Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers, Tuesday 24th November 2026

Larks Class Newsletter Autumn 2 Term 2026

This half term, we have lots of exciting learning planned across the curriculum. In Larks we are all looking forward to our Christmas celebrations as we head into December.

Curriculum Learning:

English: This half term, Year 1 will become poets as they create their own My First Poetry Book. We will explore a range of different poetry styles and learn how poets use words to create pictures, feelings, and sounds in the reader's mind. The children will read, perform, and write poems about a variety of topics including feelings, weather, everyday objects, and food.

Throughout the unit, the children will learn to:

- Explore and enjoy different types of poetry.
- Use interesting vocabulary to describe thoughts and ideas.
- Create alliteration by choosing words that begin with the same sound.
- Use synonyms to make their poems more exciting and varied.
- Write simple acrostic poems using letters from a word or theme.
- Perform poems aloud with expression and confidence.
- Create and publish their own collection of poems in a personal poetry book.

Maths: During Autumn 2, Reception children will continue following the White Rose Maths scheme. We will be focusing on the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, helping children to recognise, count, represent and compare quantities. The children will develop their understanding of number through practical activities, games, songs and problem-solving opportunities. They will them move onto Geometry, where the children will be exploring shapes with 4 sides, identifying squares, rectangles and other four-sided shapes in the classroom and outdoor environment. They will investigate the properties of shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

Year 1 children will be focusing on Addition and Subtraction within 10. The children will develop confidence in solving number problems using practical resources, pictures and number sentences. They will explore different strategies to calculate accurately and explain their mathematical thinking. Next, they will move onto Geometry, where the children will explore and describe a range of 2D and 3D shapes. They will learn to recognise shapes, identify their properties and sort them according to different features.

Science: Our Science topic this term is Materials. The children will learn to identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, paper and fabric. We will investigate the properties of different materials and use scientific vocabulary to describe them, such as hard, soft, rough, smooth, flexible, rigid, transparent and opaque.

As part of our learning, we will take part in an exciting design challenge inspired by the traditional tale The Three Little Pigs. The children will work as scientists and engineers to investigate different materials and decide which would be the best choice for building a strong house. They will test materials, make predictions, share their observations and explain their choices using scientific language.

Geography: Our Geography topic is Where Do I Live? The children will develop their understanding of the area in which they live, starting with the wider world and gradually focusing on their local area. We will learn that we live in the United Kingdom (UK) and discover that the UK is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The children will use maps, atlases and globes to locate the UK and identify some of its key features.

As our learning progresses, we will move closer to home by exploring our local area. We will look at street names, recognise familiar landmarks and begin to understand how maps can help us find places. The children will also take part in a local walk around the community, observing human and physical features and developing their map-reading skills.

RE: This half term, we will learn about the Nativity story and why it is important to Christians. We will explore how Nativity plays help Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember the Christmas story. Our learning will link closely to our Christmas performance as we retell the story through acting, singing and storytelling.

Computing: Year 1 will be learning about different parts of a computer and explore a range of everyday technology. They will investigate computer hardware, including screens, keyboards, mice and cameras, and learn about the jobs these parts do. The children will also develop their digital skills by learning how to use a camera safely and effectively. They will practise taking photographs, viewing their images and discussing what makes a good photo.

PE: PE will take place every Monday afternoon. The children will continue to focus on developing their fundamental movement skills through a range of fun and active games. They will practise travelling in different ways, balancing, jumping, hopping, running and changing direction safely.

Homework:
Reading: The children have started an exciting new Reading Challenge! To complete the challenge, we ask that children read at least 5 times each week. Regular reading helps to build confidence, fluency and a love of books.

Please try to listen to your child read regularly and record each reading session in their reading log. Children who complete the challenge will receive a certificate to celebrate their fantastic effort and

commitment to reading. Thank you for your continued support in developing your child's reading skills at home.

Spellings: Children will continue to receive weekly spellings to practise at home. A paper copy will be sent home in their reading record book, and the spellings can also be accessed online through EdShed. EdShed offers a range of fun and interactive games to help children learn and practise their spellings in an engaging way.

Weather

As the weather is becoming colder and wetter, please ensure that your child brings a named coat to school every day. We spend time learning and playing outdoors in all weathers, so it is important that children are dressed appropriately to stay warm and comfortable.

Christmas Celebrations

We are so excited for all the festive fun planned this half term! The children will enjoy a variety of special Christmas activities, including a pantomime, Christmas dinner, Christmas Jumper Day, festive craft activities, and, of course, our Nativity performance. We look forward to sharing this magical and memorable time of year with the children as we celebrate together.

Finally...

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me. I am always happy to help and discuss your child's learning and progress. Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful half term together!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Stephens & Mrs Moore
Larks Team

