

# The Federation of St. Giles and St. John



## Love to Learn: Learn to Love

Planting seeds of happiness and enjoyment.  
Living and growing together.

Spring term 2026

Newsletter



Welcome back to a new year and a new term. We look forward to working in partnership with you all. We have an engaging curriculum planned for the term ahead.

### Our Christian vision and values

The core Christian values for the term are courage and forgiveness. We have also mapped out key spiritual questions to consider and think about, one dedicated to each half term.

### Curriculum News

This term we are continuing to focus on the foundational skills. As well as continuing to deliver the maths mastery programme across both settings, we are focusing on the core foundational skills of communication and language including transcription (handwriting and spelling) and composition (writing). We have started the term by revisiting our policies for teaching handwriting and spelling across the whole primary spectrum from reception to year six. The teaching of handwriting and spelling (phonics) is so important for the development of creative and

confident writers. To support our renewed focus on this we are also working alongside Diane Pye (independent consultant) who is going to share examples of good practice with the team during staff meetings. We are going to share writing samples and good practice across the federation. This year has been identified as the year of reading by the National Literacy Trust. We fully support this and strongly believe reading is the key to all learning. We have once again purchased new texts to develop reading through engaging topics across the curriculum and new guided reading texts to do more focused reading in smaller groups, especially in key stage two. We have also invited a poet, Mr Bardsley, to visit both settings as part of World Book Day celebrations. He combines the art writing of poetry with illustrations which will hopefully inspire the children to produce their own.

After half term, the children in key stage two will be visiting Stratford Upon Avon to take part in a drama workshop led by members from the Royal Shakespeare Company. Drama is a very powerful way to develop an understanding of story and to support the development of children's communication and language skills. We want to develop the use of drama and integrate it into our termly planning across both settings. The techniques used by the Shakespeare company ensemble are transferrable and can be used to explore other stories and not just Shakespeare's plays. It is a very inclusive approach so that all pupils can access the learning in a fun and engaging way. This in turn can help pupils have more confidence to write creatively because they have experienced it and built up a bank of words and phrases to draw upon for their writing.

### Contact

If you have any worries or concerns do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment to speak to the teaching staff. We are normally available at the beginning of the school day or after school to follow up concerns raised so that we can resolve these by working in partnership with parents/carers.

### Jewellery

As we have started a new school term we would like to make everyone aware of the jewellery that can be worn in school.

- Pupils may wear a watch, but not one capable of taking photos on.
- Only one stud earring is permitted in each ear lobe, please note that this will have to be removed for P.E.
- Bracelets and rings are not to be worn.

This forms part of our Health and Safety policy in school to prevent injury and accidents to our pupils.

### Leave of Absence in Term Time

The Leave of Absence Policy adopted by the Governing body of Federation of St. Giles and St. John is in line with the national guidelines which state that headteachers are only allowed to authorise any leave of absence when an application has been made in advance and circumstances are exceptional. The annual family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

### Medical/Dental Appointments

If a pupil needs to attend a hospital, dentist or GP appointment, a letter must be provided to prove absence. If a pupil does attend the GP for any reason and is absent from school then parents can request a 'print screen' of the consultation from the doctor which they do not have to pay for, or an appointment card/signed compliments slip from the reception. This is necessary for safeguarding / attendance monitoring purposes.

Thank you.

### Free School Meals

Please check to see whether you are entitled to free school meals. <https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/> if you need any help with the application process, please make enquiries at the school office. Children eligible for free school meals trigger additional funding for the school, which would benefit the children in many ways.

### Labelling of Clothing

Please may we also remind parents of the importance of naming the children's clothing especially jumpers, fleeces and polo shirts which can get lost very easily.

### After School Clubs

KS2 Multisport Club - Mondays starting 19<sup>th</sup> January for 4 weeks - 3.20-4.20 pm

All clubs need to be booked and paid for on ParentPay before the club starts.

### Forest School Kit

Please can parents ensure that when the children are visiting the forest on a Friday they wear the following kit:

Plenty of layers of clothing including long sleeved tops and long trousers (no shorts, jeans or short sleeved tops)

And bring in a labelled bag:

Waterproof coat and trousers;

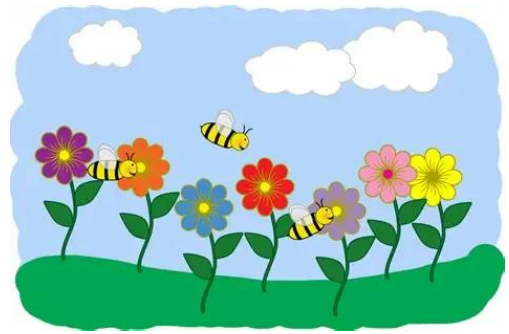
Warm hat, scarf and gloves

Wellies

Thank you.

## Spring Term – Oak Class

### Curriculum Overview and Newsletter



Dear Parents and carers,

#### **Welcome to the Spring Term!**

We are delighted to welcome everyone back for the Spring term. During the first half of the term, Miss Eldridge will be delivering our PE lessons from the sports partnership with Lacon Childe School. In the second half term, children will take part in swimming and gymnastics, alongside the welcome return of Forest School.

It promises to be a very busy and exciting term, with lots to look forward to before Easter, including World Book Day, a visiting poet, the swimming gala, a Year 6 trip to London, and a Year 5 secondary school taster day.

Our class team remains the same this term, with Ms Watson, Mr Hollis, Mrs Bonell, Ms Bence and Mrs Grigg all continuing to work together to support your children. Our main topic this term is **Frozen Kingdom**, alongside a range of other subjects which are outlined below.

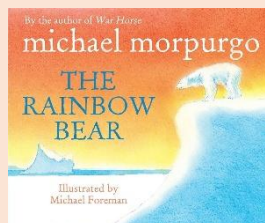
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Children thrive when school and homework in partnership, so please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions or concerns.

#### **The Oak Class Team** 🌿

##### **English**

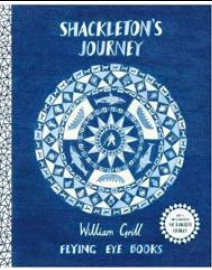
This term in English, Ms Watson's group will be reading 'The Rainbow Bear' by Micheal Morpurgo, as well as 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. 'The Rainbow Bear' will act as a stimulus for children's reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar work. We will write our own stories with dilemmas, problems and issues. In the second half term we will be using 'Shackleton's Journey' and using his and that of other explorers story as a basis for diary writing. In Mr Hollis' group the class will be using two texts: 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill and Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell. Shackleton's Journey is a non-fiction book, exploring in depth the details of the famous Antarctic expedition – it is beautifully illustrated. This text will be the focus for developing reading and writing skills. It will be used as a stimulus for writing in character, letter writing, diary writing and narrative. We will also be reading Wolf Wilder which is a novel about a girl who re-wilds domesticated wolves. It is set in Russia and is a gripping adventure. This text will be used as a stimulus for discussion and reading comprehension. The children will also have regular practice of developing a variety of sentence structures to include in their writing.

We are changing the way we do our spellings this term. Rather than sending them home we will be selecting topic and text specific vocabulary and working on these words, as well as identifying individual spellings each child needs to work on as part of their class work. We will be sending reading comprehension activities home for homework instead, where the children will read short extracts and answer questions based on what they have read. Please support your child with these tasks, and help them to remember to return the work every Monday.



##### **Maths**

In Maths we will be starting the term looking at multiplication and division. In Ms Watson's group we will be working on factors and multiples, and solving calculations using a range of manipulatives, progressing on to more formal methods. We will then move on to investigating length, perimeter, and area, linking this work back to our multiplication work. After half term we will begin work on fractions. Children will develop their mathematical vocabulary, using language such as numerator, denominator, proper and improper fraction, mixed number fractions and equivalent fractions. In Mr Hollis' group, the children will be learning about: division; solving word problems; working with data and graphs; fractions. We strongly encourage ALL CHILDREN to access TTRS at least three times a week, for 5 mins at a time. This is particularly important for Year 4 children who will have their Times Table screening check in June, but all children will benefit.



We will continue our handwriting practice, encouraging all key stage 2 pupils to use a joined script, and linking our handwriting patterns with our spelling patterns. Children will continue to read regularly in school – in Key Stage 2 this will be through whole class or small group guided reading. They will also bring home individual books and be heard 1:1 as often as possible. There is no set day for this so children should bring their books to school daily.

### History and Geography

This half term, we'll start by observing icebergs and learning topic specific vocabulary. We'll then find out more about them using non-fiction books and videos. Using globes and maps, we'll identify the polar regions, comparing the Arctic and Antarctic. We'll also think about how we can protect the polar environment. Then, we'll



investigate the tragic story of the RMS *Titanic*, and find out about the people on board.

**At home:** Why not watch a documentary such as the BBC *Frozen Planet* series together?

As part of our Geography work, we will also learn how to use lines of latitude and longitude to pinpoint places on a world map and learn about map scale. We will revisit grid references, contour lines and map symbols. Your child will learn about global warming and climate change and discover how climate change and extreme weather affect people worldwide.

### Art

In art the children will be learning about the genre of environmental art. They will study how artists create artwork that addresses social and political issues related to the natural and urban environment. Children work collaboratively to create artwork with an environmental message.

**At home:** Please could you send in clean, used, plain plastic packaging for children to use in their sculptures.

### Science

In science children in Ms Watson's group will be learning all about sorting and classifying. They will learn what classification keys are and how they identify living things. Your child will learn the characteristics of the five vertebrate groups and the six main invertebrate groups. They will also examine and classify real plants and create a classification key based on their observations. They will learn about some newly discovered plants and animals and use a classification key to classify each discovery.

In Mr Hollis's group the children will be learning about human reproduction and ageing. They will order the stages of life cycles for different animal species and compare them. They will learn what mammals are and the five key mammalian characteristics. They will investigate the relationship between the mass of mammals and how long they carry their young by creating and interpreting scatter graphs. They will learn about the stages and processes of the human life cycle. They will learn about human gestation from embryo to birth. They will investigate how humans change and develop from infant to adolescence in the juvenile stage. They will learn about how humans change as they get older and they will investigate how ageing affects reaction times.

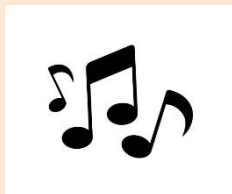
### Design and Technology

After half term, we will swap Art for DT. Our DT project will teach children about remarkable engineers and significant bridges, helping them to identify features such as beams, arches and trusses. They complete a bridge-building engineering challenge to create a bridge prototype.




### Music

Music will be planned and delivered by Kate Salt, our specialist music teacher from the Shropshire Music Service. She will cover musical units such as classical and romantic, and further develop pitch and note reading.



### French

Using Language Angels, the children will be covering the topic 'Je peux... (I Am Able...)'. In this unit pupils will learn 10 familiar activities that they are able or are not able to do in French. This is one of the first units introducing the negative form, allowing the children to build more interesting and complex sentences including the option of using conjunctions

<p><b>RE</b> In RE we will be thinking about 'How festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people'. As part of this unit we will be thinking about Shabbat, and festivals that are important to Jewish people. After half term we will return to Christianity, and considering 'What do Christians believe Jesus did to save people?' and linking this idea to the Easter story.</p>	<p><b>Computing</b> The children will be using computers as a research tool to help them learn about the Antarctic and Environmental art and artists.</p>
<p><b>PSHE</b> This term we will be continuing to work through the Jigsaw program. Our next unit is called 'Dreams and goals'. Within this unit we will be discussing our own dreams, goals and ambitions, thinking about challenges and how we overcome obstacles. After Easter we will be moving on to 'Healthy me', where we look at ways to stay fit and healthy, including drug awareness and ways of keeping ourselves safe.</p>	<p><b>Homework</b> Children will be bringing home a reading comprehension activity each week. These will be given on a Monday and are to be returned the following Monday. Children should access TTRS a minimum of three times a week, for 5 mins at a time. Children should be reading daily – either their school book or a book from home. If you have any questions about homework, please get in touch.</p> 

Ms Watson and Mr Hollis.



### Acorn Class – Spring 2026

Welcome back to a brand-new term – we hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas. We are so excited to begin our learning adventures together this term and can't wait to explore, discover, and grow as a class. We look forward to working closely with you to support your child's journey this term.

#### English

To run alongside our Coastlines topic in the first half of the term, we will be exploring *Katie Morag*, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* series, and *The Sea Monster*. These rich texts will support children in developing their sentence level work to create character and setting descriptions. In year two they will learn how to write expanded noun phrases. In the second half of the term, we will use *The 100 Decker Bus* and *The 100 Decker Rocket*, with a focus on sequencing events and writing clear, engaging recounts.



#### Maths

This term in Maths, we will continue to follow the White Rose and NCETM approach, building strong foundations through practical, hands-on learning. Reception children will develop their understanding of numbers up to 10, exploring how numbers are made, comparing quantities, and learning about length, height, mass, capacity, time, and 3D shapes. Year 1 and Year 2 children will build on their number knowledge through place value, addition and subtraction, and begin exploring multiplication, division, money, and measurement. Across all year groups, there will be a strong focus on reasoning, problem-solving, and developing confidence with numbers.

#### History

In History this term, children will explore **transport over time**, learning how the ways people travel have changed from the past to the present. They will look at different forms of transport, such as carts, trains, buses, and cars, and compare them with what we use today. Children will develop key historical skills by sequencing transport chronologically, spotting similarities and differences, and talking about how transport has improved people's lives and changed the world around us.

#### Art

In Art this term, children will explore **weaving** through a creative unit inspired by *Katie Morag* and her Scottish island home. They will learn how weaving works by exploring **over and under patterns**, experimenting with colour, texture, and repetition. As the unit progresses, children will design and create their own **tartan-style weavings**, developing fine motor skills and an understanding of pattern and tradition. The final outcome will be a woven tartan inspired by Scotland's rich textile heritage.

#### D & T

In Design and Technology this term, children will work on a unit called **Taxi**, which links closely to our **Transport Over Time** history topic. They will explore how **wheels and axles** work, investigating how they help vehicles move smoothly and efficiently. Children will design, make, and evaluate their own moving vehicles, developing practical making skills, problem-solving, and an understanding of simple mechanisms.



#### Geography

In Geography this term, children will explore the topic of **Coastlines**, developing an understanding of how land meets the sea. They will learn to identify and describe key physical features such as beaches, cliffs, harbours, and the sea, using simple geographical vocabulary. Through maps, images, and discussion, children will compare different coastal environments and begin to understand how people use and care for these places. Learning will build progressively from observation and description to simple comparison and explanation.



### Science

In Science this term, children will explore **Forces** before moving on to **Earth and Space**. They will investigate pushes and pulls, exploring how objects move, stop, and change direction through hands-on practical activities. Later in the term, children will learn about the Earth, the Sun, and the Moon, exploring patterns such as day and night and beginning to understand our place in space through observation, discussion, and simple scientific enquiry.



### Computing

In Computing this term, children will develop their skills through two key units. In **Moving a Robot**, they will use **Bee-Bots** to give simple instructions, learning how to programme movements and debug when things go wrong. Later, they will create **digital pictograms**, collect data and presenting it clearly on a screen, while learning how technology can be used to organise and communicate information.

### RE

In RE this term, children will explore **Who is Jewish and how do they live?**, learning about Jewish beliefs, traditions, festivals, and everyday life, with a focus on respect and understanding for different faiths. Later in the term, they will move on to **Why is Easter special to Christians?** exploring the Easter story and its meaning, including themes of love, sacrifice, forgiveness, and new life, through stories, discussion, and reflective activities.

### Music

This term, the children will enjoy music sessions with **Mrs Salt**, our specialist teacher, with a focus on learning linked to our topics of **Coastlines** and **Transport Over Time**. They will keep a steady rhythm, explore musical patterns, and sing a range of songs inspired by these themes, helping them to build confidence, develop listening skills, and enjoy making music together as a group.

### PHSE

In PSHE this term, children will follow our **Jigsaw** programme, beginning with **Goals and Dreams**. They will reflect on their hopes and aspirations, learn about perseverance, and explore how to overcome challenges. In the second half of the term, the focus will move to **Healthy Me**, where children will learn about keeping their bodies and minds healthy, including exercise, healthy choices, and ways to stay safe and well.



### PE

This term, a coach from Lacon School will be working with the children to teach **hockey**, focusing on key skills such as passing, controlling the ball, moving into space, and working as part of a team. The children will also be swimming at Ludlow, where they will develop water confidence through floating, kicking, and basic arm actions. As the term progresses, they will begin swimming short distances and learning important water safety skills.



# DATES AT A GLANCE

## SPRING TERM 2026



### JANUARY

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Oak Class - forest school at Wellness Woodlands Forest School in Highley, starts today for 5 weeks.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Acorn class - Multiskills festival @ Lacon Childe School

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Acorn Class - forest school at Farlow School, starts today for 4 weeks.

### FEBRUARY

 **Parents**  Monday 9<sup>th</sup>  
 **Evening** 

**MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM**  
**SCHOOL RE-OPENS- MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oak class - Gymnastics at the Severn Centre, Highley with Momentum Gymnastics for 5 weeks.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Whole school swimming starts today @ Ludlow Leisure Centre for 4 weeks.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Acorn class Movement festival @ Lacon Childe School

### MARCH

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Poet and illustrator in school for the day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - World book day

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6's visiting Parliament with Farlow School in London.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Oak class Swimming Gala @ Ludlow Leisure Centre

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> - Year 5 taster day @ Lacon Childe School

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Acorn class - Multisports festival @ Lacon Childe School

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Red Nose Day

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Easter Service @ St Johns Church, Kinlet

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
**SCHOOL RE-OPENS**  
**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

Please note these dates are subject to change. Please check weekly flyer for any updates. Letters will be sent out nearer the time with more information.

