

Mars Class Newsletter September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of another school year! I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and enjoyed the sunshine.

Apologies as I feel this will be a rather long newsletter, but there's lots of information to tell/remind you of.

A reminder of the Mars Class team:

- Miss Ali - Class Teacher
- Mrs Cobb - Classroom Teaching Assistant
- Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Bernhardt and Mr Stillie - 1:1 Support
- Mrs Pearce - PPA Cover (Monday afternoons)

Term 1 Topic:

This term, our whole school learning focus is 'Britain is Great' and has a History focus. Mars Class' learning question is "What if was a Victorian child?" In our history lessons, we will be learning about what life was like as a Victorian child and exploring the similarities and differences to Victorian Bristol and present day Bristol.

In English, we will be encouraging the children to write as much as possible. Our first unit is a narrative unit and we will be looking at the story of 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson, followed by an Autumn themed poetry unit. We will also begin our Poetry Curriculum by looking at the poems 'Song of the Train' by David McCord and 'On the Ning Nang Nong' by Spike Milligan.

In Maths, our first unit is 'Statistics'. We will recap number by doing lots of counting practise, focusing on numbers 0-100. We will count lots of objects and sort these objects by category or quantity, ask and answer simple questions and represent categories using pictograms, tally charts, block charts and tables. Following this, we will be moving onto

Number and Place Value, ensuring children are secure with their number bonds to 5 and 10 (Year 1) and 10, 20 and 100 (Year 2).

Our Science topic this term is 'Seasonal Changes' as we move from Summer into Autumn. This will be a good opportunity to consolidate our statistics learning as we will be collecting and recording lots of data, such as the number of rainy days and how much rain fall there is over a period of time.

On Mondays, 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 so the Year 1 children can get familiar with News Clues, please see the dates below.

Monday 14 th September	Freddie C, Frankie G, Bella
Monday 21 st September	Ronnie, Isabella, Laina
Monday 28 th September	Frankie C, Noah, Rosalie
Monday 5 th October	Vivian, Alfie, Ella,
Monday 12 th October	Stella, Ralph, Arabella

PE Days

This year our PE days will be on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. This term, our PE lessons will focus on Ball Skills; being able to travel with a ball, catch, throw, bounce, roll and kick a ball with control and accuracy. Please send your child to school in their PE uniform on these days. Children should wear the green school sports top with the optional hoody, black/dark grey plain leggings/joggers/shorts and sensible trainers. **Remember to remove or tape any earrings please and to tie long hair back.**

Outdoor clothing

We are very lucky to have such a big outdoor area, which we will be using for our learning as much as possible, especially as we support the transition from EYFS to Year 1. Please can you send in a pair of clearly named wellies to be kept in school. Your child also needs a waterproof coat with a hood in school **every day**.

Water Bottles

Children need to bring a water bottle to school. Please make sure the bottle is named and has a sports top.

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.

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. A sticker with children's logins will be put in their reading diaries this week. Children will also be given a times table pick and mix sheet that will include a range of activities that they can complete. All homework will be collected in on **Thursdays** and new homework will be sent home on **Fridays**. 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. Narrative – connected events to make a story Adjective – a describing word, it describes the noun. Noun – an object Diary – a record of events and experiences	Statistics – looking at numerical data to categorise and make conclusions. Tally Chart – a way of recording data and frequency with marks. Pictogram- Pictograms use pictures or symbols to represent data. The key shows what each symbol represents	Victorian – a person who lived during the reign of Queen Victoria. Reign – to rule as monarch. Monarch – A King or Queen of a country. Industrial Revolution – a period of change where lots of things were invented in factories.	Seasons – 4 divisions of the year (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter). Weather – the state of the atmosphere (sunny, cold, frosty, foggy, misty, rainy, windy, cloudy, snowy, stormy) Year, month, days Deciduous - a tree/plant that loses its leaves during the Autumn. Evergreen - a tree/plant that keeps its leaves all year round.

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 Monday 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.

Please be assured there will be lots of support and transition activities for both the Year 1s as they adjust to working on the National Curriculum, and for the Year 2s as their learning becomes slightly more 'formalised'. I am really looking forward to the school year, and watching the children begin the next part of their learning journey.

Dates for your Diary

24/9 - Individual Photos

25/9 - MacMillan Cake Sale 2.30pm

14/10 - Open classroom 2pm

21/10 - Spooky Silent Halloween Disco

23/10 - Last day of term

Kind Regards,

Miss Ali and the Mars Class Team.