



# Year One Newsletter 2026

## Spring Term 2

### Termly Topic

We are continuing with our exciting topic, “Bright Lights, Big City.” It may be a short half term, but it’s certainly packed with fun and engaging learning every step of the way!

Our recent London-themed Lego Workshop was a huge hit with the children and they had a fantastic time building, creating and exploring. Over the coming weeks, children will continue learning about our capital city through a range of cross-curricular activities.

As part of our Design Technology learning, children will begin the “Taxi” unit from our Cornerstones curriculum. During this project, they will explore how wheels, axles and chassis work together to make a vehicle move. They will investigate, design and eventually create their very own London taxi – we can not wait to see the finished results!



To help with this project and to allow children to make their own taxi, please could your child bring in a named shoebox (a child-sized shoebox is ideal). Remember — these wonderful creations will be coming home afterwards, so whilst we would be very grateful for boxes of all shapes and sizes, you may regret sending in giant, adult-sized shoebox taxis when it comes to carrying them home on the school run or finding space to display them in your living room!

### Support at Home

It was lovely to meet with lots of you during our parent consultations before half term. A common question was ‘What can we do to support at home?’. The following may be helpful and beneficial, but please remember that these are not compulsory.

**Phonics Games** – with the phonics screening in June, your children may enjoy playing games that we use in class to practice sounds taught each week: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources> (there are free games available without having to subscribe!).

Remember also that Bug Club have a number of online games available to access and ‘Parent Packs’ with printed resources will be sent home before the Easter holidays.



**Numbots** - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> Get in contact should you need new login info.

**Times Table Rock Stars** - This is very popular with our Year Two children and particularly useful as we move onto the ‘Multiplication and Division’ unit after Easter. Login details are the same as your child’s Numbots account.

**White Rose Maths Resources:** <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/free-downloads>

## Reading Recommendations, Records and Recognition

To support reading at home, we wanted to share some excellent websites that offer carefully selected book recommendations for children. If you are ever unsure what to choose next, these are a great place to start:

- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/booklists/suggested-reading-for-years-1-2-spring-term/>
- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/>

Reading records are now well established in our routine and we would like to say a big thank you to those families who complete them regularly — it really does make a difference. Recording when your child has read helps us know when books need changing and allows us to monitor progress more closely. Remember - books can be changed daily if your child is ready and keen to do so!

We are also continuing with our classroom incentive, Reader of the Week. The chosen child's photo is displayed in class and they enjoy having our special reading trophy on their table for the week. This award celebrates many different aspects of reading — including engagement with Bug Club, reading at home, reading in school with adults, effort, perseverance and positive attitude. It is not simply about being the “best” or most fluent reader. We use this award to celebrate determination, improvement and enthusiasm, and to encourage all children — particularly those who may be building confidence — to feel proud of their reading journey.



## A couple of reminders

Forest School continues to alternate for both Cedar and Oak classes this term, with Cedar Class returning this Wednesday (25<sup>th</sup>) so please remember to send your child in with suitable Forest School clothing. Our final sessions will finish before the Easter holidays with the legendary marshmallow toasting with Shanta — more details will follow closer to the time.

As with all items of clothing (including uniform, PE kits and Forest School items), please ensure everything is clearly labelled. Our lost property reached a record-breaking high before half term and it is always such a shame to see so many items left unclaimed.

## Important dates to note:

World Book Day: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Final dates for Forest School: Oak – 18<sup>th</sup> March / Cedar – 25<sup>th</sup> March

Library day for both Cedar and Oak Class is every Friday.

PE with Coach Mike:

- Tuesday and Thursday mornings