



# Jaguar Class Newsletter

06.02.26

Over the past few weeks, we have been incredibly impressed with how responsible the children are becoming and how confidently they are approaching their learning. Their enthusiasm, growing independence, and positive attitudes are shining through each day. We would like to gently remind everyone of the importance of arriving on time—children should be in school by **8:55am** so that we can begin phonics promptly at **9:00am**. Being on time ensures they don't miss out on essential learning at the very start of the day. We are so proud of the progress they are making and look forward to seeing their continued hard work throughout the term.

## English

In English, our key text is *Julian Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love. The children have been working hard on applying rich description to their sentences by using exciting adjectives and precise verbs to bring Julian's world to life. They have also been developing their writing stamina by extending their sentences with conjunctions, helping them to add detail, explanation, and imagination to their ideas. Through exploring the story's characters and beautiful illustrations, the children are learning to describe settings, feelings, and actions with increasing confidence. Next week, they will use these skills to create their own descriptive writing inspired by Julian's journey.

## Maths

In maths, the children have been working hard on addition and subtraction within 20, exploring different strategies to help them solve calculations confidently. They have been using number bonds, counting on and back, and part-whole models, and they are now able to use their understanding to create and explain fact families. We are so proud of the progress they have made. We are now moving on to our new unit on 2D and 3D shapes. The children will be learning to name and describe a variety of shapes, identify their properties, and sort them in different ways. They will also explore how shapes appear in everyday objects, helping them make links between maths and the world around them.

## Science

In science, the children have been learning about different materials and exploring how we use them in the world around us. Recently, they have been investigating the difference between transparent and opaque objects, carrying out simple tests to observe how light passes through materials. The children have shown great curiosity when sorting and describing materials based on their properties.

## Geography

In geography, the children have been exploring hot and cold places around the world, using maps and globes to help them identify and compare different climates. They have been learning that the closer a place is to the equator, the warmer and more humid it tends to be, while places further away are usually cooler. The children have really enjoyed spotting countries, discussing weather patterns, and thinking about what life might be like in different parts of the world. This work is helping them develop their understanding of global geography and how location affects climate.

## History

In history, we have been learning about significant individuals from the past and why their achievements are still important today. The children have particularly enjoyed discovering the life of Mary Anning, a remarkable fossil hunter who made some of the most important prehistoric discoveries along the Jurassic Coast. We have been exploring why she is considered such a significant figure—her discoveries helped scientists understand more about dinosaurs and life on Earth millions of years ago.

In PSHE, children have been learning to set goals and identify successes and achievements. They have focused on challenges and identify ways of overcoming barriers.

## RE

In RE, the children have been learning about Hinduism, where it originates from, and what Hindus believe. They have explored some of the special traditions and practices that take place in Hindu homes, such as using a shrine (puja) to show respect and devotion. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about Hindu prayers, discovering how Hindus use chanting and mantras to help them focus and show gratitude.

## Computing

The children have been learning about the functionality of the direction key and understanding how to create and debug a set of instructions (algorithm).

## Art

In art, the children have been developing their painting skills by exploring a range of brush strokes and learning how different techniques can create different effects. They have also enjoyed experimenting with painting on various surfaces, discovering how the texture of the surface can change the look and feel of the paint. Recently, the children have been practising how to control their brushwork to paint smooth, circular shapes, concentrating on precision and steady movements. Building on these skills, they created their own artwork inspired by the style of Piet Mondrian, using bold primary colours, clean lines, and carefully painted shapes to echo his famous abstract compositions. The children showed fantastic creativity and control in their Mondrian-inspired pieces.

## Music

The children are currently learning a song that has been arranged in **six different musical styles**: Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk, and Funk. They are enjoying listening to how the same melody can sound completely different depending on the style, instruments, and rhythms used.

## PE

In PE, the children are currently exploring **target games** and **yoga**. In target games, they are developing their understanding of the principles of **attacking and defending**, learning how to aim accurately, control their movements, and make thoughtful tactical decisions. During yoga sessions, the children are beginning to learn a range of **poses and techniques** that help them connect their mind and body. They are working on improving their **strength, flexibility, coordination, and balance** while also practising calm breathing and focus.

## News

### Tuck Shop Friday

We are excited to announce we are launching a tuck shop in school on Friday. One treat is priced at 50p. All monies raised will go back to the children through resources, contributions to trips and other exciting opportunities. Tuck shop will still be on this Friday.

### Daily Reading at home

Please spend 10 minutes reading with your child, and record this in their reading records as this helps them to become confident and fluent readers who can move through the Read, Write Inc scheme. Please speak to staff in class if you require any further support with your child's reading.

### Uniform

Please ensure your child's uniform is labelled clearly with their name. This will really support staff in returning any lost uniform.

### Healthy eating

As we are a healthy eating school, a gentle reminder to please provide your child with healthy choices for their snack/ lunch options e.g. fruit, veggie sticks and cereal bars etc.

### Birthdays

We kindly ask that if you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please send only small individually wrapped sweets/ chocolate instead of a birthday cake. This helps us keep celebrations simple and fair for all children.

#### Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a water bottle with them in school each day.

#### PE

Year 1 PE days are on Wednesday and Friday, please ensure your child arrives to school in their PE kits on these days.