

# South End Infant School

## Year 1 Newsletter – February 2026

### English

Our next unit of writing will begin with the children discovering a mystery envelope, containing a jigsaw puzzle of a tortoise. The children will make their own tortoise jigsaw puzzle, before they learn a Model Text called 'How Tortoise Got His Cracked Shell'. Once they are able to confidently recall the text with actions, the children will be innovating the story with their own ideas. They will continue to develop their ability to write sentences independently, including spacing between words, capital letters and full stops. They will apply their phonic knowledge to spell words and continue to develop their vocabulary.

In their final piece of writing (Hot Write), the children will write their own version of the story with different characters and ideas. In our daily handwriting lessons, the children will be revising all of the letter families and writing letter pairs or words. They will be expected to take pride in the presentation in all of their written work, holding their pencil correctly and forming letters and numbers accurately.

### Maths

In maths, the children will use their knowledge of place value to 50. They will need to read, write and order the numbers and represent these using practical apparatus. They will be expected to answer the following questions:

How many tens are there in 42?

How many ones are there in 37?

Write the number that has 2 tens and 3 ones?

How many ways can you make 16, 23, 39 etc.?

How can you use a ten frame to help you count groups of tens?

We will also be covering measurement, we will be measuring mass, volume, length and height using objects and cm on a ruler.

### 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:

**/j/ - j (jumper), g (gentle), ge (large), dge (badge)**

**/or/ - or (cork), aw (claw), a (always), ar (award), au (August), al (talk)**

**/air/ - air (hair), are (glare), ear (bear), ere (where), eir (their), ayer (prayer), ayor (mayor)**

### Science

In science, the children will be comparing and grouping animals based on similarities and differences in their characteristics, physical features and diets. They will be learning the names and the physical features of a range of animals. They will be sorting animals into groups based on their similarities and differences. The children will identify characteristics specific to mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish and should be able to recall the diets of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores by the end of the unit.

### History

In our history lessons, the children will discuss their favourite toy using language related to the past. They will learn to ask questions about toys in the past and make comparisons between toys in the past and present. They will sequence artefacts from different periods of time and identify changes between teddy bears today and those from 100 years ago. They will describe how toys have changed over time.

### Design and Technology

In design and technology, the children will explore the stability of structures and make a stable pencil pot for a specific user. They will investigate how a wider base can make structures more stable and explore wide or narrow bases by building towers. They will see how adding weight to different parts of a structure can make it more or less stable. We will be having a DT day towards the end of term to focus on this unit.

### Your continued support

Please continue to listen to your child read regularly. Our most confident readers, read at home at least three times a week. From this term onwards, we will also be sending home a list of real and nonsense (alien) words to read. This will support your child with the phonics screening check in June.

To support your child in maths, please practise reading, writing and counting (forwards and backwards) with numbers to 50. We will be continuing ERIC each Friday, which means that our doors will open at 8.35 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.

