

South End Infant School

Year 1 Newsletter – January 2026

English

This term, the children will discover a riddle to solve before making their own snowflake. They will learn a Model Text based on a beautiful story called 'Snowflakes' by Cerrie Burnell. The children will continue to develop their ability to write sentences independently, including spacing between words, capital letters and full stops. They will learn how to make their writing more interesting by using adjectives and adverbs. They will be expected to take pride in the presentation of their written work and consistently form all letters correctly. In their final piece of writing (Hot Write), the children will write their own version of the 'Snowflakes' story. We will then explore poetry, using the book 'The Snowflake' by Benji Davies for inspiration. In our daily handwriting lessons, the children will be revising all of the letter families before they learn to write capital letters. Please reinforce the correct pencil grip and letter formation when your child writes at home.

Maths

Over the next few weeks, the children will be developing their understanding of place value to 20, before focusing on subtraction and addition within 20. We will ensure and keep practising the orientation of numerals.

We will be looking closely at being able to recall number bonds to 10, and then move onto number bonds to 20 using addition and subtraction. We will learn strategies to double numbers up to 10+10.

Word problems will be introduced. We will read questions together and use practical apparatus such as counters, a twenty frame and a part whole model to help work out the answers. We will then work towards becoming more independent at reading the questions and answering them.

Phonics

In phonics, the children will continue to learn the Extended Code as well as revisiting previous learning. Here are the sounds with some example words that we will be teaching:

/oo/ - oo (book), u (pull), oul (could, should, would)
/u/ - u (but), ou (touch), o (some, come)
/s/ - s (sink), ss (miss), st (listen), c (city), ce (mince), se (house), sc (science)
/l/ - l (along, ll (doll), al (petal), el (model), il (pencil), le (table), ol (petrol)

Science

In our science lessons, the children will name parts of the human body and sort body parts into groups. They will identify the body parts associated with each sense (sight, touch, smell, taste and hearing). They will work scientifically, using their senses to make observations and spot patterns in data. See Knowledge Organiser for key vocabulary.

Geography

In geography, the children will learn to identify and locate the four UK countries, recognise their own country and describe locations using basic compass directions. They will also measure different types of weather, using symbols used in weather forecasts, describe seasonal changes and suggest appropriate clothing and activities for each season. See Knowledge Organiser for key vocabulary.

Art

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.

Your continued support

Please continue to listen to your child read regularly. Research shows it takes at least three reads of the same book for your child to fully comprehend what they have read. The first read will be mainly focussed on decoding, during the second read you should notice your child reading more fluently using their story teller voice, and the third and subsequent reads can then really focus on understanding new vocabulary and what has happened in the story.

Next Friday (16th January), we will be starting ERIC which means that our doors will open at 8.35am for parents/carers to spend 15 minutes reading with their child. Any children not accompanied by a parent/carer or guardian can come into the classroom from 8.50, as normal.

