

Kirkstead Class – January 2026

Welcome back to a brand-new term. We hope you and your child enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and are feeling refreshed. We're excited to jump into the New Year with lots of joyful learning and new adventures ahead. We're also delighted to welcome Miss Wilkin to our team; she will be teaching the children on Wednesday afternoons.



Topic: This term we are excited to dive into our new topic, *Once Upon a Time*. We'll be exploring a wonderful range of traditional tales with plenty of enthusiasm, looking closely at different characters and the magical settings they inhabit. Our main focus will be castles: why they were built, who lived in them, and the features that make them so fascinating. The children will also have the chance to design and build their own castles using a variety of materials. This will include junk modelling, so we will be asking for boxes and recyclable items towards the end of the term.

Alongside this, the children will be learning about different materials, their properties, and their uses. With so many rich reading opportunities, we'll be thinking about how books and stories can be special to people and how they help us make sense of the world.

In PSED, the children will be exploring what makes everyone unique, celebrating similarities and differences, and recognising that our differences are something to be proud of. They will continue to develop their cooperation skills and enjoy celebrating their achievements together.

In EAD, the children will be working with Miss Wilkin to create their own imaginative characters, designing and making a moving figure. This project will help them develop both their creative thinking and their scissor skills.



Reading and Phonics: The children will be eager to jump back into their daily phonics sessions. Last term, they loved bringing home their worded books and sharing them with you, proudly practising the sounds they had been learning in class. Their growing confidence has been wonderful to see, and we know they will be excited to continue their reading journey as they bring home new decodable books on a Friday.

Please continue to record all reading in your child's *Home School Record*, as dojo points are awarded for daily reading and will contribute towards the dojo shop in March. Alongside their phonics book, the children will also continue to bring home a 'sharing' book which they change on a Monday and Wednesday. This is a book for you to enjoy together, as it is not intended to be read independently. If they prefer, they are welcome to choose a favourite story from home instead.



Mathematics: This term, our young mathematicians will be busy strengthening their number knowledge of 1 to 10 through lots of fun, practical activities using objects, songs, sounds, and actions. They'll be learning to compare quantities using important vocabulary such as *more than*, *fewer than*, and *equal to*, helping them build confidence in early number sense.

We'll be using **Numberblocks** to support their understanding, alongside plenty of hands-on exploration with manipulatives to make learning meaningful and engaging.

The children will also be investigating early measurement concepts, including **mass, capacity,** and **time,** giving them lots of opportunities to explore maths in the world around them.



Forest School: The children loved their Forest School adventures last term, and we're delighted that these sessions will continue every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. This term, the children will be exploring animal homes, taking part in the Big Bird Watch, trying out mud painting, building cairns, and experiencing the changing weather and seasons first-hand. They'll even have the chance to make their own apple cups.

Please send in your child's Forest School clothing ready for the start of Week 2. As the weather has turned chillier, we want to make sure everyone stays warm and cosy while they explore outdoors. Seasonal clothing such as extra layers, gloves, a hat, scarf, and an additional pair of socks plus warm puddle suits and wellies which will help keep them comfortable throughout their sessions. All Forest School clothing will be returned at the end of the Spring term in April.



P.E: In PE the children will be continuing to enjoy learning about movement delivered by JB Coaching. PE will take place every week on **Tuesday**. Please send your child to school in their **named** PE kit. This term also send the children in with their named school uniform in their PE bag as they will be changing into school uniform after PE as their PE session time has changed.

Homework: Homework will continue to be given out each Friday in the homework folder and it is expected to be back in school on the following Thursday.

Drop off/Pick Up: The day will start with the children coming in through the KS1 gate which will be open at **8.35am**. Please bring your child straight to the white classroom door where a familiar adult will be waiting to welcome them into school. At home time, the KS1 gate will be opened at **3:10pm** and the children will be collected from the classroom door at **3.15pm**. If someone other than the usual person will be picking up your child after school, please let us know.

We are looking forward to a fantastic Spring term. We can't wait to see your child thrive and grow. Let's make it a term to remember!

Kind Regards, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Allitt, Miss Haines & Mrs Darici