

Minnow Class Newsletter Spring Term 2026

Welcome back Minnow Class!

We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and the children had a chance to rest and recharge their batteries.



Reminder: please keep an eye on MCAS for school updates and Family for classroom updates.

Our topics this term:

Long Ago - Your child will learn about their history and how they have changed from when they were babies. They will learn about their family history and heritage and find out what life was like when their grandparents were children. They will learn about what it was like to go to school in the past and how everyday objects, such as clothes, toys and vehicles have changed.



Supporting your child at home:

- Look at photographs of your child as a baby and discuss how they have grown and changed.
- Look at family photographs so the children can see family members when they were children.
- Talk about what your life was like when you were a child.

Ready Steady Grow - Your child will take part in practical activities to explore where food comes from. They will learn what seeds and plants need to grow and grow a variety of plants. They will explore what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, including eating fruit and vegetables, exercise and teeth brushing. They will find out about life on a farm and about baby animals.



Supporting your child at home:

- Visit your local library and find books about farms to share.
- Make a shopping list together and go to the shops to buy the food.
- Grow some quick growing plants or make a cress head.
- Talk about healthy foods.

CURRICULUM AREAS

Maths

White Rose Maths topics: alive in 5, mass and capacity, growing 6,7,8, length, height and time, building 9 and 10, exploring 3D shapes.

Literacy

Key texts for Long Ago include: Rosie's Hat, Coming to England, Major Glad, Major Dizzy, traditional tales, nursery rhymes and Winter non-fiction texts.

Key texts for Ready Steady Grow include: Jack and the Beanstalk, Handa's Surprise, Rosie's Walk, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, the Easter story and Spring non-fiction texts.

Reception children will be developing their writing of initial sounds, cvc words and short captions (i.e. a big mat) this term.

We will continue to develop letter formation through daily writing activities.

Understanding the World

Past and present, People culture and communities, the natural world.

R.E: Special places - Church building & Synagogue and Special times - Easter & Passover.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive.

PSED

Self-regulation; Managing self, building relationships. PSHE Scarf topics: Keeping Safe, Rights and Respect.

Physical development

Gross and fine motor skills. P.E will still be taught on Mondays so please ensure that your child has their P.E kit on this day. Shorts/joggers, t-shirts, a change of socks and trainers are needed. Please ensure that everything in your child's PE kit is clearly labelled. Wherever possible, P.E will take place outside so please ensure that your child has suitable clothing.

Phonics key ring

If your child knows all the single set 1 sounds, we will take in your sounds key ring and replace with a new 'special friends' key ring with the new sounds to learn this term. Please support your child to learn the special friend sounds (two letters, one sound) and read words with them in, as will be focussing on these this term.

Please keep this keyring safe in the book bag so that it can be returned later this year.



Phonics videos

We hope you found the RWInc videos useful last term. Videos will continue to be added to Family to support learning at home.

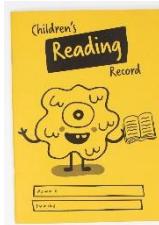
Please let me know if there is anything extra you would like help with.

Read Write Inc		Desktop Speed Sounds Chart	
Speed Sounds Set 1			
m	a	s	d
i	n	p	g
c	k	u	b
e	l	h	sh
j	v	y	w
z	ch	qu	th
		x	ng
			nk

Yellow Reading Logs

Reading books will be changed on **Fridays** this term.

Please continue to write in your child's yellow reading log daily to update us on how your child has read.



We monitor how often children are reading at home and those who read 5 times a week receive a golden ticket and are entered into a class prize draw to win a book token where they get to choose a book from the library's vending machine!



Red Words

I	the
you	your
said	was

Very soon children will take home a key ring containing some **red word** cards that we are learning in class, to practise at home. **Red words** are words that are tricky which cannot be sounded out so it is important that these are learnt from memory.

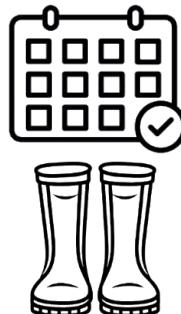
Please keep your keyring safe in your child's book bag so that we can continue to add more words as we learn them in class. You are welcome to use your keyring as you wish to practise reading, saying and writing the red words.

Please can you return your child's keyring at the end of the year in July.

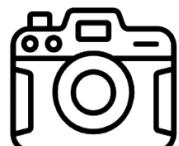
Dates for the diary – see Family

We are looking forward to hosting Grandparent stay and play sessions in school later this January. We will be on a school trip later this spring term. We are also hoping to go on welly walks outside of school this spring term and really appreciate volunteers to help us cross the roads and keep us safe.

Details for all of these events will be posted on Family.



Baby photos



Please send a photo of your child when they were a baby via email or a physical copy in your child's book bag for our topic work on Long Ago. We will be learning about how people change as they grow up and will use these photos in class.



We will be holding parents' evenings in March, where we will be able to discuss the progress and achievements that your child has made so far this year and look towards end of year expectations. In the meantime, please continue to email the school office or feel free to catch me at the gate. Please let me know if somebody else (another parent, relative etc.) is collecting your child from school.

Many thanks,
Mrs Taylor