



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0UA
(01284) 386203
Executive Head Teacher – Mr Marc Gilbert
Head of School – Miss Nicky Tyler
office@greatwhelnethamprimary.org.uk
Website: www.greatwhelnethamprimary.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,



Larks Class Newsletter Spring Term 1 2026



Happy New Year to you all! We hope you have had a lovely winter break and are looking forward to the term ahead.

Curriculum Learning:

English: We will continue following our Writing 4 Pleasure scheme and this half term we will complete a personal writing project where the children can guide what they would like to write about and a unit creating our own Story Books.

Maths: Using White Rose mastery, our Year 1 modules will be focusing on place value and addition and subtraction within 20. We will continue to teach Mastering Number for both year groups.

Science: We will be exploring everyday materials and their properties

History: This half term our topic will be Jurassic World where the children will learn about dinosaurs, fossils and Mary Anning.

RE: Our focus is Judaism: Asking the question 'Why is learning to do good deeds important?'

Computing: This half term children will continue to develop their mouse, keyboard and basic computing skills using creative tools using the Purple Mash program.

Art: We will explore expressive art and mixing colours.

Forest School: We will have forest school on Wednesdays. **Please can your child continue to come into school wearing their forest school clothes and bring a spare pair of shoes to change into. Please remember warm layers, hats, gloves and scarves please.**

Homework:

It is really important that the children are reading their schoolbook at home as often as possible, so they are continuing to develop their confidence with phonic sounds and blending. Please record each day your child reads with just the date and a short comment on where they have read to. Please do add any comments if you feel there is anything you'd like us to know about their reading. **Please ensure your child's reading book is brought into school each day with their reading record book.**



This week we will launch our 'Reading Around the World' challenge that will encourage your child to read at home everyday. Everytime a bookmark is completed they will receive 10 house points and will move to the next country around the world. Will your child travel all the way around the world?

Spellings: On Mondays, spellings will be sent home for the Year 1 children in your child's reading diary, and they will be tested the following Monday. Please help your child to practice writing their spellings at home. We will also send out the Year 1 Statutory Common exception words on bookmarks for children to practice.

Maths: To help develop children's fluency in mathematics we ask them to learn Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs). We expect children to practice their KIRFs at least 3 times a week. Please let us know if you need a copy of these.

Reception: In addition to hearing your child read please continue to practice the sounds and actions your child has learnt using the sound cards in your child's book bag.

Book bags, Water bottles and Coats: Just a reminder we encourage children to bring their belongings into School using a named book bag rather than a rucksack, unfortunately we have little storage space for these. When children attend before school gymnastics, they can bring in a small rucksack for their gym clothes. Please ensure **everything** is named!



We ask all children to bring to school on a Monday a simple sensible water bottle like the image shown.

We will send the water bottles home every Friday to ensure they are cleaned thoroughly.

As the weather is very changeable now if you could please ensure your child has a suitable waterproof warm coat in school.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. Can we take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, it is hugely appreciated!

Kindest regards

Mrs Masson, Mrs Swain & Mrs Moore
Larks Team