

Darling Class NEWSLETTER SUMMER TERM 5 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,


We hope you all had lovely Easter break and are ready and raring for Term 5! We are excited for our trip to Chepstow Castle in a couple of weeks' time and have plenty to look forward to this term.

Monday & Tuesday: Mrs Hunter

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: Mrs Breen

Teaching Assistants: Miss Strathdee, Mrs Barnard

Topic – This term our topic is 'Castles and Dragons'.

Summer Term 5	
PSED / PSHE	This term we will be thinking about the importance of eating a healthy and balanced diet, exercising regularly and the importance of regular hygiene routines. We will think about overcoming challenges and that learning a new skill requires practice and the opportunity to fail safely. We will be continuing to focus on good listening skills, how it feels to give and receive praise suggesting simple strategies for resolving conflict situations.
Maths	Reception- Counting on to add, counting forwards and backwards, counting to 20, doubling, halving and sharing. Year One- time, money, volume and capacity and mass.
Phonics	Reception will be introduced the 2 letters one sounds /sh/ /ch/ /qu/ /wh/ /th/ /ng/ /ck/ and will continue to read and write words with 4 and 5 sounds. Year One will be learning the same sound different spelling for the sounds /ar/ /or/ /ue/ /oy/ We will be continuing to read and write real and nonsense words of increasing length using all the sounds we have learnt so far.
English	Our key texts this term will be:  As well as writing their own stories, poems and explanation texts, there will be opportunities for dramatization and performing, as the children take on roles of knights, dragons, Kings and Queens.
Science / Understanding the World	The first couple of weeks back we will be finishing our 'Plants' topic and planting seeds. We will then begin our 'Materials' topic where we will identifying and naming a variety of materials, describing and comparing their properties and grouping them together.
Computing	We will be using computers and ipads to write, add and remove text, change the look of text and select tools for a purpose.
History/ Understanding the World	As historians, we are going to look at clues that castles hold to explain why they were built, what life might have been like at the time and role play as different people at the time. We will look at castles built in our locality and enhance our learning with a trip to Chepstow Castle.
Physical Development / PE	PE days will be Tuesday and Thursdays. Reception Units- Working with Others and Drumba. Year One Units- Cricket and Drumba.
DT / Expressive Art and Design	This half term Reception and Year 1 will be cooking. <i>We kindly ask for a voluntary donation of £5 towards the cost of ingredients for the term.</i>
RE / Understanding the World	This half term we will be looking at the Hindu Religion. We will be exploring what Hindus believe in. We will be looking at some special events that they celebrate during childhood; Hindu weddings; the Hindu festivals of Diwali and Raksha Bandhan; the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi and how other religions celebrate significant birthdays. If you are a practising Hindu and are willing to come into Darling Class to share your experiences on any of these areas, please do get in touch.
Music	This terms unit is called 'Sound and Pictures'. The children will be learning to match and create pictures/symbols to represent sounds and capture, sequence and change sounds to make a musical story.

**Reading
Reception:**

Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times each week and record this in your child's Reading Record Book and help your child to practice their weekly sounds and high frequency words. All Reception children will be read with once a week and all reading books will be changed once a week.

Year 1: Please continue to read with your child each day and help them to practise their spellings and high frequency words. Spelling tests will take place each Tuesday (unless no spelling have been given for that week).

Whilst your child is learning to read, we ask that you encourage your child to re-read their phonics book until they can read the book fluently. Re-reading the same book for fluency supports young readers to become more confident and engaged in reading. Please briefly record when your child reads by writing your initials on their reading bookmark. This will be judged by your child's class teacher or teaching assistant. For support with correctly pronounced sounds, please watch our helpful video on the school website: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dVG6QoS_9iw&feature=youtu.be

Year 1 Phonics Screening

A reminder that all Year 1 children will sit the statutory Phonics screening assessment during the week of June 8th. Although this is in Term 6, please do keep practising with the cat book marks and QR codes at home, to best support your child.

Items to bring to school

Children ONLY need to bring in a named water bottle, named book bag with book folder inside, coat and hat. If your child requires items for toileting, these can be brought in a bag and left on their peg.

Show and Tell

Children often like to bring in items from home to show to the class, which is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's confidence speaking to the class and oracy skills. To ensure that this is fair and each child gets a turn, a 'Show and Tell' box will be sent home with one child each day, for them to put something into the box to show to the class the next day.

Forest School

Forest School will continue to be on **Friday** afternoons, with the first session on **Friday 17th April**. Being able to explore the natural world, take risks and learn new skills is hugely beneficial for children's confidence and holistic development. Forest School will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds or thunderstorms. On Forest School days children should come dressed in layers of clothes suitable for being outdoors (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) and appropriate for the weather. These must include long sleeves and trousers (no skirts, shorts or dresses), to protect from scratches and bites, including ticks. Extra socks, hat and gloves are recommended in cold weather. Children are asked to leave NAMED waterproof trousers and wellington boots in school.

We rely on parent helpers to make Forest School possible, without parent helpers Forest School cannot take place. If you are able to volunteer (even if it is only once a term) please email admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk or speak to Mrs Breen.

How you can support your child & contacting us:

Your child's education is a partnership and we look forward to developing a close relationship with you.

We ask that you:

- Support your child in his/her learning through practice at home and promoting positive attitudes
- Encourage personal independence by making sure your child has the correct clothing, reading books and water bottles each day and practising taking off and put on their own socks, shoes, coats, hats and gloves
- Support the school's policies, including home learning
- Make sure your child is in school and on time
- Make sure that you have given us the updated permissions and contact information

The best way to contact us is to use the school email: admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk

For urgent messages please call the school office on 01666 837602.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries. The beginning of the day is a very busy time, so if you do have a longer message or enquiry, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment.

We look forward to a very exciting term together and wish to thank you for your support.

The Darling Class Team