

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some down time with your family. It's been lovely hearing all about it from your children!

PE this term will be on a **Tuesday** and a **Friday** so please send them dressed in their PE kit on these days. Make sure everything is labelled so it can be returned to its owner please. This is particularly important for hoodies/jumpers/coats and water bottles.

Reading – Just a reminder that books need to be **returned on a Monday** for them to get a new book. Their new reading book will come home with them on a Wednesday. On the days your child does not have a physical book, you can find their allocated book on E-Collins. There is a list of the books your child will be reading this term in their reading record, along with their E-Collins log in (at the front).

Please continue to support us by listening to your child read at home. If your child reads at home, they receive a sticker on their reading bookmark. Each 10 stickers earn them a prize. When it is full up, they receive a certificate in assembly. Please remember to write in their reading records; it is helpful for us to know how they're getting on at home with their reading.

Morning Drop Off – Please continue to say goodbye to your child at the bottom of the ramp or at the door. It really helps if you support your child with this transition. It is also helpful if you help your child get their reading book, reading record and sound wallet out of their bag on a Monday, so we can collect them in easily. We begin phonics at 9am, so if you arrive after this time, please take your child to the office to be signed in and order their dinner.

Celebrations – Each day we will continue to have a star of the day, which will be someone who has impressed us the day before, and they will have special jobs for the day like taking the register and being at the front of the line. We also have our WOW vouchers, which we will share on a Friday if your child has done something at home/outside clubs. We will send some home this week. Please remember to fill these out when your child has done something to impress you.

We want to make sure your children are happy and love coming to school, so if you have any questions or concerns, please speak to us at drop off (before 9am) or after school. Please also feel you can email us to ask anything (kestrels@thrupp.gloucs.sch.uk), however, if it is urgent please ring or email admin/the office.

Thrupp Primary School



Information for Year 1 Parents
Spring 2026

Kestrels

Mrs Lewis

Support Staff:

Miss Chandler, Mrs Schmidt and Ms Hose

Below is a summary of what the children will be learning this term. The main topic this term is 'Moon Zoom!'. I'm looking forward to teaching this topic as I know we have lots of children interested in space already! We will be exploring the questions 'What do we know about space travel?' and 'How are hot and cold places different?'.

Topic – In history, we will be learning about space exploration. Children will learn what an astronaut is, who first walked on the Moon, and when this happened. We will also explore Apollo 11, the Saturn V rocket, key events in Neil Armstrong's life, and the important work of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson. In geography, we will be learning about wonderful weather. Children will learn the names of the seasons and how weather changes through the year. They will explore the Equator, North Pole and South Pole, understand how the Equator affects climate, identify hot and cold countries, and describe suitable clothing for different climates.

Year 1s will continue to be taught phonics, science and maths in single year groups.

Phonics – Year 1 children will be taught phonics together with Miss Hodson and Miss Payne or in a small group with Mrs Schmidt. Miss Hodson and Miss Payne's group will continue to build on our Phase 5 sounds, regularly recapping sounds taught so far as well as continuing to learn alternative spellings for known sounds (such as the /oa/ sound being spelled 'ow' as in snow, as well as 'oe' for toe). Mrs Schmidt's group are becoming confident with phase 3 sounds. They will be working on reading multi-syllable words with these sounds in and moving onto phase 4. Any support with tricky words at home would be great – there is an overview of their learning on the [Little Wandle website here](#).

Science – Year 1 will be taught by Mrs Giles and will be exploring materials and their properties – starting the first half term with the question 'What is a material and why are different materials used for different purposes?'. We will recognise and name a wide variety of materials as well as learn some are natural and some are man-made. After half term, Year 1 will ask 'Which material makes the best umbrella?' carrying out an investigation to find the best material.

Maths – Year 1 will continue to be taught by Miss Hodson and Mrs Giles this term. They will learn addition and subtraction facts for the numbers 11-16 before moving on to looking at the place value of numbers to 50. Please note that we have adapted the Can Do overview that is attached slightly, breaking the steps down further to suit our current children. After half term, they will move on to learning addition and subtraction facts for the numbers 17-20 and begin to learn all about 3D shapes. They will then move on to learning about the place value of numbers to 100.

English – We are continuing to love Drawing Club. We have begun the term with the book 'Aliens Love Underpants' and have been recapping the basic structure of a simple sentence, including a subject, verb and an adjective. We will continue to work on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops and re-reading our sentences to check they make sense. We will also be using 'and' to expand our sentences and add further detail.

Computing – We are beginning to build some confidence in logging ourselves in and out of Purple Mash. Any practise at home of this would be really beneficial. This term's focus is on coding – the children will begin to learn what an algorithm is, use buttons to move their character purposefully, and start to work out why their program doesn't work and suggest ways to fix it (de-bugging).

Art, DT and Music – The children have access to creative materials in our classroom and can use these in their own learning time to create musical numbers, models and paintings. In Music, we will be focused on musical patterns and performing. This will involve adding actions to song lyrics, playing listening games and exploring music and movement patterns through songs. For art this term we will be looking at how many artists use flora and fauna to inspire their work. We will be engaged in close looking as a way to build our drawing skills and we will be practicing our cutting and collage skills. Next term, our focus will be DT and we will focusing on mechanism and exploring how we can use wheels and axels to make moon buggies.

RE – We will be looking at 'What is it like to be brought up in a Muslim home in Britain?'. We have begun by looking at items that may be found in a Muslim home that show their identity, such as prayer beads or a copy of the Qur'an. Next, we will find out about some key Muslim beliefs about God, the Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad and then we will learn about how some Muslims welcome a baby into the family.

PSHE – Our PSHE units this term are Keeping Myself Safe and Rights and Responsibilities. We will begin thinking about how to keep ourselves safe indoors and outdoors and listening to our feelings. We will then move onto how we look after others and our world. We will also continue our 'My Happy Minds' lessons, continuing to understand our brains and moving onto learning what character strengths are and how to spot them in ourselves and others.

PE – Children will develop their gross and fine motor skills in our continuous provision as well as through specific adult led activities. We will be beginning our focus on dance – learning different travelling movements, working in pairs and as a team and coming up with our own ideas. The children will also continue to develop their ball skills when throwing and catching and learning the key principles of how to play games and work together.