PICKHURST ACADEMY

YEAR GROUP NEWSLETTER

YEAR GROUP

3

Week Commencing: 23rd November 2026

A quick snapshot of what our children are learning, celebrating and preparing for.

THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

MATHEMATICS

This week in maths, we practiced counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10, helping us to spot patterns in numbers and build our fluency. We also explored sharing and grouping, learning how objects can be split into equal groups. Finally, we began multiplying by 3, using practical resources and pictures to help us understand multiplication as repeated addition and equal groups.

Useful Links:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqbg87h

ENGLISH

This week in English, we explored the different types of sentences: statements, questions, commands and exclamations. Using *Leon and the Place Between* as our focus text, we looked closely at exclamatory speech to show excitement and surprise, and interrogative speech to ask questions and develop curiosity about the story. We identified these sentence types in the text and practiced using them in our own speaking and writing to engage the reader and bring characters to life.

Useful Links:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrqqtfr

SCIENCE

This week in Science, we learned about the human skeleton and explored the important bones that make up the body. We labelled different parts of the skeleton, including the skull, rib cage, spine, pelvis, femur and tibia, and discussed how the skeleton supports our bodies, protects our organs and helps us to move. Through our learning, we developed a better understanding of how our bodies are built and how the skeletal system works.

Useful Links:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9339j6

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY

This week in Geography, we explored the tropical desert climate zone. We learned where tropical deserts are found around the world and investigated their key features, including very low rainfall, hot daytime temperatures and sparse vegetation. We also discovered how plants, animals and people adapt to survive in these harsh environments and compared tropical deserts to other climate zones we have studied.

Useful Links:
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/habitats/article/deserts

ART/DT

This week in DT, we learned about the design specification of a castle and explored the different features that castles include, such as towers, battlements, drawbridges and moats. We used our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes to explain how these features could be represented in a castle design. We also considered who our castle was targeted for and explained how our design would meet the needs of its intended users.

Useful Links:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtfb9q

PSHE

This week in PSHE, we celebrated the fact that everyone is unique. We explored the similarities and differences between ourselves and others and took part in activities to find classmates who were different from us in various ways, such as their interests, experiences and preferences. Through these discussions, we learned that our differences make us special and that respecting and valuing diversity helps to create a kind and inclusive community.

Useful Links:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z2p4q6f

★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

★ **Cedar Class: Archer**, for showing fantastic resilience, determination and effort in his learning, even when faced with challenges!

★ **Cherry Class: Enzo**, for his great understanding with direct speech.

★ **Elm Class:** Alayna**,** for excellent effort and participation in maths this week.

★ **Maple Class: Lily**, for always challenging yourself within your learning and completing everything to the highest standard.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- **Wednesday:** outdoor PE, children to arrive in their PE kit
- **Monday:** indoor PE, children to arrive in their PE kit
- Earrings should **not** be worn on PE days, alternatively tape should be placed over earrings at home.

Over the next two weeks, please could children start collecting resources for their DT project, where they will be constructing castles in groups. The types of materials that would be most useful include:

- Cardboard boxes.
- Cereal boxes.
- Kitchen roll tubes.
- Other clean, recyclable materials suitable for building.

HOW FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Families can support learning at home by encouraging their child to read for at least 10 minutes each day, helping to develop reading fluency and comprehension. Children should also practice their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) and consolidate their maths learning from the week using MyMaths. Regularly practicing the week's spellings will help build confidence and accuracy in writing. Please also ensure that any homework set is completed and returned on time. These small, regular activities can make a big difference to your child's progress and confidence in school.

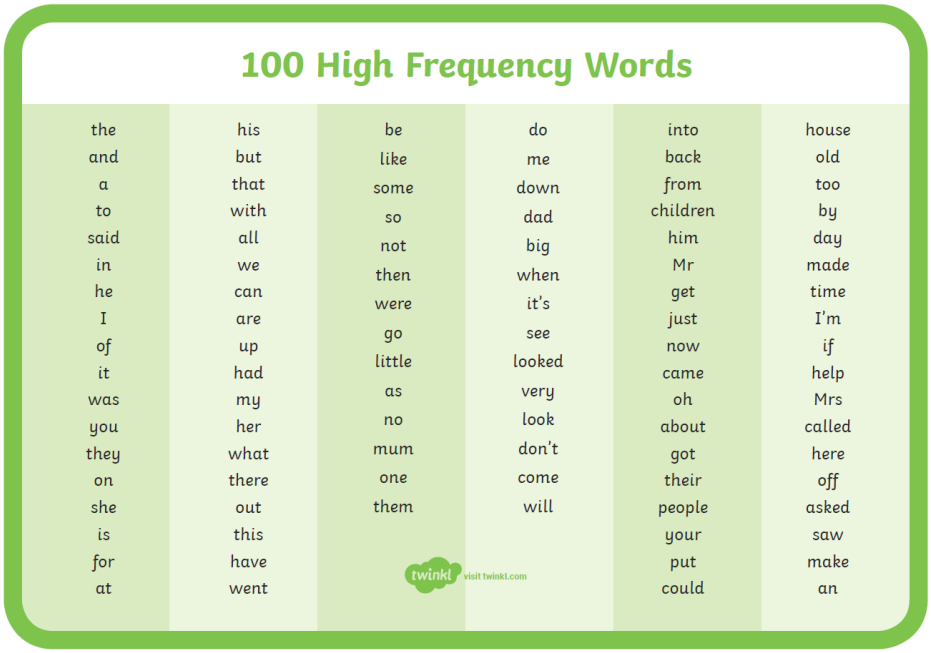
Homework Expectations

Subject	Frequency	Expectations for Child	Parent Support/Advice
Maths TTRS (TimesTables Rock Stars) ***Online***	Daily/Weekly	Recommendation is for 10 minutes per day or one hour per week if consolidating.	Encourage independence, support if/when needed.
MyMaths ***Online***	Set weekly (compulsory)	Complete assigned task which is set on a Friday. Complete by following Friday.	Encourage independence, support if/when needed.
Spellings ***Listed on Google Classroom***	Set weekly (compulsory)	Daily practice, approx. 10 minutes. Practice spelling words and using them in a sentence.	Encourage, daily practice. Dictate sentences.
Reading ***"Real Book", keep in school bag***	10 minutes a day (compulsory)	Take a book home from school to read for pleasure. Children should read every day either to themselves or an adult.	Please listen to your child read at least once a week and comment in the record book using the comment bank to help (see reading record book or scan the QR code).
Writing	Half termly task (set every half term, compulsory)	Complete writing task in book, approx. 20 minutes.	Encourage independence, support when needed.
Projects for foundation subjects, e.g. history, science, MFL Language Angels	Half termly (optional)	Optional to complete. However, finished projects will be placed on display around the school.	Encourage independence, support when needed.

Spellings

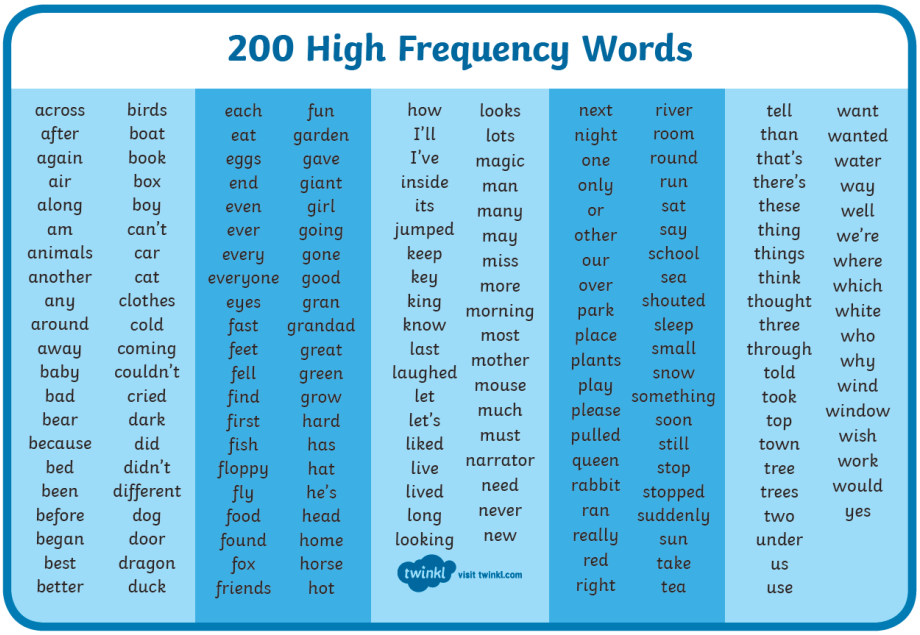
Children are expected to practise their weekly spellings at home alongside the daily spelling practice they receive in school. Each half-term, children will be tested on two sets of 15 words: words from Weeks 1–3 will be tested in Week 3, followed by words from Weeks 4–6, which will be tested in Week 6. These are low-stakes spelling checks designed to provide opportunities for practice and build confidence, rather than formal assessments.

For children with SEND, or those who find the year-group spelling words particularly challenging, we encourage continued practice of high-frequency words, which can be found below. Learning these words will help to support their confidence and independence in everyday writing.



100 High Frequency Words

the	his	be	do	into	house
and	but	like	me	back	old
a	that	some	down	from	too
to	with	so	dad	children	by
said	all	not	big	him	day
in	we	then	when	Mr	made
he	can	were	it's	get	time
I	are	go	see	just	I'm
of	up	little	looked	now	if
it	had	as	very	came	help
was	my	no	look	oh	Mrs
you	her	mum	don't	about	called
they	what	one	come	got	here
on	there	them	will	their	off
she	out			people	asked
is	this			your	saw
for	have			put	make
at	went			could	an



200 High Frequency Words

across	birds	each	fun	how	looks	next	river	tell	want
after	boat	eat	garden	I'll	lots	night	room	than	wanted
again	book	eggs	gave	I've	magic	one	round	that's	water
air	box	end	giant	inside	man	only	run	there's	way
along	boy	even	girl	its	many	or	sat	these	well
am	can't	ever	going	jumped	may	other	say	thing	we're
animals	car	every	gone	keep	miss	our	school	things	where
another	cat	everyone	good	key	more	over	sea	think	which
any	clothes	eyes	gran	king	morning	park	shouted	thought	white
around	cold	fast	grandad	know	most	place	sleep	three	who
away	coming	feet	great	last	mother	plants	small	through	why
baby	couldn't	fell	green	laughed	mouse	play	snow	told	wind
bad	cried	find	grow	let	much	please	something	took	window
bear	dark	first	hard	let's	must	pulled	soon	top	wish
because	did	fish	has	liked	narrator	queen	still	town	work
bed	didn't	floppy	hat	live	need	rabbit	stop	tree	would
been	different	fly	he's	lived	never	ran	stopped	trees	yes
before	dog	food	head	long	new	really	suddenly	two	
began	door	found	home	looking		red	sun	under	
best	dragon	fox	horse			right	take	us	
better	duck	friends	hot				tea	use	

Weekly Spellings

young	courage	cousins	cousin
touch	encourage	enough	doubling
double	colour	nourish	touched
trouble	couple	countries	youngster
country	southern	rough	troubling

Thank you from the Year 3 Team

Thank you for your continued support with your children's learning and for working with us as part of the Pickhurst Academy community.