



Lympe Church of England Primary School Oak Class Newsletter Terms 1 and 2 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and the children all had a lovely summer. I look forward to getting to know you and your children this year and teaching them exciting new things. The topics we are covering will be explained below.

English

In term 1, our class text will be Michael Morpurgo's inspiring adventure story, *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The novel follows Michael, who sets sail around the world with his parents and their dog, Stella, before an unexpected turn of events changes everything.

Using this text as the focus for our English lessons, children will develop their reading and writing skills through a range of engaging activities, including character and setting descriptions, inference, hot seating and role play. These activities will encourage a deeper understanding of the text and its themes before culminating in pupils writing their own alternative endings and postscripts. Inspired by the beautiful Japanese setting of the story, children will also explore and write their own Haiku poetry.

In term 2, we will begin by studying *Tuesday* by David Wiesner, using the text to write newspaper reports while developing our understanding of direct and indirect speech. We will then move on to *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly, celebrating the remarkable women who played a vital role in NASA and the Space Race, before exploring *Curiosity: The Story of the Mars Rover*. These texts will provide the inspiration for learning about the features of diary writing, with children producing their own diary entries from the perspective of a member of the Mars Rover mission team.

Throughout both terms, there will be a strong focus on grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) to support children in becoming confident and accurate writers. Regular reading comprehension activities will continue to develop inference and retrieval skills, while opportunities for discussion will help pupils broaden their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of a wide range of texts. We also encourage all children to continue reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction books at home to further develop their love of reading. We are currently setting up a new reading scheme, Accelerated Reader, and you will receive more information on this separately. The children will receive their levels and bring their reading book home by Friday 11th September.

Maths

Please see our [Calculations Policy](#) for more information about the methods we will be teaching this year.

During terms 1 and 2, children will explore a range of mathematical concepts, including place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), fractions and problem-solving. Lessons will encourage children to reason mathematically, explain their thinking and apply their knowledge confidently across a variety of contexts.

Alongside our daily maths lessons, children will participate in regular fluency sessions designed to develop number confidence and improve recall of key number facts, including multiplication tables. Daily mental maths practice using Number Sense and our Numberlink Boards will further strengthen their understanding and fluency. We encourage all children to continue practising their times tables at home using TT Rock Stars, as regular practice makes a significant difference to confidence and progress.

Curriculum Overview

	Term 1	Term 2
Science	Mixtures and separation	Properties and changes
RE	Christianity What does it mean if God is Holy and Loving?'	Christianity Was Jesus the Messiah?'
PSHE / RSE	Being me in my world	Celebrating difference
Computing	Online Safety	Programming: BBC Micro:bit
PE	Dance Rounders/kwik cricket	Dance circuits
Art / Design and Technology	Art: Painting and mixed media – portraits	DT: gingerbread houses - structures and strengthening
History / Geography	History: Were the Vikings traders, raiders or something else?	Geography: What is life like in the Alps?
Music	harvest	Christmas concert

PE

We are very lucky to welcome a teacher from Brockhill, who also teaches at INSTEP dance company, to teach the class dance in their Monday afternoon sessions. The dance will be based on a theme and the children will learn new dance moves and exciting lifts together. They will then choreograph a whole dance at the end of the school year in a showcase at Brockhill Performing Arts College. What a brilliant opportunity! Children should wear their PE kits to school on a Monday and Wednesday.

Please refer to the school website for our PE days.

Home Learning

Home Learning will also be given out on Fridays (beginning 11th September). The children will be given three retrieval maths questions to be completed each week which may be covering things from year 4, or the previous term or elements that need consolidating from weekly lessons. Home Learning will be given out on Fridays and expected back by the following Wednesday please (if it comes in after Wednesday mornings, it will not be marked. Please also continue with Spelling Shed and TT Rockstars at home as these really do enhance the children's learning and are monitored weekly.

We greatly appreciate any reading you do at home with your child, whether that is listening to them read, reading to them, or simply sharing and discussing a book or other text together. Regular reading at home plays a vital role in building confidence, fluency and, most importantly, a lifelong love of reading.

Diary Dates

All diary dates, including those for Forest School, can be found on the [school website calendar](#). Important dates coming up for our class are:

Our class trip this academic year will be to Kench Hill on Friday 14th May 2027; our class worship will be on Friday 27th November 2026 9:00am; open lesson Thursday 10th June (1:30 – 2:45) and we will be having a Viking experience day towards the end of term 1 (date tbc).

Whole school open lesson PE/Sports Wednesday 20th May; World book day 4th March 2027; Internet Safety Day 9th Feb 2027 and World Maths Day 24th March 2027

On a Tuesday afternoon, Mrs Ransley will be covering my planning time.

I look forward to meeting you all and starting this busy and challenging, yet exciting year.

If you have any questions or need support at any point, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am always here to help and really appreciate your continued support at home.

Kind regards

Mrs Clayton
Class teacher