

Newsletter 1 - Autumn 2026

Welcome Back

It has been wonderful to welcome the children to school and to see them looking so healthy and well. Thank you to parents/carers for following the school uniform guidelines, the children look very smart and ready to learn. This is fantastic as we have an exciting year ahead.

By refining and further embedding our active and creative curriculum offer, we will continue to explore opportunities that enhance child development, support mental health and wellbeing, deepen our connection with nature and promote inclusive and engaging learning.

This half term's topic information is below. A more detailed topic web of the intended learning for each year group will follow.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery: Rhyme Time! This term we will be taking an exciting dive into the world of nursery rhymes past and present. Incy Wincy spider will be leaping out of the story book and becoming our nursery pet and we will be splatting Humpty Dumpty in order to create a whole-class masterpiece! Fun learning times ahead as we dig deeper into some much loved traditional nursery rhymes.

Reception: This is Me! We are all unique and special in our own way and this half term we will take a closer look at how we explore the world using our five senses. We will learn about Autumn and explore our locality on our first Brierdene and beach visit. We will talk about our families and look at family trees. We will become artists as we create self-portraits using different media and increasing detail. Our first steps in reading will occur with the introduction of the Read, Write, Inc phonics programme as we learn our Set 1 words. We will meet our Year 4 Buddies in time for some Halloween fun too. A busy term ahead!

Key Stage One

Our topic this half term is called *"The Journey of Me"*. In Geography, we will explore maps of the UK and zoom in on Whitley Bay; identifying key features of our local area. We will focus particularly on the coast. In English, we begin by exploring what makes us all individuals. Through our key texts, including, *'On the Way Home,'* by Jill Murphy, we will investigate what makes a good journey tale and then have a go at creating a journey story of our own. Through our Art unit, we will explore texture, line and pattern and study portraits and self portraits.

In Maths, we are focusing on understanding place value and will begin to apply our knowledge to support addition and subtraction.

Key Stage 2

We are very excited to be starting the term with a brand new topic, **Antarctica**. We will listen to, read, explore and use the incredible book *'Shackleton's Journey'* as a stimulus for our writing. In Science, we will be finding out about how the explorers stayed healthy during their expedition. We will compare this to modern day healthy eating and dentistry. In Geography, the children will identify and describe Antarctica's location in the far south of the globe. We will then investigate the two main reasons people visit that part of world: tourism and scientific research. In art, we will be developing colour mixing skills to create detailed self portraits, in abstract and in traditional styles.

Class Assembly Dates

There is a special assembly for each class (R-Y4) over the year. Parents/carers are invited to attend and celebrate the children's learning. There is usually a theme related to the term's topic for each class assembly and the children always impress us with their confidence on stage and wonderful singing voices.

Diary Dates

2026-2027

18.9.26 'Booknic' 2pm

24.9.26 - Reception Parent workshop @ 2:30pm

13.10.26 Parent Evening 1

15.10.26 Parent Evening 2

21.10.26 Halloween Disco for Reception-Y4

23.10.26 Training Day

26.10.26-30.10.26 Half Term

6.11.26 Red Class Assembly @ 9am

18.12.26 Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

4.1.27 Training Day

29.01.27 Blue Class Assembly @ 9am

12.02.27 Orange Class Assembly @ 9am

15.2.27-19.2.27 Half Term

26.02.27 Green Class Assembly @ 9am

26.3.27-9.4.27 Easter Break

3.5.27 May Bank Holiday

21.05.27 Purple Class Assembly @ 9am

28.5.27 Training Day

31.5.27-4.6.27 Half Term

25.06.27 Yellow Class Assembly @ 9am

9.07.27 Reception Joint Class Assembly @ 9am

20.7.27 Last day for pupils

21.7.27 Training Day

The next newsletter is out on Friday 18 September 2026