



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Monday 14th September 2026

Larks Class Newsletter Autumn 1 Term 2026

A warm welcome to our new and existing families! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break. Please find below some information about the Autumn 1 half term:

Curriculum Learning:

English: We will introduce the children to an exciting style of 'Writing for Pleasure' designing our own 'Memoir' style books for Year 1 and 'I like' books for the Reception children. This approach will encourage pictures and mark making and we hope a love for writing!

Maths: In Maths, our Reception children will be following the White Rose Maths Unit Match, Sort and Compare. Through practical activities, games and exploration, they will learn to spot similarities and differences, sort objects into groups and begin to compare quantities.

Year 1 will be focusing on Place Value within 10. The children will develop their understanding of numbers to 10 by counting forwards and backwards, recognising different representations of numbers and exploring patterns in counting. These early number skills provide an important foundation for future mathematical learning. We will also continue to teach Mastering Number across both year groups.

Science: In Science, our topic this half term is Animals Including Humans. The children will learn about the features of human and animal bodies and explore the similarities and differences between them through practical activities and discussions. We will also introduce lots of exciting new vocabulary, helping the children to talk confidently about what they observe and discover.

History: In History, our topic this half term is Amazing Me! The children will explore past and present events in their own lives and the lives of their family members. They will think about how they have changed and grown since they were babies, while developing their understanding of time and learning new vocabulary such as past, present and change.

RE: In RE, our focus this half term is Christianity, where we will be exploring the question, 'Why is God so important to Christians?' Through stories, discussions and creative activities, the children will learn about Christian beliefs and begin to share their own ideas and questions. We will record our learning in a special class book, which the children will be able to revisit and share throughout the term.

Computing: In computing, our Year 1 children will be learning about Computer Systems and Networks. They will develop their understanding of how technology is used in everyday life and learn

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how to use computers safely and confidently. The children will also be focusing on improving their mouse skills, practising clicking, dragging and dropping through a range of fun and engaging activities.

PE: PE will take place every Monday. This half term, we will be starting with gymnastics, where the children will develop their balance, coordination and body control. Through a range of fun activities, they will learn how to move safely, work independently and build confidence in their physical skills.

PHSE: This half term, our Jigsaw topic is Being Me in My World. With the help of Jigsaw Jack, the children will explore what makes each of us unique and special. Through stories, discussions and activities, they will learn about similarities and differences, celebrate their individuality and develop a sense of belonging within our class and school community.

Homework:

Reading: We encourage all children to read at home as regularly as possible, ideally every day. Regular reading helps to develop blending, fluency and comprehension skills, while also building confidence and fostering a lifelong love of books. Please remember to record any reading completed at home in your child's reading diary and feel free to add any comments about how they got on. Asking simple questions about the story, such as *"What do you think will happen next?"* or *"How do you think the character is feeling?"*, is a great way to support your child's understanding of what they read.

Spellings: Every Monday, Year 1 children will be given a set of spellings to practise at home, which will be recorded in their reading diary. These spellings will then be checked the following Monday. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping your child practise reading and writing their spellings at home. We will also send home the Year 1 Statutory Common Exception Words on bookmarks for children to practise regularly. Becoming familiar with these words will help to build confidence and fluency in both reading and writing.

Maths: To help develop children's fluency and confidence in mathematics, we will be learning Key Instant Recall Facts (**KIRFs**). These are key number facts that children should be able to recall quickly and accurately. We encourage children to practise their KIRFs at home at least three times a week. The Autumn Term KIRFs will be sent home within the next few weeks, along with information about how you can support your child with their learning.

Book bags, Water bottles and Coats:

Please ensure that **all belongings are clearly named**, including book bags, water bottles, coats and school uniform. This helps us to quickly return items to their owners. We also ask that children bring a pair of named wellington boots to keep at school. As part of our learning, the children access the outdoor environment every day and enjoy playing and exploring in all types of weather, so suitable footwear is essential. Thank you for your support.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns throughout the term. We are always happy to help. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's

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learning. It is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to a happy and successful Autumn term together.

Kindest regards

Mrs Stephens & Mrs Moore
Larks Team



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