

South End Infant School

Year 2 Newsletter – January 2026

English

In English, our learning will be based on The Elves and the shoemaker. The children will learn to recall a shorter version of the text, using actions. They will explore the text and take part in speaking, listening and drama activities. During daily writing tasks, the children will be expected to say each sentence out loud, before writing it. They will be expected to punctuate each sentence with a capital letter and either a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark, use their phonics to spell words, leave a space between each word and form their letters accurately. At all times, independence will be encouraged and praised. We will be looking at expanded noun phrases, subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions and possessive apostrophes before innovating our own story.

In our daily handwriting lessons, the children will be beginning to join letters. They will initially learn which letters are joiners and which are breakers (letters that we do not join as it makes our writing less legible e.g. b, s). They will learn the 'flick-joins' from Window Cleaner Family (i, l, t, u) into Window Cleaner family, Window Cleaner into Jumpers (h, m, n, b, p, r), Jumpers into Window Cleaners, Jumpers into Jumpers, Abracadabras (a, d) into Window Cleaners and Abracadabras into Jumpers. They will practise these joins in words and then also in sentences. They will be expected to transfer these skills to all writing across the curriculum.

Maths

This term we will be introducing the multiplication (x) and division (\div) for the first time and writing multiplication and division number sentences. We will be learning the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables. Please ensure your child can count accurately in 2s to 24, 5s to 60 and 10s to 120 which was taught in year 1. We will then learn all multiplication and division facts such as $4 \times 2 = 8$, $7 \times 5 = 35$, $9 \times 10 = 90$, $12 \div 2 = 6$, $40 \div 5 = 8$ and $120 \div 10 = 12$. Again, please practise multiplication and division facts regularly at home. We will begin by looking at multiplication as groups of objects, for example: 5 trees with two birds in each. Then move on to using arrays (counters arranged in rows and columns) to show, for example, 4 rows of 5 counters is 20 counters altogether. We will teach division by sharing objects into equal groups and putting objects in to groups of a certain amount. We will practise writing the four statements that match an array. Such as $4 \times 5 = 20$, $5 \times 4 = 20$, $20 \div 5 = 4$ and $20 \div 4 = 5$. By the end of the unit we would like all children to draw blank number lines to solve division calculations. E.g. $20 \div 5$ can be solved by making 4 jumps of 5.

Phonics

In Phonics, the children will continue to learn to read and spell words from the extended code. Here are the sounds, with some example words that we will be teaching this term:

/v/ < v vv ve > **above, river, savvy**

/oo/ < oo ew u ue u-e ui ou ough o > **brew, bruise, coupon, proof, prove, lute, ruin, clue, through**

/j/ < j g ge dge > **badge, bulge, germ, jumper**

/g/ < g gg gh gu > **big, wiggle, ghost, guest**

The children will learn to segment (spell) and blend (read) a variety of words containing each sound.

Science

In science, the children will be learning about the uses of everyday materials. They will name objects with the same use that are made from different materials and name materials that are used to make objects with different uses. They will recognise that stretching, twisting, bending and squashing can cause some solid objects to change shape. They will name properties that make materials suitable for their use. When working scientifically, they will measure using non-standard units and record results in a table. They will use data to ensure a question and record results in a block graph. **Please refer to the attached Knowledge Organiser to support your child's learning in science.**

Geography

In geography our unit is called 'Why is our world wonderful'. The children will learn how to identify and locate characteristics of the UK on a map. They will identify physical and human features and locate them on a world map. They will explain the difference between oceans and seas and name and locate the five oceans on a world map. They will use aerial photographs to draw simple sketch maps, collect data and present findings in a bar chart. **Please refer to the attached Knowledge Organiser to support your child's learning in geography**

Art and Design

In Art, the children will learn about Landscapes and Cityscapes. They will learn about the bright colours and bold brushstrokes used by the Impressionists, and other artists, when painting landscapes and cityscapes. They will be introduced to the work of Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, and Jean Metzinger. They will think about the similarities and differences between the work of the different artists, looking at the colours, painting styles, settings, and times of day. They will make paintings, drawings, and mosaic art, inspired by the three artists.

How You Can Support Your Child

Practise forming letters and numbers correcting using the Kinetic Letters handout received with the previous newsletter.

Read to your child regularly to develop their knowledge, vocabulary and love of reading.

It is expected that your child reads their school book at home at least 3x weekly (preferably every day). Please record this in your child's reading record.

It would benefit your child if they regularly practised counting in twos, fives and tens and then learned their two, five and ten times tables.

