



CHARLES KINGSLEY'S C.E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Van Gogh Class Newsletter - Autumn 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year – it has been amazing to have the children all in the classroom and begin to get to know them all better! As a new member of staff, I am so excited to be joining such a wonderful school community. Already, your children have been so kind and welcoming, helping me find my feet and begin to slot into CKS life. We have had many laughs over the first week and had conversations about shared interests. It was especially lovely to meet so many of you during the meet the teacher session.

Starting a new year is exciting and creates opportunities for new learning opportunities and challenges. We work to create a positive learning environment and therefore an important focus will be on 'Being Ready, Being Respectful, Being Safe' linked to our relationships and behaviour policy. We will be exploring how our values of Love, Courage and Hope will be shown within the classroom and how they will help us achieve.

Home Learning

The children will be continuing with home learning; please remember, it is important to establish a routine for completing this which is manageable.

Reading – Children will be expected to complete four 15-minute readings per week; these must be signed by an adult at home and will be checked each Friday. All children on the reading scheme will bring **one** Big Cat Collins book home per week. Children will also bring home a library book which may be read too, alongside any age-appropriate books you may be reading at home. Books will usually be changed when needed as many of the books will take longer than a week to read. Can I ask parents to encourage your child to read aloud where possible as it really does make a difference.

Spellings – Weekly spellings will be shared on PurpleMash on Mondays and a Spelling 2Do will be set. The children will be tested on these on a Friday. During Autumn, the children's milestones include consolidation of Year 3 and 4 words, so if you notice your child practicing these words, they are still working within the Year 5 curriculum. As we progress through the year, we will learn new Year 5/6 words – this is usually after Christmas in the Spring Term.

Times Tables – It is recommended that children continue to practise their times tables at home up to 12x. The best way to use TT Rockstars is 10 minutes daily.

Maths – Maths home learning will be linked to the maths learning for the week and will be on paper. It will be set and given physically to children every other Tuesday (alternating with English), where they will complete at home and return the following Monday to mark as a whole class.

English – English home learning will also be set and given physically to children on every other Tuesday (alternating with Maths), where they will complete at home and return the following Monday to mark as a whole class. It will include a task related to grammar, reading comprehension, writing or handwriting.

PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays for the first half term. We will be doing Dance on a Tuesday indoors. Hockey will be outside, weather permitting on a Thursday, so appropriate kit will be needed. We have shin pads that children can borrow. Please bring in PE kits on Mondays to remain in school until Fridays when they will be sent home for the weekend.

This term we have a school trip to INTECH at Winchester Science Museum on Tuesday 20th October 2026. I am really looking forward to our first trip together!

I am really looking forward to what this year brings! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me through the school office or grab me at the end of the day.

Yours Sincerely,
The Year 5 Team
Miss Bearne and Mrs Slater