



Herons Way, Thatcham,
Berkshire RG19 3SR
Tel: 01635 866700
Email: office@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk
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Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term. The children are already immersed in their learning and we are looking forward to a busy and exciting term.

Curriculum

This term in English, we will be reading the book '*The Wind in the Willows*' to inspire our narrative writing and taking inspiration from both our rivers and food topics to write some non-fiction and poetry pieces. In Maths, we will be looking at written methods for multiplication and division, measurement and fractions.

Spring 1	Spring 2
Science – Changing States	Science – Changing States
Geography – Rivers and the Water Cycle	Geography – Food & Fair Trade
Computing – Effective Searching	Computing – Making music
Art – Landscapes	DT – Mechanisms
PSHE – Keeping safe	PSHE – Rights and responsibilities
RE – Identity	RE – Symbol - Eucharist
PE – Gymnastics	PE – Dance

Homework

Homework will continue to be handed out on a Friday and is due back in by the following Friday. I have been really impressed by the amount of effort children have been putting in to ensure their homework is completed. Thank you for your support and encouragement with this! Alongside their main piece of homework, I will be sending the children a times tables task to secure these trickier facts.

As well as the paper homework and as discussed at parents evenings, it is vital that the children are continuing to regularly practice their times tables ahead of the national test in June. I have been really pleased with the progress that all children have been making with times tables since September and this is having a great impact in their maths lessons. I will be beginning to expose the children to the format of the test starting this term in order to prepare them for what to expect. Please do encourage children to make use of Times Tables Rock Stars and Monster Multiplication on Purple Mash as well as regularly questioning them yourselves.



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Library

We will continue to visit the library on a **Thursday** this term. Please encourage your child to have their library book in school on these days otherwise they will not be able to take a new book out and may be issued with an overdue notice.

PE

PE will continue to be on a **Tuesday and Wednesday**. This will be a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school from Monday to Friday as things can change at the last minute. It is also useful for them to have a change of clothes should they get wet whilst out at play.

The children are spending an increasing amount of time outdoors in all weathers. To ensure that less learning time is lost to children trying to deal with being wet, please can children have a spare pair of school socks in their bag. Ideally, as mentioned in previous newsletters, a pair of wellies and waterproof trousers to remain in school would also be useful. Thank you to those parents who have already provided this.

Minstead

One of the main highlights of this term will of course be the residential trip to Minstead. I have been delighted with the number of children that will be coming with us in March and am really looking forward to sharing the learning opportunities with the children whilst we are there.

Your child will have been sent home today with a pack containing important forms that must be returned by **Friday 23rd January**. Further details about the itinerary for the trip, will be sent at a later date.

Full payment for the Minstead trip is due via bank transfer by **Friday 6th February**.

As always, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or queries then please don't hesitate to contact me, either at the door or via the Year 4 email: year4@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Miss Hall
Year 4 Teacher