

Kestrel Curriculum Letter Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Kestrel Class! We hope you have had a relaxing summer and are looking forward to an exciting new school year. Mrs Ryan is our part-time Teaching Assistant. Mrs Bailey-Candlish will be in class from Monday to Thursday and Mrs Earby will teach on Fridays. Urgent messages should be sent via the school office. We are normally free after school for a 5 minute chat if needed, and we find this is generally the best way to speak to us. We will also set up Class Dojo which has a messaging option. Class Dojo is a simple app that connects our classroom to your home by sharing daily updates and direct messages about reward points earned, for example for effort, positive interactions with others, achievement and attitude, as well as information about events in class and reminders about whole school events.

Mathematics lessons for Year 2 and Year 3 will be taught separately. This discrete approach ensures that we can tailor the content specifically to each year group's curriculum and learning goals. In English lessons are carefully planned so that Year 2 pupils focus on mastering their Key Stage 1 goals, while Year 3 pupils are introduced to and stretched by Key Stage 2 objectives. While the children may explore the same core texts or themes together, the tasks they complete will be matched to their specific learning requirements. Year 2 pupils will all be taught phonics and spelling together by Miss Honeyborne and Year 3 pupils will be taught spelling as a discrete group by Mrs Bailey-Candlish. Please allow us time to get into these new timetable routines and then if you still have any questions come and speak to us after school.

READING: We will send home two reading books a week. These will consist of a 'choice book' which the children may independently choose from a selection of high-quality, age-appropriate texts in our classroom which they will enjoy hearing you read to them. The second will be a levelled reading book, which is appropriately pitched for your child to read. We ask that your child reads this book to you, with some support if necessary. There are useful pre-reading tasks detailed within the front of many of these books, which are really useful to discuss prior to beginning the book, as well as initiating discussions about the author, illustrator, genre, whether the book is fiction or non-fiction, and the text type (such as a narrative, report, poem, explanation etc.). These discussions are valuable, encouraging the children to think carefully about what they are reading and to make connections with prior reading and their own life experiences.

As we are sure you already know - it is advisable that children read each levelled book three times - once to practise their 'word reading' skills, then to develop intonation and expression and finally to be able to answer comprehension-based questions to show their understanding of what they have read. These can be returned once read. It is also valuable for children to have the opportunity to listen to, and discuss, a wide range of stories and texts, helping them to develop their 'reading comprehension' skills and understanding of intonation and expression. As such, the second 'choice book' each week will be chosen by the children from a selection of texts from our classroom bookcase. Please take care of these books and return them the following week.

HOMEWORK: Spelling homework will be set on a Monday from week 2 onwards for Year 3 pupils. Please support your child to form letters correctly and check their spelling before returning it for a dojo point! Maths homework for Years 2 and 3 is Numbots/ttrockstars which you are familiar with. Please login and use Numbots from September for Year 2, then Times Tables (2x, 5x, 10x) when your

child is ready at least once a week. Year 3 are working on 3x, 4x and 8x tables throughout the year, once secure in the Year 2 times tables, so just go for it, at least once a week please! We will track the logs and progress, and children will have time in class on Fridays to work on these as well.

PE: We ask that the children come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days, wearing a royal blue t-shirt and plain, dark shorts or jogging bottoms as we move into the winter months. It is advisable that children keep at least one spare pair of socks and their trainers in school so that they have an additional pair of shoes to change into if they get wet at break, lunch or within PE sessions. Children should not wear jewellery on PE days (Thursdays). Year 3 will be swimming and Year 2 will have PE combined with Year 2 Kingfisher Class. If your child has earrings please *take them out* for school on Thursdays, unless they have recently had them pierced in which case they will need a supply of plasters or micropore tape that they can apply to cover them. Long hair should also be tied back at all times.

VOLUNTEERS: We love to welcome volunteers into school to listen to the children read. This is a huge help within our school community and any offer of help is gratefully received. If you feel that you, or someone within the local community, may be able to help, then please get in touch with us so that the appropriate paperwork can be completed by the school office.

INHALERS AND EPI-PENS: If your child has an inhaler or EpiPen, please ensure that they have an up to date one in school and that their name is labelled on it clearly. A care plan will also need to be completed/updated with the office please.

LUNCH BOXES: A reminder that we are a nut and seed-free school. We ask that these foods are not brought to school, including products made using these foods like pesto and seeded bread.

WATER BOTTLES AND SNACKS: It is essential that children come to school every day with a water bottle. Free fruit or vegetable snacks are provided to children in Year 2. Year 3 pupils will need a healthy snack e.g. raw fruit or vegetables daily.

Many thanks,

Mrs Bailey-Candlish, Mrs Earby and Mrs Ryan