

Caterpillar Class Newsletter

January 2026



Our class

Welcome back, we hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break. I have really enjoyed getting to know Caterpillars better this week. We have had a lovely start to the half term. Gemma Storey, our Key Stage Lead will be spending time in Caterpillar class teaching on a Tuesday.

Our class team this year is:

Anna Hotchkiss - Teacher Amy Martin - HLTA Gemma Storey - Key Stage Lead Karen Bishop - TA
Chloe Morris - TA Kirstin Wright - TA Keira Tout - TA Mami - Lunchtime supervisor

If you have any questions or concerns at any time please speak to a member of staff, or email myself:

anna.hotchkiss@riverside.hants.sch.uk

Our learning

- The focus of our learning in Caterpillar class is on; developing engagement in a range of activities and resources, interactions and communication, joint and individual attention skills, play skills, personal and independent skills, sensory and wellbeing. We will use engaging activities and experiences to provide a vehicle to work on these skills.
- We will work on coming together as a group to engage in activities such as sensory stories, bucket time, music and movement and 'Sensology' - an activity to awaken the senses and promote exploration.
- Pupils learning in areas such as literacy and maths will be woven through their engagement in the offered activities, resources, interactions and approaches.
- We will be using 'The Curiosity Programme' approach to support pupils development in engagement, interactions, communication and play skills.
- Pupils will also work on their individual targets in the areas of communication, literacy, maths, PSHE and wellbeing.

Our topic and learning themes

- Our overarching topic this half term is Journeys. We will be making journeys around our school, enjoying our learning journey. If you have any photos of journeys you have been on please email them in for us to explore together.
- The art and music skills we will be exploring are texture and collage and duration of sounds.
- Pupils will explore a range of food items and engage with the skill of mashing and cutting
- In maths we will work on our spatial awareness which is useful for understanding where we are in relation to others and to help us find things.
- Pupils will be supported to develop fine motor skills with a focus on co-ordination of both hands, you can support this by encouraging your child to catch a large ball, do up zips on clothes and pull or pushing toys.



We are revisiting our bank of core words to improve our understanding. To support our learning in class, we would be grateful if you could continue to use the core word signs and symbols at home where possible. These come home each week after we have enjoyed exploring them through a range of activities in school. Remember to record any responses your child shows in their yellow communication and reading diary.

Please ensure your child has these items in school:

- Nappies and wipes if required - we will let you know when we need more via the blue home book.
- Spare clothes - please top these up when we send dirty clothes home.
- Squash if your child does not drink water.
- Please can you ensure your child has a warm coat in school for the cold weather and plenty of changes of clothes and socks if they cannot tolerate being wet.

Important dates:

Caterpillars will be continuing with their gymnastic sessions on Fridays.

Week Beginning 26/1:
Parents evening

Week Beginning 9/2:
Chinese New Year
celebrations

Friday 13th Feb - Last day
of half term