

# Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School



'Caring, curious and confident'

# Discovery Class Spring Newsletter January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and happy new year to you all. We are looking forward to having a busy and productive Spring term.

It is hoped that this newsletter gives you a flavour of what you can expect from the term ahead. Communication is so important, and although the beginning/end of the day does not allow for long conversations, you can always contact us via the school office.

It is important that you have an understanding of what the school day looks like. Please see the timetable below which illustrates a typical week in Discovery Class this term- this can be used to help you have conversations about what your child has been learning in school each day.

We have lots of exciting activities and learning coming up including the start of swimming lessons in week 3.

Mrs Hardwick & Miss Avery

	Reg Bell 8.40 8.45- 9.00:	Session 1 9.00-10.00	Sessi on 2 10.00 - 10.15	Brea k 10.15 - 10.30	Session 2 10.30- 11.00	Session 3 11.00-12.00	Daily Mile 12.00- 12.10	Lunch 12.10 - 1.05pm	Session 4 1.05- 1.25	Collective Worship 1.25-1.50	Spelling/ HW 1.50-2.00	Session 5 2.00-3.00	Class book/ End of day 3.00- 3.15
Mon	Maths Flashba ck	Maths	H/W		Spelling launch	English			Independent Reading <i>incl</i> TAs		PPA Term 1: PSHE Term 2: IT (Class TA to support)		Class Book
Tues	Maths Flashba ck	Maths	H/W		GR	Term 1: English Term 2: Music			Independent Reading <i>incl</i> TAs		Term 1: Art Term 2: DT		Class Book
Wed	Maths Flashba ck	English	PE - 10:30-11:30 Weeks 1-2: Circuits 11:30-12:00 GR 10:00-11:45 Weeks 3-7: Swimming 11:45-12:10 GR						Independent Reading <i>incl</i> TAs		Term 1: History Term 2: Geography		Class Book
Thu	Maths Flashba ck	Maths	Spelli ng shed		PAG	English			Independent Reading <i>incl</i> TAs		RE		Class Book
Fri	Maths Flashba ck	Maths	Spelli ng shed		GR	English			Term 1: Science Term 2: French		Celebration Assembly		Class Book

## SUPPORT TEAM

It is always good to know which other adults are supporting our class, so here is the support team:



Mrs Ainsworth is our class Teaching Assistant

Mrs Ward is the school SENDCo (currently absent with cover from two experienced SENDCos: Mrs Nic van Cole and Mrs Lisa Waller)

Mrs Langford is the school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) teaching across the school.

Mrs Langford / Mrs Slade will be teaching PSHE / ICT to the class during teacher planning time on Monday afternoons.

In Discovery Class this term, we will be studying the following units of work:

<b>English</b>	Own Historical narratives, Mystery Narratives, Newspaper Reports, Non-Chronological Reports
<b>Maths</b>	Multiplication and Division  Fractions
<b>PE</b>	Circuits & Swimming
<b>Music</b>	Blackbird by The Beatles (Pop music)
<b>RE</b>	Christianity - What do Christians learn from the Creation Story?
<b>French</b>	Adjectives

<b>Science</b>	Plants
<b>Computing</b>	Programming  Online Safety
<b>Design Technology</b>	Cooking
<b>Personal Social Health Economic Education (PSHE)</b>	Family and Relationships
<b>History</b>	Ancient Egyptians

Knowledge Organisers for Maths, Science, History and Geography will be sent home. These can be used to discuss what your child is learning in school; you can use a knowledge organiser in different ways: Read through it together; discuss tricky vocabulary; quiz your child on the knowledge they have acquired; play true and false games with the facts.

## PROMOTING READING

A good ability in reading is fundamental to everything that the children will learn in class during the year, and regular practice is therefore the most important aspect of homework that he or she will have. Please keep in touch with us if you are experiencing difficulties with helping your child with this vital regular activity. For our part, we will let you know if there is insufficient reading practice taking place. (Daily home reading is expected as least 4 times a week). Here are some top tips:

- All children need to read some of their book aloud to you whatever their ability
- Agree daily targets with your child. E.g. 10 pages or 20 minutes
- Discuss what your child is reading
- Read to your child regularly: this could be a book you have chosen together or could be your child's school book.
- Record all home reading in the reading diary.

## ACCELERATED READER

We use a reading scheme called Accelerated Reader for Key Stage 2, and for some pupils in Year 2.

As the children bring their reading books home you will notice a system of levelling books. The number on the front of the book indicates the reading level (which has been determined by the results of a reading assessment that all the children have completed). This enables us to have a much firmer understanding of the children's progress. You will also hear about 'quizzes'. This enables the monitoring of the children's comprehension and whether they've understood their reading - not just read the words. Throughout the term, we will continue to celebrate and support the children with their reading habits and their comprehension skills.

Your child's decimal reading level corresponds to books, which aim to challenge your child yet be decodable without your child getting frustrated or losing understanding.

Children should aim to score at least 80% on a quiz in school to show that they have generally understood their reading text.

If your child is concerned that they are finding this tricky, they could try any of these:

- Choose a shorter book.
- Choose a book, which they prefer better and find more engaging.
- Move back a level to gain more confidence.
- Ask to read more of their text with an adult, who will help them to infer the meaning of new vocabulary and show them how to summarise whilst reading.

When children have read approximately 3 books (with a quiz of 80% or more), they will likely move up another tenth. We hope that children will move up quickly to get to books higher in their range, as they seek to challenge themselves and maximise their progress.

## Handwriting Pens

Children in all year groups have the chance to have a handwriting pen if they reach 'Black-belt Ninja' level. Children need to join their writing neatly, with consistent and correct joins and sizing. Pens will be awarded when this level is achieved and can be withdrawn if standards slip.

### Homework in Year 3 & Year 4

The most important homework you can do is reading, at least 4 times a week. It is vital that this aspect of the homework routine is established quickly. Spellings are set on Spelling Shed and merits will be given for completing activities. Times tables can be practised using Times Table Rockstars and again merits will be rewarded for effort and attainment.

### PE Day: Wednesdays

If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please can you provide a note/letter or phone the school office. Pupils should wear their school PE kits into school on those days. School sweatshirts/cardigans please (No sports hoodies or sports tops please). Jewellery and watches should not be worn for PE lessons. Earrings are not permitted to be worn and must be removed or covered. As the term progresses and the weather stays cooler, black/navy tracksuit bottoms can be worn for outdoor PE. Please bare this in mind, as we will be doing PE outside at least once a week, on top of the daily mile, in all weather conditions. **Swimming:** when we start swimming children will need to come to school in their swimming clothes under their school uniform so that they are ready to enter the pool. Children will then change back into their uniforms before returning to school.

### Water bottles & Snacks

It is proven that children learn best when they are hydrated, so we encourage children to bring in a **labelled** bottle containing water for the classroom, each day. Ideally, a sturdy, sports cap re-useable bottle works best. The children are able to refill these throughout the school day. Children are encouraged to bring fruit, vegetables or a sandwich for a breaktime snack.

### Personal belongings

Please ensure that your child's belongings are all labelled with their name. We supply all the stationery your child needs so a pencil case is **not required**. Children should **not** bring toys and cuddly toys or other precious items to school.

### Communication

Please email the school ([curryrivelpriamary@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:curryrivelpriamary@educ.somerset.gov.uk)) and your message will be forwarded to me. You can also phone the school office to ask the class teacher to call you if you prefer. We appreciate that there is a wonderful family atmosphere here, and not being able to linger for chats is hard. You have been very complimentary about how we have kept you informed over the past year- continuing this will be vital. We will be organising a parents' evening before half term.