

Pearls Learning Overview!

Spring 2026

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to a new spring term. In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be studying. Please read it carefully and keep it as a reference for the rest of the term. During the spring term we will be trying to encourage greater independence. We hope to continue to form strong links between home and school and are always happy to discuss any concerns with you. Please feel free to pop in and make an appointment in order to discuss any concerns, to look at classroom displays or allow your child to share and discuss some of their work with you.

DAILY ROUTINE

The children are expected to enter the playground between 8.35 and 8.45 and make their way to the classroom. The children will start the day with an early morning task, then their spellings work in their year groups, which is followed by group reading and writing. After play we have times tables tests and maths. Some groups and individual children are also taken out of class in the mornings for work to support their individual needs, so we therefore ask that all children arrive into school on time so that these are not missed or disrupted. The foundation subjects, including science, will be taught in the afternoons. School finishes at 3.15pm when we will lead the children into the playground. Please try to make sure that your child knows how they are going home and if you are going to be late collecting your child please contact the school as soon as possible. The children are to wait in the playground until they are collected, unless we have had confirmation by you that they are allowed out of the school grounds.

THE CURRICULUM

TOPIC

Our topic this term is entitled 'From Bean to Buriton'. This topic is primarily a Geography topic but we will be covering other areas of the curriculum within it. During the first half of the term we will be focusing on Africa as a continent and Ghana as a country. We will look at the geography, biomes and landscape within these areas. After half term we will focus on one area of Ghana - Dominase - and learn about the coco belt and how chocolate is made (from bean to bar).

English will be taught following the English curriculum and will be linked to the current topic wherever possible. We will be reading and writing a variety of genres, including narrative and non-fictional writing.

Our writing this term will be linked to our topic whenever possible.

During the first half term we will be using:

- 'The Boy who biked the world' Book One - Africa. We will write diaries, instructions and explanations using the text as a driver.

After half term we will be using:

- The Village that vanished. We will use this to develop empathy with a character and make connections with their own lives • To investigate how illustrations influence a reader's experience of a text • To develop creative responses to a text through drama, music, movement and poetry • To compose and perform poetry • To write in role to explore characters and events • To explore and develop ideas through discussion .
- African Tales. We will use this text to establish and develop an insight into the culture, geography and history of the countries introduced. • To be given the opportunity to develop the skill of oral story telling. • To enjoy a story and discuss its meanings. • To explore these through role-play and through writing in role. • To develop a personal and distinctive storytelling voice to support story telling and writing inspired by the collection. • To develop reader response by exploring interpretations of themes, plots and characters actions and motivations through discussion and debate.

SCIENCE

This term we will be learning about States of Matter – solids, liquids and gases.

Pupils should be taught:

- To identify solids, liquids and gases.
- How liquids behave.
- How materials change state.
- About the water cycle.
- Experimenting with liquids and evaporation.
- Which materials make the best thermal insulators.
- Which materials are magnetic.
- Which materials are soluble and insoluble.

Maths will be taught daily and will be taught in Year groups. We will be revisiting, consolidating and extending concepts previously learnt. We will also continue to learn and test Times Tables daily.

This term we will be looking specifically at:

Year 4:

- Multiplication and division
- Length and Perimeter
- Fractions
- Decimals

Year 5:

Multiplication and division
Perimeter and Area
Fractions
Decimals and Percentages
Statistics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We will have two P.E. sessions; one every other Friday afternoon and the other on a Thursday afternoon, both with JC Sports coaches. Please ensure that the children wear their P.E. kits into school on these days. P.E. lessons will sometimes be outside, so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing and footwear. On the days when P.E. is taught, please tie long hair back and remove earrings. If your child is unable to participate in a P.E. lesson, please contact us.

COMPUTING

Computing will be taught by Mrs Holloway on a Monday afternoon. During the first half term, we will create programs by planning, modifying and testing commands to create shapes and patterns using Logo. We will be looking at repetition and loops within programming.

After half term we will be looking at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. We will use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data and create graphs and charts to help solve problems. We will use a real life database to answer questions and present our work to others.



HOMEWORK

The general purpose of homework is to develop effective partnerships between home and school, consolidate skills, particularly in English and Maths, extend school learning, e.g. through additional reading and encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence, self-discipline and independence needed to study on their own, which will prepare them for the requirements of secondary school. In Pearls the children are expected to complete 1½ hours of homework each week, which includes reading. We are trying to get all children in class to read **AT LEAST** 4 times a week, as this is part of their homework, they may lose Rainbow's End time and possibly playtimes if this is not completed each week. Formal pieces of homework such as Maths and English tasks will be set once a week every Friday to be completed over the weekend and handed in by the following Friday. This will either be set via Doodle Learning or in your child's Homework folder / Comprehension Book. Although we practise times tables, number bonds and using the analogue and digital clock in lessons, we would be very grateful if you could work with your child at home as often as possible to ensure they have a secure understanding of these areas.

TT ROCKSTARS

Please ensure your child is completing sessions on TT Rockstars each week as part of our homework. We feel these key skills are fundamental in progressing with their maths skills, so please continue to use the website little and often and let us know if you have any problems logging in. We are going to track the children's progress in class and reward those who are completing these sessions regularly.

HOMEWORK DIARIES

Each child has been issued with a homework folder. Please ensure that you are aware of your child's homework task(s) as some may require adult support to complete. Homework folders will be checked on a regular basis and if your child has a genuine reason for not completing homework tasks please let me know in writing otherwise they will lose some of their playtimes or rainbow's end time.

MFL

Your child will be learning French this term. This will be taught every other Monday afternoon. Any extra support or practise at home would be great.

WATER / DRINKS

Drinking water regularly is very important to help concentration. Please try to ensure your child has access to a drinks bottle that can be filled with water throughout the day.



DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

If you wish to speak to us about any concerns or queries that you may have, please make an appointment to see me. We look forward to a new term with your child and making their time at Burnton Primary School as enjoyable as possible.

Thank you,

Mrs. Evans