



St Richard's CE Primary School

Spring Term 2026 – First half



Blossom Class January
2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the festive break. We hope that you all had a restful break and created some amazing memories together. Firstly, we would like to thank you all for your generous gifts and cards before Christmas; we were all very touched by your kindness. We are very excited to welcome two new children to our Nursery class, and a returning pupil to our Reception Class. Please see below for information on our topic this half term and important information for your diaries. The children made amazing progress in the autumn term and we are very excited to see how they grow and develop in the term ahead.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

A kind and gentle reminder that Blossom Class starts at 8.55am. We open the gates at 8.45am. We will close and lock the door and gate at 9.00am for the safety of the children.

If you do arrive after this time, please bring the children through the school office.

Please can we ask that the door is not pushed and wedged open. The door must be able to close at all times for the safeguarding of the pupils.

Staying Warm:

A reminder that now the colder weather approaches, please do ensure that your child has a named warm waterproof coat and named gloves, hats and scarves. *Please help your child learn to do their coats up so they can rush outside even more quickly!*

TRIP TO THE FARM

We are about to start preparing for our annual EYFS trip to Bockett's farm. This will be a full day for Nursery and Reception. Nursery parents, please look out for an email this week asking if you would like your child to attend for the full day so that we can then go ahead and book for the correct numbers.

Summary: (Swimming / PE day etc.)

Monday: Library books go home for Nursery children

Tuesday: Reception: reading books. Swimming for Reception 1.15 – 2.15 (1pm to 2.30pm including changing time).

Wednesday: Change of PE Day. PE led by our sports coach. Reception to wear their PE kits and Nursery to wear clothes suitable for being active.

Thursday: Mrs Singleton is in class

Friday: Library Books & Reception reading books.

Dates for the half term:

Monday 12th January: Drama for All session in school

Tuesday 3rd February: Languages Day

Friday 6th February: Number Day

Friday 13th February: PTFA Valentines Cake Sale

Welcome to Mrs Romero! We are very lucky to have a familiar face back with us twice a week. Mrs Romero will be supporting the Reception children on a Tuesday afternoon for swimming as well as on a Thursday afternoon when Louise is having her planning time. We know the children will love having her back!

MATHS:

As mentioned in previous newsletters and Wonder Books, we promote subitising with the children which is saying how many there are without counting.

NURSERY: Please practise at home subitising numbers to 3, encouraging to see 2 and 1 make 3.

RECEPTION: Please encourage the children to subitise numbers to 5, encouraging the children to see them as 4 and 1 or 3 and 2.

PHONICS:

All the children are now full steam ahead with their phonics learning! They are making excellent progress.

Blossom Nursery: will be working on Phase 1 phonics and their aspect focus will be sound discrimination including making body sounds as well as hearing sounds in words. The children have 4 phonics inputs per week.

Blossom Reception: For the first week of term the children will revise Phase 2 sounds before moving on to Phase 3 sounds (phonemes). They will be learning to segment to spell and blend to read words with these sounds. **Children will now come across more digraphs (2 letters are used to make 1 sound for example ch for cheese).**

OUR TOPICS:

Our main topic this term will be 'I wonder where the world will take me'. First, we will be going on a bear hunt! Then we will explore the earth by looking at Polar Regions and the animals that live there and then travel somewhere a bit warmer to the sandy deserts and compare and contrast this area. We will also make a stop in China to understand how the Lunar New Year is celebrated.

WE NEED YOU!

Over the term we would like to invite parents in to read a story to the whole class (they really won't bite I promise!). We would like children to experience hearing texts read by different people. If you would be willing to spend 10 minutes reading a story at the end of the morning or end of the day, please let a member of the team know.

DRAWING CLUB

We have been running DRAWING CLUB for a term now and we thought we would share with you some more information about it.

Drawing Club is the approach we use in Blossom Class to teach English It was created by a practitioner called Greg Bottrill and it brings the magic of story into the classroom. It is a way to share skills including fine motor, early writing, vocabulary, maths and most importantly, imagination and excitement!

How do we teach it?

At the beginning of each week, we use a new quality text to grab the interest of the children. We read the story and talk about the front cover, the title and make predictions about what the story could be about. We talk about the beginning, middle and end and we may sequence events to help them to familiarise themselves with what happens. The texts we use will link to our topic whenever appropriate.

Each day we have a different quest, on Monday it is related to a character, on Tuesday the setting and then the rest of the week there are new adventures. The teachers model drawing and then the children all create their own drawings in small groups. They describe what they are drawing as they create their image.

How does Drawing Club link to writing?

Each time the children draw they have to add a 'magic code'. To make the magic work, they have to add a secret code. This could be the sound they are learning that day, a word, a caption or full sentences - whatever we feel they need to reinforce. The secret code could also be a number or a maths fact.

Amazing Vocabulary:

We learn 5 words each week which link to the text. To help the children to remember them, we choose actions together as a class for each word. This is a way of developing new and exciting vocabulary in context that the children may not otherwise hear. We then encourage the children to use these words in their play.

Why not ask your children the words they are learning each week? They can teach you the actions too!