



Squirrel Class Newsletter

February 2026

Our class

Welcome back, we hope you all had a lovely half term break. Jemma Warren, our Key Stage Lead will be spending time in Squirrel class teaching on a Tuesday.

Our class team this year is:

Anna Hotchkiss - Teacher Erika Hoepfner - HLTA Jemma Warren - Key Stage Lead Gabby Lawson - TA
Rebecca Ginever - TA Charlotte Goodall - TA(MTW) Billie Saunders - TA(WTF)
Sarah Ware - Lunchtime supervisor

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

Our topic and learning themes

- Our overarching topic this half term is Pattern. We will be exploring patterns through maths, art, sounds, movement and stories with repetitive text.
- Focus texts are 'We're going on a bear hunt' and 'Pete the cat and his four groovy buttons'. We look forward to sharing our world book day activities on Tapestry.
- We will be exploring the themes of Spring and Easter. We will be on the lookout for plants and insects emerging as the weather warms up. This is something you can do in your own gardens or on the walk to school.

Our learning

- The focus of our learning in Squirrel 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.
- We will continue to develop our engagement in shared experiences through RISE therapy sessions.

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 wet weather and plenty of changes of clothes and socks if they cannot tolerate being wet.



Important dates:

Thursday 5th March -
World book day (see
separate letter for
details)

Wednesday 11th March -
INSET day

Friday 20th March - Comic
Relief

Friday 27th March - Last
day of term

Monday 13th April - Return
to school