedback we will hold this first thing in the morning so you can stay with your child at drop off and we will aim to finish by 9.30-9.45am.

We would also like to invite you to a **winter bedtime story session on 30th January** - all of the children can come back to school from 4.30-5.15pm in their pyjamas to listen to some winter stories and enjoy a drink in Pine class with Mrs Osborne and Mrs Botting.

For our Year 1 children our topic this half term in History will be Flight and in Art we will be investigating printing and designing our own print blocks. Our focus in Science will be Animals and Plants. We will continue Curious Quests for English with our writing and introduce some 'Faithful friends' to assist us on our journey, please ask the children more about this! We will be focusing on a different text each week and exploring different texts.

After half term we will swap to Geography looking at other places in the world specifically Nairobi and comparing it to places we have visited in the UK, and DT we will be investigating how to strengthen paper.

In Maths our topics will be addition and subtraction within 20, numbers to 50, introducing length and height and introducing mass and capacity.

Our Reception children will be continuing with Drawing Club, a focused text each week which will inspire us to draw and start writing codes to support our drawing. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year, Lent (including pancakes for Shrove Tuesday), World Book Day, Easter and Internet safety day. We will be observing the seasonal changes in our environment and exploring different habitats and environments through texts such

as Handa's Surprise and One Day on our blue planet: Antarctica & Savannah, learning about the animals in our surrounding area as well as those in other countries. In Maths we will be focusing on composition of numbers 1-5, number bonds to 5, odds, evens, halving and doubling, pattern and measures.

All of Pine class will be identifying and naming birds and we will be taking part in the Big School Bird Watch 2026 and then working towards the RSPB Wild Challenge!

### **Reading**

**Please aim to read/practise speed sounds everyday - daily ten minutes can make all the difference.**

Reception - we will continue working on our speed sounds so that we can fluently read these at speed. We will start to introduce 'special friends' these are two letters that make one sound e.g. ch, th, sh and we will start to send home blending books. The children will need to 'fred talk' say the sounds and then read the word. We then ask them to do 'fred in your head' sound it out in your mind and then read the word.

Year 1 - please keep reading at home as this really supports the children. I have found some 'off-scheme' books to send home to supplement reading, so please record daily when you have heard your child read. Thanks for your support with this.

**Requests** - We would be grateful for any contributions of breadsticks to help supplement our fruit snacktime. We are also grateful for junk modelling as the children are loving creating and we will be exploring ways of joining and strengthening our models. Please do remember to name everything as we have a lot of mixed up unnamed hats and gloves at the end of each week.

**Value for Life** – As a Church of England school we follow the values for life, and this term it is Wisdom. Please do take every opportunity to chat to your child about this as we will be reflecting on justice and equality as part of Collective Worship and as part of daily school life.

All the children have been set up a **numbots** account which you can access at home with the attached letter, any questions do please come and ask.

Please could we have any Reception learning journey books that have not yet been returned.

Our priority is always the children and we know that those parents who become partners in learning truly improve the outcomes for their children. When parents are involved, children achieve more, they are happier, they develop greater self esteem and demonstrate good behaviour so please do get involved. It is a very special time in their lives and it whizzes by in a flash!

Kind regards,

Pine class team - Mrs Botting, Mrs Osborne, Mrs Goodfellow & Ms Burton