



## SPRING 2025 Bluebell Class Newsletter



Dear Families,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year! Below are some reminders, useful information and an overview of our learning for spring.

### Staff

Teachers: Miss Maddocks (Monday to Thursday), Mrs Jones (Friday)

Teaching Assistants across Lower Key Stage Two: Mrs Hart, Mrs Jones, Mrs Hamlett, Mrs Casson, Mrs Dillon and Mrs Curwen

### General Information

- All equipment needed for lessons will be provided (pens, pencils, felt tips etc.) so there is no need for individual pencil cases to be brought in
- Morning snack will be available to purchase or children can bring their own **healthy** snack, ideally fruit
- Individual reading books should be brought into school every day. Reading records should also be brought in every day and will be reviewed weekly
- Your child will need a named water bottle in school each day. Please could we ask that only water is brought into school, rather than juice

### PE

On your child's PE day, they should come to school in their kit and remain in it for the whole day. Our **PE kit is red school logo PE shirt/plain red t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and pumps/trainers. Football kit should not be worn.** Our usual days for PE this term will be **Monday and Thursday.** If this changes, we will message you. During the spring term, Year 4 pupils will be taking part in swimming lessons on specific Mondays with the aim that every child can swim 25m by the time they leave Year 6. A letter will be sent separately with your child's swimming dates.

### Expected Homework

- Reading – please read at home as often as possible. Your child will either have a reading book from a scheme or a book of their choice, if they are a free-reader
- Maths homework – a weekly/fortnightly task will be posted onto the class Homework page of the website, set on Classroom Secrets or sent home each Wednesday. This will usually be an online task, a game or a times table activity
- The children are making super progress with learning their times tables and many have been enjoying using the fun TT Rockstars game (trockstars.com). It is vital that they continue to build on their knowledge and speed with times tables. In the summer term every child in Year 4 will be taking the statutory multiplication tables test so please continue to encourage your child to practise whenever they can; little and often is an ideal way to embed the work they are doing in class.

### Optional homework

- There is also a menu of termly optional homework tasks on the class web pages. All activities are linked to our learning in class so it's a great way for your child to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subjects we're covering. Please encourage your child to complete these tasks and they can bring in their work to celebrate on a **Wednesday.** Alternatively, you can email us a photo of their learning to share in class on a Wednesday

### Residential

Our residential visit to Boreatton Park near Shrewsbury will be on March 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding an information meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 3:30 in Bluebells classroom to provide you with more information and to give you an opportunity to ask questions about the visit. We will share information about the residential with pupils in class time and ensure they feel happy and confident about the trip.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Please contact the office via [admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk) to arrange a time for a phone call or a meeting. We can't wait to see what our brilliant Bluebells achieve this term!

A big thank you for your support,  
Helen Maddocks and Hannah Jones



## SPRING 2025 Bluebell Years 3 and 4



### English

We have a books-based approach to the teaching of writing and we choose books that will inspire, entertain and excite our children. We ask that you don't read these books in advance as it's lovely to discover them together. It's also important that we can develop their prediction skills which is difficult if they already know the book!

**Core text for spring 1:** *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit, Fiction: write a historical narrative

**Core text for spring 2:** *Amazing Islands* by Sabrina Weiss and *Kaji's Island* by The Literacy Company, Fiction: write an adventure story

In Guided Reading, we'll be exploring *Pompeii: A Roman Girl's Diary* by Sue Reid, and in spring 2, we'll read the fantasy story *Ariki and the Island of Wonders* by Nicola Davies

### Maths

Multiplication and Division

Fractions

Decimals

Money

Shape

### Religious Education – Christianity

Parables – interpreting the story to find the message. How this relates to our lives today.

Understanding the Easter story.

### Science – Sound

Learning will focus on identifying how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating and recognising that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to our ears. We will also learn about pitch and volume before creating our own tuned instrument!

### Geography – Why do people live near volcanoes?

In this unit, we'll focus on identifying the positive and negative effects of living near a volcano. Pupils will learn about tectonic plates, the main types of volcanos and how people can prepare for earthquakes.

### History – Why did the Romans settle in Britain?

Our learning will look at what life was like in Ancient Rome, how Britons responded to the Roman invasion and why the Roman army was so successful. To support our learning, we will be visiting Chester on Wednesday 8th January.

### Art and Design – Exploring Still Life

In art, pupils will explore the work of Paul Cezanne and learn to draw from observation. Children will create their own still life compositions and use photography to support their work.

### Design and Technology

Our D&T learning will link with our English and Geography this term as we will be designing and making a model erupting volcano.

## Computing

Pupils will learn how to search efficiently for information online and how to recognise reliable sources. They will also learn how to code linked to our Geography and Design Technology.

## PE

In PE this term, children will be learning about dribbling to invade space through hockey and football and the skills needed to pass the ball and keep possession through basketball. Pupils will also be taking part in a dance and a gymnastics unit themed around the Romans.

## French

Mrs Jones will be delivering French on a Monday afternoon. Pupils will be learning how to name up to ten different fruits in French and explain whether they do or don't like the taste. They will also be learning how to talk about what activities they can and can't do and begin to introduce conjunctions.

### How you can support at home...

- While we request that you avoid the core English texts (so we don't get any spoilers!), any reading or further research you can support your child with, which we call pre-learning, will be of huge benefit. We favour the local library over online research, but any additional learning linked to any of our topics would be great.
- Supporting your child with their quick recall of multiplication and related division facts will make so many areas of maths easier and will stand them in good stead for the next stage of their learning. Pupils have to know all facts to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. There are links to games and activities on our class pages to support with this.
- All the activities on the optional homework menu (which you can download from our class pages) link with the learning taking place during this term. We'd recommend encouraging your child to choose from the menu – the activities can be done in any order and at any point during the term – so they have opportunities to deepen their understanding and practise their skills.