



# Autumn 2026 Class Newsletter South Africa

Class Teacher: Miss Turner

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer holiday and you are looking forward to the new term. It has been lovely to welcome the children into South Africa Class this week. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

## Themes for the term - 'The World at War' and 'Frozen Kingdom.'

During the first half of term, we will be learning about World War 2. It has been fantastic to see the children's engagement for this theme and superb holiday homework. After half term, we will investigate characteristics and features of Polar Regions, and explore the environmental factors that shape and influence them.

### English:

| Week beginning    | Theme                                                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07.09.26-14.09.26 | Letters from the Lighthouse: Text familiarisation, prediction and inference |
| 21.09.26-28.09.26 | Diary Entries - World War 2                                                 |
| 05.10.26          | Evacuee Letters                                                             |
| 12.10.26-19.10.26 | Poetry - The Blitz                                                          |
| 26.10.26          | Half Term                                                                   |
| 02.11.26-16.11.26 | Non-Chronological Report - Polar Animals                                    |
| 23.11.26-07.12.26 | Discussion Texts: Balanced Arguments                                        |
| 14.12.26          | Instructions: Christmas Themed Writing                                      |

### Maths:

| Week beginning    | Theme                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 07.09.26-14.09.26 | Number and Place Value                  |
| 21.09.26-28.09.26 | Operations: Addition and Subtraction    |
| 05.10.26-19.10.26 | Operations: Multiplication and Division |
| 26.10.26          | Half Term                               |
| 02.11.26-14.12.26 | Fractions, Decimals and Percentages     |

Mental Maths, Arithmetic and problem-solving activities will all be timetabled regularly.

**Science:** We will study two main themes this term: The Circulatory System and Light. We will be learning about the parts of the circulatory system and their functions, followed by exploring the impact of exercise on the human body and the composition and functions of blood. During the second half of term, there will be regular opportunities for practical work to explore concepts including reflection, refraction and the colour spectrum.

### Relationship and Health Education:

Relationships and Health Education is now statutory. For our Autumn term units, the Year 5 and Year 6 children will be taught separately. Year 5 will cover 'Growing Up and Changing' which introduces the physical changes that occur during puberty, personal hygiene, emotions and changes in behaviour. Year 6 will cover Sex and Relationship Education: 'Healthy Relationships & How a Baby is Made.'

Please note: An information meeting for Year 6 parents has been arranged for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 4:00pm to introduce what will be covered in this unit before the teaching and learning begins.

**Computing:** This term the children will develop their skills in the areas of E-Safety and Coding.

**History:** We will begin with exploring a timeline of the events that led up to the start of World War 2. The children will use primary and secondary sources to develop their knowledge of D-Day. We will also explore war propaganda, the role of women in WW2 and how warfare has changed over time.

**RE:** The children will develop their understanding of key concepts in Christianity through 'The Big Story of the Bible.' Our first unit is Creation and Science: Conflicting or complementary? This will be followed by Incarnation, where we will consider the question 'Was Jesus the Messiah?'

**Art:** The children will produce a variety of war themed art work using a range of media, including pencil, watercolour and acrylic. We will explore the work of Vincent van Gogh and produce artwork based on poppies for Remembrance Day. In the second half of term, we will create animal artwork inspired by the Inuit people based on 'The Enchanted Owl' by Kenojuak Ashevak.

**Music:** We will learn to sing popular wartime songs such as 'We'll Meet Again,' 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' and 'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag.'

**D&T:** The children will find out about rationing and look at recipes for different types of food from the World War 2 era. They will develop their understanding of seasonality and design and make a 'Woolton pie.' We will also be constructing shirt bags using repurposed clothing.

**Spanish:** The children will be learning to name and describe the planets in our solar system using a range of adjectives and prepositional phrases, saying what is in our town and writing a Christmas poem. This will be taught by Miss Bell.

**Swimming:** Swimming lessons will take place on Tuesdays. Please note that earrings must be removed for swimming lessons and children with long hair will require a swimming hat. Other useful items include deodorant (no sprays please) and a hairbrush. Verruca socks must be worn if required; these can be purchased from the local chemist or pharmacy. Please make sure that sun cream or hair gel are not applied before swimming. It would also be helpful if the children could have sun hats and raincoats to be worn at the poolside if needed.

**PE:** Outdoor PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Burbidge, who will be delivering Tag Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. 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. Dance will be taught in the second half of term when the swimming pool closes for winter.

#### **Important dates:**

- Non-Uniform Day - PTA Fundraiser for Harvest Fayre - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 5 and 6 Visit to Church - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September - Parent helpers needed please
- Evacuee Day - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Parent helpers needed please
- Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 3:30pm
- Year 6 SRE Information Meeting for Parents - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 4:00pm
- South Africa Class Assembly - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October
- Year 6 Bikeability - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October
- Year 5 Bikeability - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October
- Individual School Photographs - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October
- Inset Day - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- Half Term - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Parents' Evenings - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 3:30-6:00pm
- End of term - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Homework:**

- **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. All children will be able to borrow books from the school library and our class

reading corner. With reading at the heart of our school, we will be encouraging the children to record their comments and personal reflections on their reading material in their log books.

- **Accelerated Reader:** We will complete the Star Reading Test each half term. This will provide us with a reading age for each child which 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 a book has been completed to assess the children's reading comprehension. 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. Word lists will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week and spelling books will remain in school. This year, we will be using Spelling Shed - a new online platform to provide additional opportunities to practise spellings at home. More information regarding log-in details will follow shortly.
- **Homework:** Homework grids will be uploaded to Google Classroom half termly and will be linked to the theme we are learning about in school. Homework can be submitted electronically via Google Classroom or brought into school as appropriate. There may also be opportunities for the children to share homework with the class to share the learning which has been taking place at home and celebrate outstanding work.
- **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 children to practice their times tables at home regularly - daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements.

#### Log in details:

A reminder of the children's log in details for all of our online learning platforms - Google Classroom, Accelerated Reader, TT Rockstars, Spelling Shed and Purple Mash - will be sent out this week.

#### General points to note:

Please ensure that the children adhere to our school uniform policy at all times, including appropriate footwear (no trainers please). Boys should wear dark (black or grey) socks and girls should have dark blue or navy hair bands. Large, colourful hair accessories should not be worn to school.

Year 6: If your child will be walking home independently this year, please could we ask that you completed the Google Form to provide your consent for them to leave the school premises unaccompanied.

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children with severe nut allergies.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Miss H Turner  
South Africa Class Teacher  
[sa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:sa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk)

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As part of our topic, we sometimes show clips and films that are 12A certified.

Please return the slip to your class teacher if you **DO NOT** consent to your child watching such clips.

Many thanks,  
Year 5/6 Team

Name ----- Signed -----