

Welcome to Kingfisher Class



2023-24

Year 1

Teacher: Miss Ewles

Teaching Assistants: Miss Creed and Mrs
Hudson

Hello Kingfisher Class!

I am so excited to be joining St White's primary school as the new Kingfisher class teacher. I am so pleased that you are in my class, and I have really enjoyed meeting you as you have finished your time in reception, and I cannot wait to get to know you throughout the year!

Please continue reading below for lots more important information about next year. If you have any questions, I am always happy to help and support you in any way that I can. Feel free to contact me at kingfisher@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk if you have any questions before the end of term.

Miss Ewles

Just in case you have not seen us around school before, here is who we are:



Miss Ewles



Miss Creed



Mrs Hudson

Also, in case you are wondering, Miss Ewles is pronounced 'yules' (it's a tricky one)!

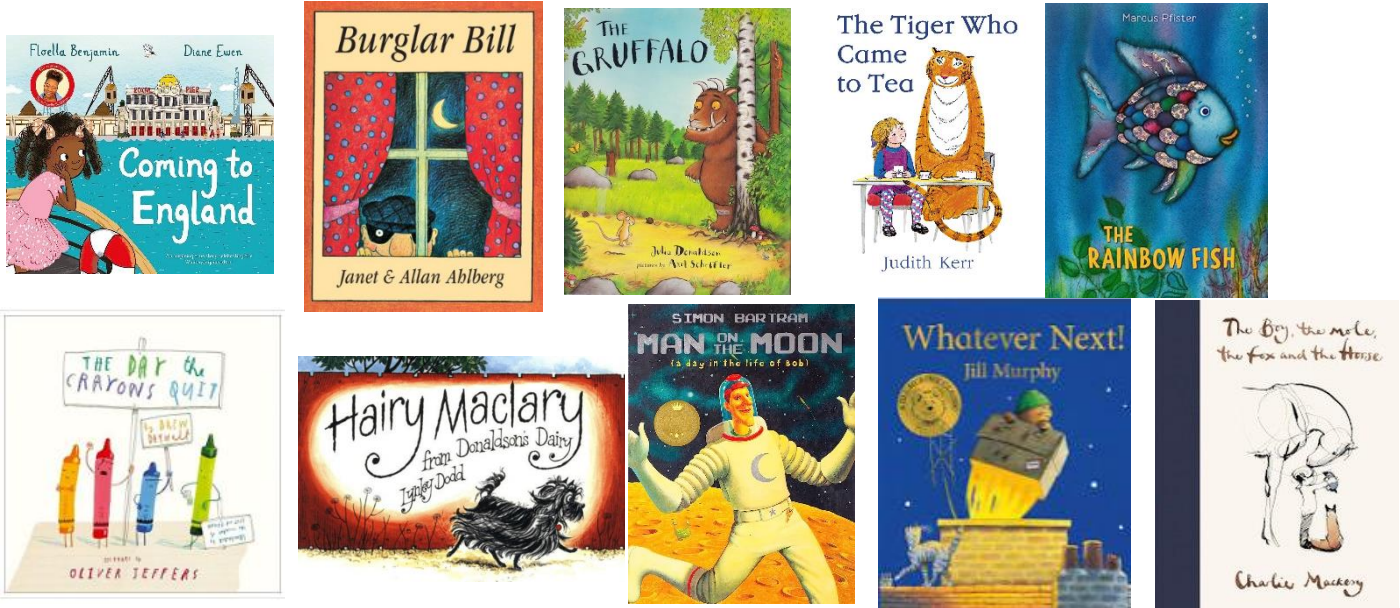
Behaviour for Learning

In Kingfisher class, we work hard to have a 'can do' attitude towards learning. We believe that by committing ourselves to our learning and by being enthusiastic, courageous and creative, we will achieve our very best. We have an understanding that we are responsible for our own learning and that we must always focus on our goals not just for ourselves but also for the rest of our classmates. We will always strive to follow the school rules and be given time to reflect on our actions when things get a bit more difficult. Please see below for the school rules:



Reading

Reading is a fundamental part of your child's education and I am really looking forward to reading with your children and sharing some of my favourite stories with them. Here a few of my favourites from my childhood and books that I have read to classes I have worked with in the last few years- please let me know if you read any of these!



Phonics and Reading

At St White's, we follow a synthetic phonics programme called 'Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS for short).

Synthetic phonics is a way of teaching children to read. It teaches children how sounds are represented by written letters. Children are taught to read words by blending these sounds together to make words.

For example, they will be taught that the letters 'm-a-t' blend together to make 'mat'. A synthetic phonics programme, such as ELS, is a structure for teaching these sounds in a certain order to build up children's learning gradually. It is used daily during Reception and Year 1 (or until your child is secure with their phonics) to teach all the sounds in the English language.



How is ELS taught at St White's?

With ELS, there is a daily phonics lesson where the teacher teaches a new sound, or reviews sounds learned earlier in the week. This is shown to the class on the whiteboard. Children learn the letters that represent the sounds. They are then asked to read words and sentences with the new sounds in. Children will also practise writing the letters that represent the sounds.

In Year 1, pupils will revisit the phase 2 and 3 sounds that they learnt in reception and learn the phase 5 sounds. They will also work on their blending and decoding of longer words.

Support with pronouncing the sounds correctly

Children learn to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sounds they represent. Pronounce the sounds as you would say them within a word. Make sure you don't add 'uh' onto the end, so for 'm' say 'mm' not 'muh' and for 'l' say 'ull' not 'luh'. This video gives you all 44 sounds in English.

<https://youtu.be/UCI2mu7URBc>

We will be inviting parents in to find out more about the Essential Letters and Sounds Programme near the beginning of this term. Keep an eye out for the date and time!

Please also take a look at the 'Reading at St White's' padlet to find out more information.

https://www.st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk/web/reading_at_st_whites/634413

Reading Books and Expectations

To best support us in teaching your child to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school five times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them on their journey to becoming an independent reader.

We will be changing children's books once a week on **Fridays**. This will allow your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelled in different ways.

Your child's reading will be assessed regularly to ensure that they are reading appropriate books matched to their ability. Our books are levelled 1 to 20 and your child will be given books within these levels until they progress past these levels where they will then be given books within the coloured bands.

The progression in the levelled books is based on the sounds that are in the words. We start off at level 1 with 's' 'a' 't' 'p' and end up at level 20 being able to read 'patience', 'sugar' and 'vision'! Some of the books have adult pages and child pages so that you can share an exciting story with each other and share the reading. Your child will bring home a second reading book where they can practise the sounds they have been learning too which is designed to increase their confidence when reading. Remember, the main aim with home learning is for both of you to enjoy the experience. If you would like more support with reading at home, please email me and I will be happy to help.

At the beginning of this year, we will do a new assessment to ensure that your child has a book that contains words they are confident in reading. We hope you will share it with them and help them to celebrate their success.

If you have any questions about any of this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me!

Websites to support phonics and reading at home

Alphablocks <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

Oxford Owl for Home. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

DfE phonics lessons https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw

Mr Thorne does phonics (youtube)

Geraldine giraffe (youtube)

Writing

In Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2), it is very important that pupils learn to form their letters correctly. This will help them to begin joining their handwriting towards the end of Year 2 and in preparation for continuing their writing development in Key Stage 2. Please see below for the school font which you can refer to when helping your child to practise their handwriting at home.



Spelling

In Key Stage 1, pupils are expected to learn a set of spellings each week that they will then be tested on in a spelling test at school on a **Friday**. The spellings that pupils learn at home begin with the harder to read and spell words (HRSW- words that cannot be spelt by sounding out). This means that pupils need to learn and just 'know' how to spell these words rather than trying to spell them by using their phonics knowledge or knowledge of specific spelling rules.

Please see the following two pages for information related to spelling for each year group.

Year 1 Spelling Lists:

List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6
a the do to of	was is his has I	me she we no go	be he you so they	by my here there are	today said says were your
List 7	List 8	List 9	List 10	List 11	List 12
ask one love come some	put push pull full house	once friend school where our	puff fluff cliff stuff you	pull fell doll spill here	class mess dress pass there
List 13	List 14	List 15	List 16	List 17	List 18
back	bank	chip	catch	goat	card

click clock truck said	think pink trunk says	chick church chair your	ditch fetch match were	boat coat float come	park stars army some
List 19	List 20	List 21	List 22	List 23	List 24
hurt burst Thursday burger house	hunting shouting cooking jumping where	walked jumped shouted buzzed school	unhappy unkind unfair unload our	longer shorter higher taller today	longest shortest highest tallest friend
List 25	List 26	List 27	List 28	List 29	List 30
train play snake crayon once	sheep bead team theme donkey	night five slide pie bright	phone toe stone float goes	flute true pew blue June	haunt paw shawl launch lawn
List 31	List 32	List 33	List 34	List 35	List 36
cloud proud shout clown frown	boil coin boy spoil oyster	bird twirl girl perch person	afternoon tool book booth spoon	air chair repair hair pairs	fear near shear beard dear
List 37	List 38				
monkey journey valley turkey jockey	pliers cried tries flies spies				

In **Year 1**, pupils will work through the 'HRSW' and be tested on 5 of the words each week. The spelling lists will then move on to words containing sounds that they are learning in phonics and words that contain the Year 1 spelling rules. One word in these lists will also be a HRSW to help pupils retain their previous learning. All pupils in year 1 will be tested on the same set of spellings each week regardless of their progress the previous week. We would be grateful for your support in continuing to practise any which your child struggles with even after they have been tested in school. Spelling is for life – not just for Fridays!

Maths

As pupils move through Key Stage 1, it is really important that pupils know how to form numbers correctly, and practising this both at school and at home will help with this. Please see below for an example of the correct number formation pupils will be expected to use:



What will I learn in year 1?

- Place value – Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to 10, 20, 50 and 100.

- Addition and subtraction – Adding and subtracting numbers within 10 and 20.
- Multiplication and division – Learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and being introduced to grouping and sharing.
- Fractions – Finding halves and quarters of shapes, numbers and quantities.
- Measurement – Comparing, describing and solving practical problems for length and height, capacity and volume and mass and weight. Telling the time to the hour. Recognising coins and notes.
- Geometry – Naming 2-D and 3-D shapes.

Websites to support maths learning at home

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables (your child will be given a login in September if they don't already have one).

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them). Same login as TT Rockstars.

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Top Marks- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> - lots of counting, number recognition, place value and adding games

Foundation Subjects

In the autumn term (September until the Christmas holidays), our history topic will be 'The Great Fire of London', which I can't wait to teach to you all! We will learn about how the Great Fire of London started and why it spread so quickly. We will also learn about life in 1666 and how we know about the events of the fire. In Geography, we will learn about the four capital cities of the UK, with a particular focus on London.

In the spring term, our topic will be 'How to Change the World.' We will compare the lives and achievements of Mary Anning (a famous palaeontologist who discovered the first fossils) and David Attenborough and learn about how their work has had an impact on the environment and how we live today. We will also study world maps to recognise and name the world's seven continents and five oceans and identify the location of hot and cold countries of the world in relation to the North and South Pole and the equator.

In the summer term, our topic will be 'Forests'. During this topic, we will study our local area and locate Cinderford on a map of the UK. We will also use our fieldwork and observational skills to draw a simple map of our school using a key and use locational and directional language to describe how to get from our classroom to the forest schools' area. In history, we will learn about what life was like for children in the Victorian era and compare St White's School today to St White's School in the late 1800s.

To support the work that the children are doing in school on their topic they will also be given an optional homework POWER project to complete during each term. This project will be linked to the topic and is a chance for children to apply a variety of skills including research, creativity and maths.

PE

PE lessons will take place twice a week on Wednesday and Thursday. If you are not sure of the school PE kit, a poster is displayed by the classroom door or the office can provide you with a letter detailing the full kit. It's really important that your child has all the uniform for these sessions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Forest School and the Allotment

We will have opportunities to take part in Forest School sessions and work on the allotment later this year. A timetable will be shared with parents with the dates, times and clothing required.

Finally...

Thank you so much for reading all of the information included in this document. I hope that this has helped to answer any questions that you may have and to give you a clearer idea of what to expect in September. If you have any further questions, please contact me on kingfisher@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk and I will try to help in any way that I can.

I really can't wait to meet you all in September and to get started in Kingfisher Class with you all. In the meantime, I hope you have a lovely, relaxing, safe summer and are well rested for what is going to be an exciting year ahead!