



# Spring 2026 Class Newsletter Japan

Class Teacher: Miss Callender

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas holiday. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

## Themes for the term:

Spring 1 - Explorers and Adventurers: *Curriculum strands: Diversity, Exploration and Innovation, Geology*

We will be discovering lots about habitats and environments, famous explorers and how the Earth has developed over time.

Spring 2 - Exploring Africa: *Curriculum strands: Beliefs, Diversity, Society and Culture*

We will learn about Africa past and present and the development of the slave trade. This topic also explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora.

## Important dates:

- Explorer Day - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Please come dressed as an explorer of your choice!
- Year 6 SATs Information Meeting for Parents - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 3:30pm
- Japan class assembly - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February
- Half term - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Class Photos - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March
- World Book Day - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- School reports go home - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Democracy Workshops with Andrew Griffith MP - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Parents Evenings - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 3:30-6:00pm
- Easter Eucharist, Easter Eggstravaganza Activity Day and end of term for children - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- INSET DAY - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

## English:

The units to be covered this term are:

- Narratives
- Discussion Texts
- Persuasive Writing

## Maths:

This term, we will be covering the following units:

- Fractions
- Decimals and Percentages
- Measure: Conversion, Area, Perimeter and Volume
- Ratio

We will continue to timetable mental maths, arithmetic and problem solving activities regularly.

## Science:

We will continue with our learning on 'Light' followed by 'Living Things and their Habitats.'

**Relationship and Health Education:** This term, we will be learning about 'Identity, Society and Equality' and 'Healthy Minds' (Mental health and wellbeing focus).

**Computing:** This term we will be looking at E-Safety and Spreadsheets.

**Geography:** During the first half of term, we will explore how to interpret maps to learn about physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and rivers. In addition, our coverage of human geography will include: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links.

**History:** Our focus for the second half of term will be a non-European study about the history of Africa.

**RE:** During the first half of term, we will be exploring Hinduism. Our learning will be centred around the question: 'What spiritual paths to moksha are written about in the Hindu scriptures?' This will be followed by learning about Gospel, considering the question 'What would Jesus do?' in the second half of term.

**Art and DT:** In Art, we will begin with creating portraits of Ernest Shackleton and will then paint landscapes and learn about perspective.

**Spanish:** The children will be learning to talk about where they live: different locations, types of building, a range of rooms, and using positive and negative versions of some key verbs.

**PE:** This term, Mrs Burbidge will be teaching Volleyball and Tennis. Please could the children come to school wearing their full PE kit on Thursdays. All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. PE kits should consist of a t-shirt, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoor sessions. Please ensure that tracksuits are navy blue non-branded items of clothing. Gymnastics will be taught on Tuesday afternoons. The children will need to bring their PE kits into school with them to change into for these sessions.

#### **Homework:**

- **Revision for KS2 SATs:** As we approach SATs in May, we will provide the children with revision activities to complete at home. More information about the structure and expectations for this will be shared at the Parents Information Meeting.
- **Reading logs:** Please ensure your child reads to you or independently weekly and this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading and is a key dialogue between home and school. My expectation is a minimum of three entries per week. **Reading logs will be checked daily.** Please ensure that they are brought into school so that home reading can be rewarded and school based reading activities can be recorded. With reading at the heart of our school, we expect the children to record their own comments and personal reflections on their reading material in their log books.
- **Accelerated Reader/MyOn:** We will complete the Star Reading Test each half term. This will provide us with a reading age for each child and will indicate an appropriate colour band of books at the correct level. All fiction books borrowed from the school library contain a bar code and this should be used to access a quiz once the book has been completed. Accelerated Reader quizzes can be taken at home or at school.
- **Weekly spellings:** These will be set each Monday and tested on the following Monday. We will continue to share word lists on Google Classroom at the start of each week.
- **Homework:** Half termly homework grids will be shared on Google Classroom. Please ensure that your child gets into the routine of submitting one piece of homework from the grid each week.
- **TT Rockstars:**  
We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. If the children can confidently recall their tables, this has a significant impact on their fluency, speed of recall and accuracy when using written methods for multiplication and division. Please do encourage your child to practice their times tables at home regularly – daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements.

#### **Important Information:**

Please note that we are a nut free school. We politely request that you ensure your children do not bring nuts into school as a snack or in their packed lunches. This includes any food item that may contain nuts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Miss Callender

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