



2nd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and managed to enjoy some time together. I hope that you are feeling refreshed and ready for the new school year.

Class novels: Oliver Twist (and other great Dickens stories) and Peter Pan by J.M Barrie.

English: We will begin the year by reading *The Night Gardener* by Terry and Eric Fan. This beautifully illustrated story will inspire the class to explore descriptive language, characterisation and setting. We will use the text to write our own narratives, focussing on creating atmosphere and describing how a character or event can transform a setting. We will then move onto our Rivers unit. The children will read *River Story* by Meredith Hooper alongside *What is a River?* By Monika Vaicenaviciene. These texts will help us develop our understanding of rivers while also giving us opportunities to write an explanation text and explore features of non-fiction writing.

Maths: We will begin the year by consolidating key mathematical skills and ensuring that the children have a secure understanding of number and place value. They will then develop their fluency and reasoning skills through work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as solving a range of mathematical problems. Daily times-table practice will continue as it is an important part of our maths learning.

Science: In science, the class will be learning about the skeletal and muscular system, investigating how our bones, joints and muscles work together to allow our bodies to move. As well, we will explore nutrition and a balanced diet, learning about all the different nutrients and what they do for our body. We will then move onto light in order to see and discover that light is reflected from surfaces into our eyes. We will also explore how shadows are formed and investigate how and why the size and shape of shadows can change.

PE: This term, we will take part in invasion games, including Touch Ball, where we will develop our throwing, catching, movement and teamwork skills. We will also learn and apply attacking and defending tactics through hockey. We will also be working on our gymnastic skills, developing our balance, strength, flexibility, control and ability to sequence.

RE: We will be exploring Sikhi, Islam, and non-religious worldviews through the question 'What influences what people wear?'. We will explore concepts such as the 5Ks, Amrit and the Khalsa and if all people of a faith have to dress a certain way. We will then explore Christianity, Islam and Non-Religious Worldviews through the question "Is it important to fight for justice?" and look at charities run by faith groups and non-faith groups.



Geography: Our geography topic this term will be Rivers. We will learn about the different parts of a river and how rivers change as they travel from their source towards the sea. We will also explore the water, river features and how rivers shape the landscape. We will use maps and other geographical sources to locate rivers and investigate the importance of rivers to people and the environment. We will also develop our geographical vocabulary and mapping skills.

History: Our history topic this term will be a local history study of mills. We will investigate the history of mills in our local area and explore how the industry affected the people and communities who lived and worked there. The children will investigate local sources, photographs, maps, artefacts and historical evidence to help them understand what life was like in the past.

French: Our French learning this term will focus on *On y va (Let's go!)* and *Je me présente (Introducing myself)*. The children will develop their confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in French. They will learn how to introduce themselves and communicate simple information.

Art: We will be focussing on Storytelling Through Drawing. The children will explore how artists use drawing and sequencing of images to communicate stories and ideas. In connection with the illustrations in *The Night Gardener*, we will create our own visual narrative, exploring different drawing techniques and how shading can create an atmosphere.

DT: The children will develop their practical skills by exploring cross stitch and appliqué. They will learn how different techniques can be used to decorate and join fabrics and will plan and create their own textile design which will be later sold at the Christmas Fair.

Computing: We will begin our computing learning by focusing on e-safety and staying safe online. We will then explore the Internet, with a particular focus on evaluating online content. The children will learn that not everything they see online is necessarily reliable or accurate. As well, the children will be looking at the internet and recognising the internet as a network of networks including the WWW, and why we should evaluate online content. We will also explore stop-frame animation, looking at captivating digital images to tell a story.

Music: This term we are very lucky to have someone from the Lancashire Music Service coming in to teach us about how to play the Samba Drums.

PSHE: We will return to My Happy Mind where we will focus on our brains. We will explore how our brains work and how our emotional regulation is controlled by our brain.



PE

It is absolutely essential that your child has their PE kit in school at all times, including a suitable coat for outdoor PE lessons. Our PE lessons will take place Monday and Wednesday afternoon.

Outdoor learning

We aim to take our learning outdoors as often as possible so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

Snacks

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in fruit from home and of course water bottles. Please note that juice is not permitted.

Homework

This term, we will be focusing on key skills in maths and English, both in class and for homework. We would be very grateful if you would support your child at home with the following:

Comprehension - All children will be set a comprehension every week on Monday with the expectation that they complete it by Friday, as we will be marking them together as a class.

Daily reading - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of twenty minutes each day. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported to catch up with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

Weekly spellings - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. A spelling letter will be given out in the first week.

Times tables - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables i.e. 0 times 5 is 0, 1 times 5 is 5, 2 times 5 is 10 etc. and knowing related division facts i.e. 0 divided by 5 is 0, 5 divided by 5 is 1, 10 divided by 5 is 2 etc. We will have a times table focus of the week which I will send home on the Monday where the children will practice in school as well as at home ready for our a test times tables on a Friday in school

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to email contact@caton.lancs.sch.uk or in person at the beginning or end of the school day.



Best wishes,
Miss Betley