

Welcome to Mars Learning Update for Spring term 2025

Introduction

We will be encouraging all our pupils to '*Shine Like Stars*,' (Philippians 2:15) and do this by displaying our core Christian values.

Respect, Compassion, Hope, Perseverance, Integrity

Throughout each school day, we will be helping pupils acknowledge how they celebrate the achievement and break-through moments of success, how we can support them with the ups and downs of difficulty and frustrations, and how we can maximise the everyday moment of concentration and being in the present, creating a sense of calm and completeness.

This year, Mars class includes pupils from reception and year one. The teachers will be Mrs Gilman, who will teach the first half of the week, and Miss Kershaw who will teach at the end of the week. Mrs Mollart, Mrs Holmes, Mrs Goodwin, Miss Walsh and Miss Wilshaw will be supporting the pupils across the week.

English

Years 1 and Reception children will be using a range of texts both fiction and non-fiction to support their writing.

The Reception children will be spelling words by identifying the sounds and then writing the letters. They will be verbalizing sentences then writing them down using capital letters at the start and full stops at the end. They will then re-read what they have written to make sure it makes sense.

The children in Year 1 will be focusing on more complex sentences, using the words and, but, so and because to link clauses within a sentence. They also will be looking at different ways to start a sentence such as first, then, next after a while.

We will continue to use Bug Club phonics to teach the children the letter sounds and support their reading. Reception pupils will begin with a recap of unit 7 and 8 and then move onto unit 9 and beyond. Year one pupils will begin the term by recapping the sounds in units 14 -17 and then after half term, they will continue to move from unit 18 onwards.

We ask that pupils continue to read each night and spend some time on their school reading book and Bug Club games. It is however, really important for you as a family to share stories. Spend time together identifying wow and ow moments in stories and discuss how characters cope with these moments. How would you deal with these events?



Maths

This term, the Reception children will be working on their numbers up to ten: counting accurately, representing the numbers and identifying the many different ways you can make a number. Year One will move to numbers over ten, working on place value objectives and addition and subtraction. We will continue to keep practising our number bond knowledge and speed! The pupils will also be learning to measure mass, capacity and length.

To help with their Maths learning, reception and year one pupils will be set weekly Maths homework.

As we continue to focus on the wows, ows and nows of life, we will consider what cannot be measured. For example, love. And what cannot be accurately counted – the difference an act of kindness makes.



Science

This term, the children will continue to recognise seasonal changes and concentrate on the winter and spring seasons. In addition to identifying the behaviours connected to each season, they will be taking measurements of the temperature and daylight hours.

We will be studying materials and their applications this term: The usage of common materials including wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper, and cardboard will be covered. After that, the children will compare how well-suited certain common materials are for various uses. They will investigate how items composed of common materials may undergo form changes and how recycling can utilise common materials again.

Art/DT

This term, our focus for art is drawing. We will be taking inspiration from 'Keith Haring' an artist known for his use of pop art, vibrant colours and the inclusion of specific meaning behind his creations. We will spend time talking about and recreating different pieces of his work, focusing on how they make us feel and the message behind the art. Aswell as this, the children will be using their imagination to create their own pieces through inspiration from him.

In DT, the children's goals will be to exhibit a variety of cutting and shaping skills (such as tearing, cutting, folding, and curling) and to cut materials securely using the instruments that are given. Last but not least, show off a variety of connecting methods (such glueing or mixing materials to strengthen).

RE

This term the children will be reading lots of stories from the Bible. Initially we will be looking at stories Jesus heard. We will listen to lots of stories from the Old Testament and explore the feelings and characteristics of the people within these stories.

Then we will move on to look at stories Jesus told and understand that he told them to teach us more about God. We will have a look at a range of parables in more detail will have an opportunity to explore these stories with an exciting interactive show performed by Magical Mayhem.

Later on in the term we will be looking at Easter and making connections between Easter and the new life of Spring. We will listen to, discuss and retell the events of the Easter story and create our own Easter Garden. We will also study the miracle of the life cycle of a butterfly and how plants, flowers and trees can grow from tiny seeds.



Computing

Starting of the term in computing we will be focusing on online safety. The children will learn about what personal information is and why they need to keep it safe. They'll learn how personal information is more vulnerable if shared online and will look at which information is appropriate to share, and which should always be kept private. We will then start to look at pictograms. Across this topic, children will learn to understand that data can be represented in picture format, they will be able to contribute to creating a class pictogram about favorite fruits! They will also learn to use a pictogram to record the results of an experiment.

History

In History this term, our focus is on significant historical events, people and places in our own locality. This will be linked to farming/local zoo, the escape of the Wallabies as well as two important historical figures of Charles Tunncliffe and Courtney Brocklehurst. The children will be able to describe significant historical events from their local area and identify sources of evidence for this in their environment. This will aid the children's skills to write and talk about taught historical figures and events in detail, drawing on evidence from the sources we have explored.



Geography

In Geography the children will learn to use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the local area. We will look at land and building use in the local area and the jobs associated with them. We will develop our geographical skills and use geographical language to observe and record what we find out.

PSHCE

For the first half of the term, the focus will be focusing on keeping safe and managing risks. The children will learn about being and keeping safe and healthy. They will learn some basic first aid skills and how to ring 999. They will learn about keeping safe on the road and around water After half term,

the children will look in detail at the “Secrets to Success” focusing on our aspirations, how to achieve our goals and understanding the emotions that go with this.

PE

In PE sessions this term children will be working with PAS on a range of sports skills including hockey and tennis. They will be working with Mrs. Gilman on gymnastics, developing their travelling, rolling and balancing skills and putting these together to create a sequence of movements.

Music

In Music this term, the children will be learning all about the Glockenspiel. Pupils are taught how to play the Glockenspiel musically using the correct striking technique. Pupils will focus on playing the Glockenspiel as a group whilst playing the correct notes and staying in time. The children will also learn about different notes on a Glockenspiel and be able to play a song using these notes. Pupils will develop their listening skills by listening to a variety of rhythms throughout the term. They will learn how to respond to these in call and response style.

When listening to music, we will be identifying how music encourages creativity, delight, and curiosity.