

Dear Parents,
 Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you had a lovely break over Christmas and are ready to make 2025 a wonderful year! This is the work that the children will be covering over the following term in KS1.

Geography:
 In Geography we are learning to compare the UK to Australia. We will learn how to locate Australia on the world map. We will also explore the landscape, weather, climate and culture of Australia through a number of different activities.



Art:
 In Art this half term we are learning about Aboriginal Art. We will be using our drawing skills to look at shapes, patterns and marks and how these can be used to tell stories. Then we will be experimenting with different tools and techniques to create dot art. We will then use the skills we have learnt to design and create our own boomerang.

Science:
 In Science, Year 1 will be learning about different animals. We will look at the different features that animals have to help compare and group them. In Year 2, we are learning about materials and their properties. We will be completing investigations to discuss and experiment on the usefulness of materials and the appropriateness of them when used for different objects.



PE:
 In outdoor PE this term, the children will be continuing to develop their Send & Receive skills through a range of different sports. In indoor PE they will be creating movement sequences to music, in Dance.
PE days:
 Woodpeckers: Wednesday and Friday
 Swallows: Thursdays and Fridays
 Starlings: Tuesday and Thursday

RE:
 We begin our topic **'Who is Jewish and how do they live?'**
 This is a double unit and will continue across Spring term. This half term we will look at what is precious to Jewish people, learning about important Jewish artefacts. Then we will focus on the Jewish celebration of Shabbat. We will be learning about the reason behind celebrating Shabbat and what happens during it.



PSHE:
 In PSHE our learning this term will focus on **'Belonging to a Community'** before moving on to a unit about **'Media Literacy and Digital Resilience'** They will start the term by looking at what a community is and different types of communities before moving on to explore their role and the roles of others. The second unit will involve looking at different types of information, games, apps and advertisements online before exploring how we stay safe online and how different media can impact our emotions and actions.

Computing:
 In Computing, we will be developing our knowledge of Computer Science. We will be learning how to code using apps such as Scratch and program the Loti Bots to follow directions and create 2D shapes.



Music:
 In Music we will be looking at different genres of music and learning to listen and appraise them. We will be focusing on vocabulary to explain what we like and dislike about a piece of music. We will also continue to develop our skills in pulse and rhythms.



Please ensure your child is always fully prepared for the school day with their school bag, reading record & reading book, homework, and anything else they may have been asked to bring in.



Home Learning:

- Read at home for 15-20 minutes every day
- Practice spellings
- Learn times tables (Y2)
- Create one example from the half termly project list



Home Reading: Please ensure that your child reads 5 times a week

Reading Challenge
 5 x= Green
 2/3/4= Yellow
 0/1= Red

If your child achieves green for the week, they will be entered into a special prize draw!
 Only books that children take home from school will go towards the reading challenge – either the home reader or a book from the 100 Book Challenge. This will ensure that your child is reading books appropriate for their ability.



Twitter Pages
 Each class has a Twitter page which is updated regularly. You can see all the exciting things we have been getting up to in school and how hard the children are working. Please follow us to keep updated!
 @GatesWoodpecker
 @GatesStarlings
 @GatesSwallows



Seesaw is an app we use to track your child's learning and progress throughout the year. We will send out additional information on how you can view your children's work as well as how to use this app to share WOW moments from home with us in school.