



## Viaduct Federation of Schools

### Reception (FS2) Spring 1 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

The children have now been in school for a whole term. We are so pleased with how much the children have achieved. They have enjoyed learning through our topics during our child-initiated learning.

The children are now familiar with all of our school incentives including the Community Coin and Star stickers. These are great motivators for the children to do their best at learning and to be kind and helpful.

Brilliant work FS2 children! We hope you have enjoyed your well-deserved break!

## Foundation Stage 2 Teachers



Mrs Bennett- Head of FS



Mrs Polmear- Dolphin Class



Miss Ahmed- Penguin Class

## Subject Overviews

### Writing

We will continue to write 3 and 4 sound words. The children will begin to write phrases and simple sentences. They will be encouraged to remember what they need to make a good sentence – capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces between words. They will also practise holding the sentence in their heads so they can remember what they are writing. Please remind the children of this when they practise at home. The children will continue to practise reading and writing Red words and using them in their writing. Please help them by practising these at home. We are enjoying our English scheme lessons 'The Write Stuff'. Children use the fantastic rainbow to help develop stories and their vocabulary.

### Reading

The children are having two Read Write Inc lessons a day. They are making great progress in their reading. Many children are reading words using their blending skills. We will continue to practise reading 3 and 4 sound words and spot our special friends to help us in our reading. Many children are also beginning to read simple sentences independently. Your support with reading at home really helps your children practise their new reading skills. We are also learning many of our red words that are in the front of the children's reading records. Through our topic we will continue to share a range of stories and learn new vocabulary.

### Maths

At the beginning of this half term our focus will be 'Alive in 5'. During this topic, we will look at recognising, making and representing the number 5. We will also explore the composition of 5 and explore various ways we can make 5. We will practise how to find 1 more and 1 less than with numbers up to 5. Later in the term, we will move on to explore the numbers 6, 7 and 8. We will continue to explore finding, representing, and the composition of these numbers. We will continue to explore odd and even numbers. We will also be introduced to doubling numbers up to 8.

In addition, this term we will explore and compare mass and capacity. The children will be learning the correct vocabulary to enable them to compare the weight of objects. Comparing 2 items they will try and find the heaviest and lightest. We will build on their understanding of full/empty by showing half full, nearly full and nearly empty. Following this, we will investigate different shaped containers seeing which will hold more or less and begin to use the language thin/tall/narrow/wide/shallow.

## Subject Overviews continued...

### **Topic**

This half term our topic will be 'Journeys through Stories'. As part of this topic we will be reading a range of books which involve different types of story journeys and venturing into different cultures. The stories we will be looking at can be seen below. Some of these may be familiar or new to the children. Some of the areas of learning we will cover through our topic work will be going on journeys and exploring different cultures and environments. The children will make observations and describe how they are different. They will give reasons for why things happened in a story and ask their own questions. During their continuous provision time they will explore the stories through role play, small world, construction, and the creative area.



Mrs Kirk– Penguin Class



Mrs Lloyd– Seal Class



Miss Arscott– Penguin Class



### **Personal Social and Emotional**

The children will be building on our learning through cooperative play and taking turns with others. They will be learning how to take account of one another and how to organise their activities to include everyone's thoughts and ideas. The children will continue to build their confidence in all areas of learning through continued opportunities in each learning area. They will be able to share their opinion on why they like some activities more than others. They will continue to use the zones of regulation and learn about having a Growth Mindset.

### **Communication and Language**

The children will be describing and explaining events and use talk to organise and clarify their thinking. We will also be continuing circle time where the children will be discussing journeys they have experienced. We will be encouraging the children to talk in full sentences and to explain their ideas using 'because'. Children will listen and respond to ideas expressed by others in a conversation.

### **Physical Development**

We are continuing to practise our letter formation through our handwriting sessions. The children are getting good at using the 'nip, flip, grip and cushion' method to hold their pencil when writing. We have discovered that scissors can be quite tricky so we will be doing lots of cutting over the half term. In our weekly PE sessions, our focus will be developing our ball skills including kicking, catching, and throwing. The children will be doing a full change of clothes for PE so please practise dressing and undressing independently at home!

### **Music**

We will explore different aspects of music through our Topics and other events like Chinese New Year. We will explore word rhythms and sequences of sound. During our Bear Hunt Topic we will learn an action song and compose music. We will also discover how feelings and moods can be expressed through music. Music sessions are always interactive using instruments and songs to give children the chance to practise what they have learned.

### **ICT**

By this stage in the year, the children can recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools. They are able to use ICT for a purpose and understand that information can be retrieved using ICT. We will continue practise operating different programme on iPads and whiteboards in school.

### **Understanding the World**

Children will be learning about maps and have opportunities to create their own simple ones based on the stories they explore in class. They will explore different countries and compare them with England. They will begin to compare old and new bicycles throughout the Jolly Postman topic.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children will explore using different media to create collages, junk models and paintings. They will look at famous paintings and explore colour mixing in their own works. They will use props and act out narratives through our topics and use what they have learned to develop their own narratives.

**Parent Reminder.** Please ensure your child brings in their PE kit the first day of term with labelled clothing.

**FS2 have PE every Wednesday.**

## **Homework**

### **Reading**

Please continue to hear your child read and practise red words at home. Try asking your child to explain what is happening in their own words. This will help your child's understanding of the story.

### **Writing**

Practise writing cvc words and phrases. Remind children to use their Fred fingers when writing words.

### **Maths**

Practise counting objects to 10 and beyond. Practise counting backward from 20. Challenge your child to start and stop at different numbers. Go on a 3D shape hunt. Ask the children to name and describe the shapes they find.

### **Topic**

Make a picture from one of the scenes in our stories. Write some describing words for your picture and label what you have drawn.

## **Upcoming Events in Spring 1**

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Parent's evening

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – End of Term

**BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE**

### **Did you know we now have a Facebook page?**

We have created a Facebook page which will show any news and events across the Viaduct Federation of schools, it is titled 'The Bushfield and Wyvern Viaduct Federation of Schools'. Like us and keep up to date with any fun school events and news!



## Attendance Matters



Viaduct Federation of Schools

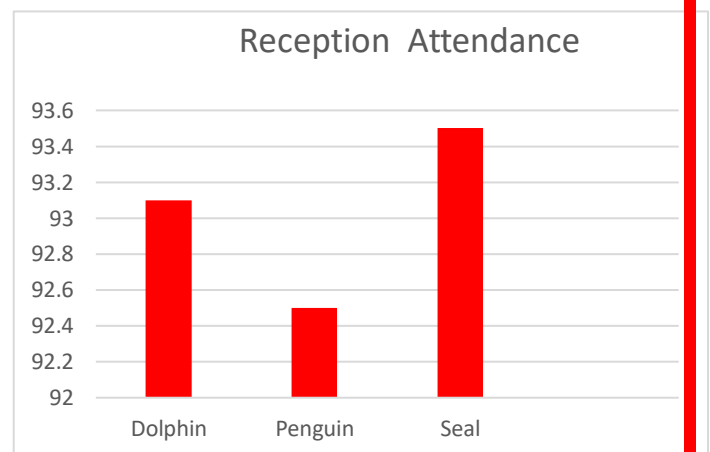
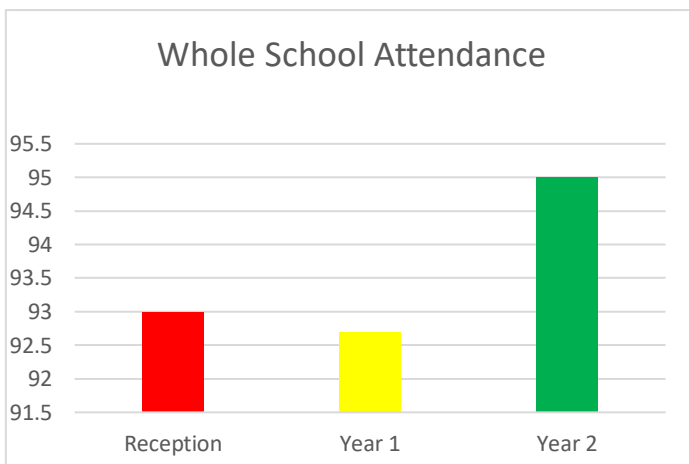


## ATTENDANCE REVIEW

### AUTUMN TERM

**73 possible days this year**

As you know, pupil attendance is very important and is a focus on schools from both the government and the local authority. In terms of our drive to raise awareness, please see below our classes' average attendance. Thank you for all of your efforts to get the children in everyday. Please can we encourage you to keep it up for the next half term.



<p><b>100%</b> attendance</p> <p>72 days of learning</p> <p><b>0</b> days absent</p> <p><b>EXCELLENT</b></p> <p>High attendance leads to high achievement and a greater chance of success – Well done!</p>	<p><b>97%</b> attendance</p> <p>70 days of learning</p> <p><b>2</b> days absent</p>
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<p><b>95%</b> attendance</p> <p>68 days of learning</p> <p><b>4</b> days absent</p> <p><b>CONCERNING</b></p> <p>Poor attendance makes it harder to progress and limits opportunities for success</p>	<p><b>90%</b> attendance</p> <p>65 days of learning</p> <p><b>7</b> days absent</p>
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<p><b>85%</b> attendance</p> <p>61 days of learning</p> <p><b>11</b> days absent</p> <p><b>SERIOUS CONCERN</b></p> <p>Very poor attendance seriously impacts on education and reduces life chances!</p>	<p><b>80%</b> attendance</p> <p>58 days of learning</p> <p><b>14</b> days absent</p>
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*Be the best you can be.*