



Southhill Primary

Term Talk

Autumn Term 2026

Bright Futures Curriculum News for Year Two

Welcome to the Autumn Term

Welcome to **TERMTALK!** This is our termly year group newsletter that will update you on everything going on in class this term. We are always looking for ways to improve communication and close the gap between home and school and we hope that you enjoy finding out lots about what is going on in your child's class.

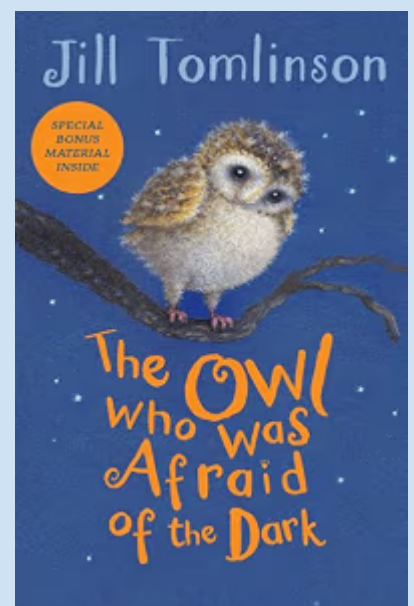
We are looking forward to having a wonderful term with some exciting new learning themes planned throughout, linked to our new **BRIGHT FUTURES CURRICULUM**. Linked to these learning themes, we have some fantastic new books to share in class both in our English sessions and also in whole class novel. This Termtalk should hopefully give you some key information about the year and the term ahead!

Reading

We will continue to use the Little Wandle reading scheme which the children were using last year. This scheme links with our phonics and spelling and progresses the children through a variety of books, covering a range of different genres. Children will then progress on to chapter books in a few weeks/months time. These are a lot more 'grown-up' and tend to create a real buzz about reading in the classroom.

If your child has a Lexia account, please encourage them to spend some time on it at home as we do not have a huge amount of time in school for this. It is a great tool for increasing children's confidence with early reading.

Our class novels for the Autumn term is 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson.



Writing

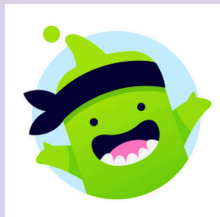
In our writing this year we are adopting book-based writing units that are based on a wide range of high quality and significant children's literature chosen to engage, challenge and support children to be critical readers and confident and informed writers. All National

	Curriculum requirements of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, literary language and composition are embedded leading towards a variety of purposeful and exciting shorter, longer and extended writing outcomes where the audience and purpose is clear. This term our focus books will be Handa's Surprise, Luna Loves Gardening, Little Red Riding Hood, and The Night Gardener.
Key Texts for writing	
Maths	We follow the White Rose Education scheme of learning that inspires maths to really focus on the 'WHY?' rather than the 'HOW?' in maths. We support our learners more thoroughly using the Concrete Pictorial Abstract approaches, but also extend through reasoning and problem-solving questions and Maths Journaling that flow throughout the whole scheme. This term, we are covering units on: - Place value - Addition and Subtraction - Shape
Science	<u>Science - Seasonal Changes - What changes occur throughout the season?</u> Pupils build on their Year 1 understanding of the four seasons by deepening their knowledge of seasonal patterns and cycles. They explore how seasons repeat in a continuous cycle, how daylight changes throughout the year and how plants, animals and humans are affected by these changes, including different survival strategies.
Art	<u>Monochromatic - How can pattern be used in art?</u> In this unit, pupils develop their understanding of pattern by exploring how lines, shapes and space can be repeated to create decorative designs. Pupils create monochromatic drawings and collages, study how designers use geometric and organic shapes, and learn how pattern is used in cultural celebrations through mehndi art. They refine pencil control, explore collage techniques and learn that pattern has been used by humans across different cultures for thousands of years. Pupils finish the unit by creating and evaluating their own mehndi-inspired artwork using appropriate art vocabulary.
Computing	<u>Information technology around us</u> In this unit, children will develop their understanding of what information technology (IT) is and will begin to identify examples. They will discuss where they have seen IT in school and beyond, in settings such as shops, hospitals, and libraries. Learners will then investigate how IT improves our world, and they will learn about the importance of using IT responsibly.

Design Technology	<u>Cooking - Super Veggies to the rescue! How can we make veggies fun and delicious?</u> Children will explore where potatoes and vegetables come from and how cooking changes their taste and texture, by tasting a range of prepared foods. They will design their own potato dish by selecting suitable flavours and seasonings, using smell to make thoughtful choices. Through practising good hygiene and safe food preparation skills, including careful cutting and correct tool use, they will develop confidence in the kitchen. Children will follow a simple recipe to prepare potato wedges and a vegetable dip, applying their planning and making skills. Finally, they will evaluate their food by reflecting on taste, skills and safety, celebrate the vegetables used and understand how using leftovers helps to reduce food waste, building confidence in designing, making and evaluating food products.
Geography	<u>What are the similarities and differences between my local area and Luxor, Egypt?</u> In this unit, pupils develop their understanding of the world beyond the UK by studying Luxor in Egypt and comparing it to their local area. They use maps, globes and atlases to locate Egypt, identify key human and physical features, and explore how places can be similar and different. Pupils apply fieldwork, mapping and observational skills to make simple geographical comparisons.
Music	<u>Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch</u> In this unit, the children will learn that music has a pulse, a steady beat. Music is also made up of long and short and high and low sounds, called 'rhythm' and 'pitch'. These elements combine when we sing and play.
PSHE	<u>What makes a good friend?</u> In this unit, the children will spent time exploring what it takes to form friendships, how friendships can change over time and how we can make sure we are being good friends to each other.
PE	This term, our PE lessons will take place on: Monday (outside while weather allows!) This first half term is focused on ball skills. The children will spend time practicing their throwing, kicking, rolling, bouncing and dribbling skills. After half term, we will be focusing on dance and gymnastics so will be inside.
RE	<u>The Bible: what does it say about God's promises?</u> In this unit, pupils explore the idea of promises and why they matter in everyday life before learning that the Bible is the Christian holy book containing many stories about God's promises. Pupils learn that the Bible is made up of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament, and that some stories are shared with Judaism. Through key stories such as Noah, Abraham and Joseph, pupils explore how Christians understand God as trustworthy and faithful. Pupils learn that Christians believe God's promises continue through Jesus and are remembered during Advent.
Enrichment	Trip to Travellers Rest Farm - Links with our science and DT learning this term.

Other News

Communication



We are always looking for new ways to keep you, parents and carers, informed about what is going on in school.

We use a platform called Class Dojo as a window into the everyday school life of your child at Southill Primary. It provides a way of positively noticing and rewarding children's behaviour in school, a messaging service to allow you to directly contact your child's class teacher and a 'class story' which allows you to get direct, whole class updates from the classroom. As a parent, you are able to connect to this app from home and see your child's school account. Class Dojo offers a paid for and free version. **You do not need to opt for the paid for version of the app in order to use this from home.**

The school office will still be sending messages via the school messaging service and please continue to report absences in the normal way (not through Class Dojo). Urgent messages (such as change in who is collecting your child at the end of the day) should still be reported to the school office to ensure that the message reaches your child's class teacher (just in case they do not have time to check messages before the end of the day!).

Behaviour and rewards

We also use Class Dojo in school with the children to positively track behaviour where the children contribute to a whole class reward target. We have three key words to help the children remember our behaviour expectations at Southill Primary. They are:

Ready. Respectful. Safe.

All classes have a 'class charter' which clearly explains the school expectations for behaviour and is in line with the school behaviour policy. We expect all children to demonstrate excellent behaviour to enable them to reach their full potential and set good examples to other children in school. In an instance of behaviour not meeting the required standard, the class teacher will inform you and will discuss this with you. This could be via the phone or through Class Dojo. If the behaviour concerns continue you will be invited into school to discuss this further. Please read the school behaviour policy which gives clear information regarding the expectations of behaviour within the school.

Helping At Home

Reading	By far the most important thing that a child can do at home is read. Children are expected to read each day at home (minimum 5 times a week) and this should be recorded in their reading records. Children are never too old to be heard read or to be questioned on a book that they are reading. The discussion that can come from reading with your child and questioning them can encourage a real love for reading that really helps them in all areas of the curriculum.
Times Tables	In maths there is an expectation that by the end of Year 4 all times tables are known and learnt fluently. Anything you can do to help that knowledge go in and stay in is fantastic. 1. Practise regularly and go back and repeat tables, previously practised. 2. Sing tables in the car; at mealtimes; before bed; walking the dog; at any spare minute! 3. Put a poster at the end of their bed or give them tapes to listen to in the car. 4. Download and regularly use Times Table Rock Stars to practise on a laptop or tablet. https://trockstars.com/ Your child will have an account already set up through school! Practising 'little and often' is always the best way! 
Numbots	 https://numbots.com/ As a school, we provide access to Numbots, which your child can access from home. NumBots is all about every child achieving the "triple win" of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating. The more that a child is exposed to these elements of maths early in their maths journey the better their understanding will be later on. Regular, short bursts of time on this platform work best to help develop their fluency.
Uniform	Please name all items of school uniform and PE kit. You will appreciate this later in the year if an item ever goes missing! Please read and support the uniform guidelines on the website which provides clear information regarding the expectations of uniform. Haircuts and colours must comply with the school guidelines. Long hair must be tied back (this is for safety and hygiene reasons!) Please send your child to school with a water bottle and a break time snack that is a fruit or vegetable. 
PE	On PE days, children should come into school in their PE kit. Please make sure that school PE kit guidelines are followed for PE kit. It is also important to note that children are not allowed to take part in PE whilst wearing earrings (for health and safety reasons). If they are unable to take them out themselves, children must not wear earrings to school on the days that they have PE. Taping over earrings is no longer permitted (in relation to health and safety guidelines issued to schools).