

South End Infant School

Year 1 Newsletter – April 2026

English

In English, we will continue to develop our skills for writing through lots of talking, discussion, asking questions and rehearsing. Our unit of writing will be 'Jack and the Beanstalk,' a traditional story. We will also be exploring different versions of the story and looking at the structure, characters and plot. We will continue to focus on saying aloud what we want to write, developing a series of sentences to form a short narrative. Children will be encouraged to read back what they have written to check for sense, spelling and punctuation. At the end of the unit, they will be expected to write their own version of the story independently. The children will learn that 'singular' means 'one' and 'plural' means 'more than one'. They will learn to change nouns by adding 's' or 'es' using spelling rules. They will also learn about the prefix 'un' and how it can change the meaning of a word.

Maths

Our first topic this term will be Place Value. We will explore the value of numbers within 50 by recognising the tens and ones in a number and learn how to partition these numbers with the support of a Part Whole Model.

The children will learn about measurement. They will compare the length and height of objects, measure using cubes, and begin to measure with a ruler, recording their answers in centimetres.

We will continue to practise addition and subtraction within 20 throughout the term. The children will use jottings to help them add and subtract numbers and will begin to solve number problems. They will be encouraged to explain their thinking. We will progress to multiplication and division where the children will be expected to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. They will learn to recognise, make, and add equal groups and will begin to understand multiplication as repeated addition. We will learn to add equal groups and write these as number sentences. The children will explore arrays and identify how many are in each row, how many rows there are, and use this to find the total and to write a number sentence.



$$5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 20$$

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:

/ue/ - ue (glue), ew (stew), u (unit), u (huge)

/oy/ - oy (toy), oi (soil)

/ar/ - ar (star), a (path), al (calm), au (laugh)

/o/ - o (odd), a (what)

Phonics Screening Check

We continue to ask you to support your child as much as possible with daily reading practise. In addition to this, your child will bring home a new list of real and alien words to read each week. Please remember to ask your child to: "say the sounds and read the word".

Science

In science, the children will be identifying plants and their features. They will be expected to recall some of the roles that flowering plants have. They will recognise that seeds need water for growth and recall that seeds and bulbs come from plants. The children will be able to name some trees and identify the similarities and differences between deciduous and evergreen leaves. They will be working scientifically to raise questions about plants and respond to suggestions on how to set up an investigation to answer a question.

Geography

In geography, the children will continue to learn about the human and physical features of their locality, before learning about a contracting locality (Shanghai). They will learn about the continents of the world and name the one that they live in. They will use an atlas to locate the United Kingdom and China on a world map. They will revisit compass points and draw sketch maps.

Art

This half term, the children will be focussing on 'African Art'. They will be inspired, by the artist 'Esther Mahlangu', to create colourful and bold geometric patterns. The children will also be sketching African animals, building upon knowledge of various lines and textures, and will use these to create animal silhouette scene pictures.

How to Help at Home

- Listen to your child read for 10 minutes each day. This will make a huge difference to their learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- Share books (fiction and non-fiction) with you child and talk about them. Discuss the facts, what is happening, vocabulary, characters etc.
- Ask your child to count from 0-100 in steps of one. Can they write the numbers?
- Ask your child to count back from 100-0 in steps of one.

