



# Y2/3 Newsletter - Spring 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school! We hope that you have had a lovely festive break. It has been lovely to see the children and hear all about what they have been doing over the holidays. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead in Year 2/3!

Mrs Palmer (Hazel), Miss Cridland (Beech) and Mrs Spurr (Cover Teacher)

## Topics

This term, our Year 2 topics will be 'All Around the UK' and 'Normans and Castles'. Our Year 3 topic will be 'Rivers and Mountains'.

## Homework

In a change to last year, homework tasks will now be given on paper and on Google Classroom each **Thursday** to be handed in by the following **Tuesday**. **Homework tasks should be completed in your child's yellow homework book with any additional sheets stuck in.** Children will be tested on their spellings on the following **Friday**. Tests will be completed in a spelling test book and sent home so you can see your child's results. Please keep this book in your child's book bag.

## Reading Books

**Rocket Phonics book change day: Monday (Hazel), Tuesday (Beech)**

### Rocket Phonics Readers

We will only change books weekly if they have been read **twice** (up to and including BB6). To enable us to change books quickly, reading books and reading records will be given out to children in a sturdy, named plastic wallet. Please do not throw these away! All reading records will be checked on book change day. If children require additional reading materials between book change days, they can choose a book themselves from our additional readers.



Children's reading books will be closely aligned to the phonics being taught in school and their personal level of fluency. This may mean that some children bring home books from two different levels.

We will routinely assess children's phonetic decoding, fluency and comprehension skills to determine when they are ready to move to the next book band in line with the Rocket Phonics progression guidance. Please do contact us if you have any queries regarding your child's reading progress. As well as daily phonics/spelling sessions, all children take part in guided reading sessions to learn specific reading skills each week.

### Accelerated Reader Scheme

Some children in Year 3 will be ready to move onto our KS2 reading system, **Accelerated Reader**. Children are assessed online termly and given a reading range which is close to their current level of fluency and, importantly, independent comprehension. You will be notified of this reading range when your child is ready to start the programme. Children can then choose a book from this range and complete an online quiz before swapping it for another title of their choice. Several popular titles that you may have at home or can find in bookstores will have an Accelerated Reader level. If you wish to check a book's level, the link is <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk>

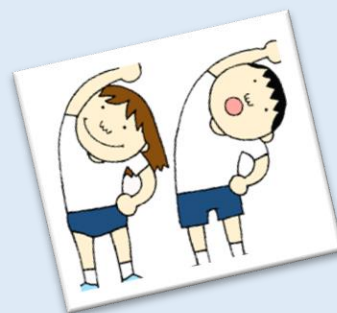
## Forest Schools

We will be running Forest Schools sessions for six weeks every Thursday for the first half of this term for **Year 2 pupils only**. Further information has been e-mailed and is available on Google Classroom. Warm, waterproof clothing will be essential!

## PE Sessions

**Beech & Hazel: Tuesday (Mr Green) and Friday (Class Teacher)**

To help your child with these sessions please ensure that they wear clothes that they can change **independently**. Clothes must be **clearly named**. **No earrings on P.E. days please**; earrings must be removed before PE lessons. Please ensure that children also have suitable outdoor kit and footwear for colder weather.



## Book Bags

Children should bring their school bag in **every day**. This will be hung on their peg in the cloakroom or collected in by their class teacher. Any pencil cases should be able to fit easily into children's trays at the end of the day. Please provide an identifiable water bottle and a named snack for morning break; fruit will also be available as an additional snack option and the milk scheme will run this term (please speak to the office for further details regarding payment).

We would appreciate it if water bottles are not stored with reading books as they are easily damaged by spills and leaks and single books cannot be easily replaced. **Lost or damaged reading books will be charged at a cost of £5 per book.**



## Indoor Shoes

Children need **named** hard-soled indoor shoes to wear inside the school building. They must also be appropriate for occasional outdoor use in the event of a fire drill or walking across the courtyard, for example.



## Jewellery and Toys

We have a **no jewellery** expectation in school. Children are only allowed to wear studs in their ears in school.

**No toys** (including trading cards) in school please, unless this has been agreed for a specific reason with your child's class teacher.

## Lost Property

Please make sure that all items of clothing including shoes/boots, hats, scarves and gloves are **named** before they are brought into school so that they can be quickly returned if misplaced.

If you need a replacement item of uniform, Eco Council regularly sell items in our pre-loved uniform shop at school events for only 50p per item. Money raised funds school Eco Council activities.

## Communication

During term-time, we are available for short conversations at the classroom door at the start and end of the day. If you require a longer conversation, please arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

We can be contacted by e-mail from Monday – Friday between 8.00 – 17.30. As per Anglian Learning policy, e-mail acknowledgements are guaranteed within two working days and a response within five working days. We will of course endeavour to respond as promptly as possible. Please note that we may not read or respond to e-mails during the school day **so if a message is urgent, please contact the school office by telephone.**

### **Beech Class Information**

Class Teacher: Miss Cridland

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Robinson, Miss Dilley and Mrs Ling

Cover Teachers: Mr Green (Tuesday pm) and Mrs Spurr (Thursday)

Contact: [ecridland@bottishamprimary.org](mailto:ecridland@bottishamprimary.org)

### **Hazel Class Information**

Class Teacher: Mrs Palmer

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Boyce, Mrs Missing and Mrs Blanksby

Cover Teachers: Mrs Spurr (Wednesday am), Miss Dilley/Mr Green (Wednesday pm)

Contact: [cpalmer@bottishamprimary.org](mailto:cpalmer@bottishamprimary.org)

### **Spring Term Dates for Your Diary (further details to follow)**

**Children's Mental Health Week:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February

**NSPCC Number Day:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February (further information to follow)

**Safer Internet Day:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

**INSET Day (school closed to pupils):** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Spring half-term break:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

**World Book Day:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

**Y1/2 trip to Hedingham Castle:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Parents Evenings:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Y3/4 production (Robin Hood):** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March (2pm)

**End of term:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April