

Mars Class Newsletter January 2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break.

We were very proud of all the children for their amazing effort and incredible performance in our Christmas Nativity. Below are some photos of the fantastic learning that the children did last term.



Term 3 Topic:

This term, our whole school learning focus is 'Fantastic Journeys' and has a History focus. In Mars Class, our key question is "What if I met an explorer or inventor?" In our history lessons, we will be learning about who Isambard Kingdom Brunel was, what he invented and the impact of his work on Bristol and the United Kingdom.

In English, we will be encouraging the children to write as much as possible. For our first unit we will be looking at 'The Little Red Riding Hood' by Lari Don to write our narrative of a traditional tale, followed by writing a biography about Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

In Maths, our first unit is 'Number and Place Value' before moving onto fractions and then multiplication and division.

Our Science topic this term is 'Everyday materials.' We will explore a range of everyday materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass, fabric and paper. The children will learn to name and describe materials, talk about their properties and think about why different materials are used for different objects.

Please find the links to our knowledge organiser and curriculum map below:

https://www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/What-if-I-met-a-great-explorer_Knowledge-Organiser-v2.pdf

<https://www.northroadprimaryschool.co.uk/curriculum>

On Tuesdays, we will do News Clues. This is a time for the children to share a piece of news or talk about something that they have done at home. We will be asking the children to think of three clues that they can give to the rest of the class to spark a discussion about what they are going to share. This term will be the Year 2s, please see the dates below.

Tuesday 13 th January	Parker, Callie, Zayne
Tuesday 20 th January	Everly, Mia, Ellis
Tuesday 27 th January	Avie, Ethan, Haydn
Tuesday 3 rd February	Vienna, Jake, Dougie
Tuesday 10 th February	Freddie, Aliya, Ava

Reading Books

Reading books and reading records should be brought to school **DAILY** in a book bag. A member of the class team will read with each child weekly, so it is really important to have a book/diary in school. Children need to place their book in the box at the front of the classroom when it needs to be changed. A reminder that **1 HOME READ and 1 SCHOOL READ** per day can go towards children's reading awards. This must be from a children's school reading book, any reading for pleasure your child does will not count towards their reading awards. We really appreciate your support with reading with the children at home. Please and you continue to ask children to retell you the story after they have read and use the questions on their bookmark to aid their comprehension.

Homework

In Mars class we expect all the children to be doing learning at home each day. This comprises of daily reading and use of the comprehension bookmarks to select a question from to ask your child, these will be put in your child's reading diary this week. **PLEASE DO NOT LOSE THEM AS THEY WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR.** TT Rockstars (Y2) / Numbots (Y1) should also be used to practise maths daily. Children will also be given a times table pick and mix sheet that will include a range of activities that they can complete. This will be sent home on **Thursdays**. Completing homework is monitored, children who complete their homework will be awarded a Dojo at the end of the week. A reminder that the child with the most Dojo points will receive a prize from the prize box on a Friday afternoon. Any extra homework completed can be sent via Class Dojo for us to celebrate in class.

Vocabulary

We will be learning and using new vocabulary across the term. Please support your child to use this language when talking about their learning at home.

English	Maths	Topic	Science
Expanded noun phrase - is a descriptive phrase made up of a noun as well as one or more adjectives e.g the blue butterfly.	Fraction – a part of a whole e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$	Significant – of great value.	Material – anything that is used to make something else Fabric – a piece cloth

Narrative – connected events to make a story Coordinating conjunction– a joining word (and, but, or, so) that connects words, phrases or clauses Exclamation mark - A punctuation mark used at the end of an exclamation. It can also be used at the end of a statement or command to show feeling or emotion	Numerator – the number above the line in a fraction. It shows how many parts we have out of the whole Denominator - the number below the line in a fraction. It shows the total amount of parts that something has been divided into. Multiply – finding the total when we have the same number added again and again (for example, 3 groups of 2 makes 6). Divide – sharing or splitting a number into equal groups (for example, sharing 6 sweets between 2 children gives 3 each).	Inventor – a person who create something new to solve a problem or improve life Engineer – a person whose job it is to design or build machines, engines or electrical equipment. Isambard Kingdom Brunel – a British engineer. Famous – known by many people	Wood – a material that comes from trees Plastic – a manmade material that can be melted to change its shape Metal – a shiny and strong material that id found in the ground Property – a characteristic of something Opaque – something that does not let light through Transparent – something that is see through
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PE

In Mars Class our PE days are Wednesdays and Fridays.

This term we will be doing Gymnastics and Hockey.

Please be aware that when our PE unit takes place in the Hall, for Health and Safety regulations, the children will be required, to take part in bare feet.

Please arrive for PE on these days wearing the school PE uniform:

- School PE hoodies
- Black jogging bottoms
- Black trainers
- PE t-shirts
- Long hair should be tied back
- Earrings removed or tape to cover

Dojo's

We are continuing to use our system of Dojos with the children alongside the Dojo message feature. You should have all received an invite to join the Class Dojo page, please could you accept this invitation ASAP. Please note that Mrs Pearce is linked to our class Dojo. This means that you are able to message her if it is about a Tuesday afternoon.

Any attendance messages should continue to be sent to the school office at the start of the day in the usual way. If you snap any pictures of your children showing our school values outside of school, please send these to Miss Ali via Class Dojo so they can be shared with the class and displayed on our Values Tree.

Celebration Assemblies

On Wednesdays, we will continue to celebrate children's personal achievements in art, science and technology. If your child has created something at home that reflects our school values—such as artwork, a craft project, or a Lego model—they can bring it in to share in assembly.

Our **Stars Assembly** is changing to a **Thursday** from this term. We will continue to celebrate sporting achievements, both in and out of school during this time. Please send your child's certificate/medal into school with them on a **Thursday**.

Spelling

Spelling will be a key focus across the school for the remainder of the year. When children successfully apply the spellings they have learnt into their writing, we will celebrate their achievement in school.

Please keep a look out for spelling lists which will be sent home later this term.

For your information, below is a list of spellings that every child in Year 1 and Year 2 should be able to spell correctly.

Year 1		
the	they	one
a	be	once
do	he	ask
to	me	friend
today	she	school
of	we	put
said	no	push
says	go	pull
are	so	full
were	by	house
was	my	our
is	here	
his	there	
has	where	
I	love	
you	come	
your	some	

Year 2			
door	gold	plant	clothes
floor	hold	path	busy
poor	told	bath	people
because	every	hour	water
find	great	move	again
kind	break	prove	half
mind	steak	improve	money
behind	pretty	sure	Mr
child	beautiful	sugar	Mrs
children	after	eye	parents
wild	fast	could	Christmas
climb	last	should	everybody
most	past	would	even
only	father	who	
both	class	whole	
old	grass	any	
cold	pass	many	

Dates for your Diary

15/01 - Special Menu Day

10/02 - Safer Internet Day

13/02 - Last Day of Term and Break the Rules Day (further details will be sent out closer to the time).

Kind Regards,

Miss Ali and the Mars Class Team.