



Whiteknights

Growing Greatness

Whiteknights Primary School
Fairlawn Green, Shinfield Rise,
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Headteacher: Mrs B Reynolds

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

To give you a clearer picture of the areas of the curriculum that we are covering this term, we have attached an outline of the subjects that we plan to teach. In addition, we have set out a few reminders that will help the term run smoothly and enable your child to make the best possible progress with their learning.

The expectations for home learning are as follows:

- **Spellings:** Throughout the year, the children will be working through a scheme of work to help learn the different spelling rules. Each week, the children will be given weekly 'Log and Learn' spellings with a test on a Wednesday.
- **Reading:** We expect the children to read for 30 minutes at home every day and record their own comment in their diary (please follow the guidance of page 19 of your child's home learning diary). The children can pick a book to read from the selection available in their classroom (within their ZPD). Once read, they are to complete an Accelerated Reader quiz; a quiz should be completed approximately every two weeks. Diaries will be checked regularly and signed on a Friday.
- **Maths:** Two Century nuggets will be set weekly on a Wednesday. Pupils should now please log into Century using the school Google login found in pupils' home learning diary.

Home learning diaries should be in school every day as they will be checked, referred to and used regularly.

Please ensure that your child adheres to these deadlines, as it is good preparation for Year 6 and secondary school.

As per school policy, children are not required to bring in additional equipment such as pencil cases and backpacks. We will continue to provide each child with the necessary stationery in their school packs. We are keen to promote healthy eating at Whiteknights, and request that children bring a healthy snack (fresh fruit or vegetables only) to eat during morning break. Please refer to the weekly newsletter for regular updates about items permitted in school.

Attendance: We expect children to aim to have 100% attendance at school. Obviously, illness cannot be avoided but if in doubt, please send your child to school and make sure your contact details are up to date with the school office.

PE: A PE kit must be in school during the week for the children to wear for these lessons and taken home to be washed after. Trainers must be worn and, during the winter weather, black tracksuit trousers/jogging bottoms and a warm jumper should be included. All pupils must wear a white school PE shirt. PE will currently be indoor on Tuesday and outdoor on Wednesday.



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Outdoor learning: This term, Year 5 will be starting their outdoor learning rotation. This will include sport activities, nutritional learning and science lab. Sapphire will begin at the end of this half term and continue into the following half term, with Emerald being next half term. Detailed letters will follow shortly.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Kind regards,

Miss Gater and Miss Harvey (Year 5 Team)

Spring 1	
Writing	In writing this half term, we will be creating balanced arguments and a newspaper report based on our guided reading book Cogheart.
Maths	This half term in Maths, we will develop on our understanding of division, specifically looking at the written method. We will then be moving on to fractions, where we will explore finding a fraction of an amount.
Reading	We are reading Cogheart by Peter Bunzl, which is a steampunk inspired novel set in the Victorian era.
Art	In Art, we will be learning all about L.S Lowry and use his work as inspiration to create our own landscapes using charcoal.
Geography	In Geography, we will be learning about the differences between mountains and volcanoes. We will explore how mountains and volcanoes are formed, whilst linking our previous learning of Earthquakes to understand where they appear in the world.
Computing	With our new Chromebooks, we will be exploring Google Spreadsheets this half term. We will learn how to input, manipulate and organise data.
Science	This term we will be building on our knowledge of properties of materials. We will be looking at the key question, 'Are all changes in materials irreversible?' and carrying out many experiments to help answer this.
RE	Sikhism is our focus for this half term and the key question is: Are Sikh stories important today? We will be discussing the importance of stories and the messages that they represent.
Latin	We will start our unit 'Clean and Healthy' this half term. In this unit, our grammatical focus will be adverbs and how to identify their endings in Latin. Additionally, we will be learning about Roman baths.
PE	In indoor PE we will be creating a 'Greatest Showman' inspired dance, thinking about expression through dance. In outdoor PE, we will be learning how to play hockey.
Connect	In PSHE this half term, we will be exploring the benefits of giving to others, which links to the Knighthood programme that your child should be working on throughout the year.
Music	In Music, we will continue playing the recorder, learning two new notes, D and C, and practising melodies with the five notes we now know. Focus will be on improvisation and composition.