INDIGO CLASS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Welcome to Indigo Class. I hope you all had a good summer break!

It is lovely to see the children back in school again and I am delighted by how well they have all quickly settled into their new class.

Mrs Kemp will support the children on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Miss Webster will support the class on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Mrs Reeve, Higher Level Teaching Assistant, will be taking the class on a Thursday morning.

The children will enter through the main door, as independently as possible, and make their way to the classroom. Please send in book bags every day with your child's reading record and reading book.

Please send your child into school with a piece of fruit or vegetable for morning snack, which they can keep in their trays in the classroom. Fruit will be provided in the afternoons.

Please continue to send your child to school with a named water bottle. Children should only have water to drink during lessons in Key Stage 1 so please, no juice or squash in bottles.

This term in Indigo Class, the children will be learning about and covering the following:

English

Writing
We are focusing on sentence structure. The children will be starting to write simple sentences, using full stops, capital letters and finger spaces and they will continue to practise letter formation to improve their handwriting. There is a strong emphasis on phonics and the children will be learning and using new digraphs and trigraphs (a single sound made from 2 or 3 letters) to sound out new words to read and write. We will also be looking at plurals, instructions and description using adjectives.

Spellings
The children will receive a green spelling book, which will be sent home every Friday with new spellings that the children need to learn to write. They will be tested on their spellings at school on Friday. Your child will have the chance to practice their spellings at school. Please help your child to practise and discuss the meanings and possible uses for the words on the list. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check is a good strategy for learning spellings, with several practices throughout the week. The spellings set are linked to the phonics work in class that week and will be differentiated to meet your child's needs. They will need to be able to spell all eight words linked to phonics and the tricky words.

Reading
The children will focus on decoding words, using their phonic knowledge, learning alternative graphemes, improving vocabulary and knowledge of words. The children will work on improving their comprehension skills by answering questions about the text and developing their prediction and deduction skills.

Your child will receive a new reading book every Monday. This is their book for the week and forms part of the guided reading sessions in school. The guided reading lessons will focus on decoding, prosody and comprehension. The progress observed in these sessions will determine the books that your child needs to read to continue to develop their vocabulary, fluency, expression and comprehension skills. Please encourage them to read the book again, this will help to build up their fluency. Children benefit from reading a book more than once, as this encourages fluency and good expression in reading, recognition of unfamiliar words and it promotes better comprehension of the text. Please try to hear your child read for at least five minutes every day, or as often as you can and write a comment in the reading record book when you have heard them read. If there is no comment in the book, I will not know it has been read. The children will also bring home a sharing book on a Monday which is a book from the book box to share with you.

Your child will also bring home a sheet each week with a list of the phonemes they will be learning in phonics, please try and go over these with your child to reinforce the learning in school.

Once children have settled into the term and we have completed our assessments, we will also be sending home a sheet in the reading record of common exception words - Tricky words - that need to be read confidently by sight as they are not decodable. These will be checked often and added to.

Maths

This year the whole school is using White Rose Maths to continue teaching the curriculum using a mastery approach. This term we will be focusing on place value within 10, addition and subtraction within 10 and 2D and 3D shapes. Children will be learning number bonds that make 10 (e.g. 5 and 5, 6 and 4, etc) and simple addition and subtraction using numbers up to 10. We will develop fluency and understanding when counting forwards and backwards to 20 and we will explore common 2D and 3D shapes and begin to recognise their properties.

There will be an emphasis on practical work giving children the opportunity to explore ideas using a variety of resources to help them learn new concepts and to help develop their mathematical thinking. Getting an answer right is only one of the steps in maths. Children need to understand and explain how they got the answer using the appropriate vocabulary and begin using their mathematical knowledge to help them solve new problems.

Understanding the World

In Geography, we will use basic geographical vocabulary to compare the physical and human features of Debenham. We will look at the buildings we find in Debenham, focusing on old and new buildings and discussing what they are made of and how they are different.

In DT we will be planning, evaluating and constructing a model house with different features. If possible, please can your child bring in a photo of their house? This can be emailed to the office if you would prefer. Your child will also need a cereal box to use at the main structure of their house, please could this be sent into school with their name on.

In PSHE we will be learning about being part of a team, listening, making good choices, bullying, working together and being kind.

In Science we will be identifying and naming everyday materials and discussing their properties. We will be carrying out simple experiments to investigate materials. Throughout

Year 1 we will be looking at seasonal changes and the weather patterns. This is something you can also focus on at home. The children could look at the weather each day and fill in a weather chart.

In RE, we will be looking at the Christian theme of belonging.

Knowledge organisers for Geography, Science and RE can be found on the class page on the school website. These will outline the basic learning that will take place in class for you to reinforce at home.

I hope that over the next few weeks the children will start sharing with you everything they are learning.

PE

We have PE lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, which will sometimes be held outside whilst the weather is warm and dry. When the weather is unsuitable for outdoor lessons, we will use the School Hall. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit. They will need to wear their PE t- shirt, school jumper and shorts or jogging bottoms. Please ensure long hair is tied back, jewellery removed and all items of clothing are named. Children who wear pierced earrings must remove these before coming to school. Staff are not able to remove children's earrings and it is not sufficient to tape earrings for PE.

Finally, if there is anything that you do not understand or anything that worries you about your child and their education, please send me a message on Class Dojo. I will be regularly sending out messages and updates about what we are learning in Year 1. I am here to help.

I am looking forward to an enjoyable year in Indigo Class, and seeing the children continue to grow!

Miss A Jackson
Year 1 Class Teacher