

Leavening Community Primary School

Conkers Newsletter Summer Term 1 2026



Hello Families,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed some special time together. The Conkers team are rejuvenated after two weeks of chocolate consumption, and we are raring to go! This half term, our whole school topic is 'The Enchanted Woodland' – highlighted in our study of different habitats in science and mapping in Geography. For your information, this term **P.E will fall on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons**. As usual, the children may come to school in their P.E kits. There will be no forest school this half term. Roll on the better weather and lots of outdoor fun!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support!

Warm regards,
Mrs Bennett

This half term, we will be learning about:

English – Reception: This half term, we will continue with 'Drawing Club' study. We will apply phonic knowledge to write simple sentences; segmenting words carefully and using sound mats to support spelling and begin to re-read our writing to check it makes sense.

Key Stage 1: This half term, we will firstly study the traditional tale of 'George and the Dragon', working towards writing our own narrative based on the story (to really inspire the children we will also share segments of the popular film 'How to Train your Dragon!'). After this, we will look at the book 'Grandma Bird' by Benji Davies and continue our letter writing practise based on the story.

Maths - Reception: In Maths this half term, we will be learning about 3D shapes. We will explore and name common shapes such as cubes, spheres and cylinders, and begin to talk about their properties using everyday language. Through hands-on activities, we will build, sort and explore shapes to develop understanding of the world around them. After this, we will be learning about numbers to 20 and beyond. We will practise counting, recognising and ordering numbers, as well as exploring patterns in numbers. Through practical activities and games, we will develop confidence and fluency in their understanding of larger numbers. Finally, we will look at 'how many now?'. We will explore counting, combining and taking away small amounts using practical resources and real-life contexts. This helps children develop a deeper understanding of number and how amounts can change.

Year 1: This half term, the Year 1 children will initially look at fractions for the very first time. They will explore how to recognise and find halves and quarters of shapes and objects, using practical resources and real-life examples to support their understanding. We will also begin to talk about equal and unequal parts, helping children build a strong foundation for future maths learning. After this, they will explore multiplication and division, making equal groups, sharing and grouping objects, and begin to understand these concepts through practical activities and real-life examples. This helps children build a strong foundation for understanding number patterns and problem solving.

Look and learn beyond the classroom | Have high aspirations and fulfil our potential
Care, share and belong | Lead, teach and learn with passion

Year 2: This half term in maths, Year 2 children will be learning about fractions. They will build on their understanding of halves and quarters and begin to find and recognise thirds, as well as explore fractions of shapes and amounts. Through practical activities and visual representations, children will develop confidence in understanding how numbers can be split into equal parts. After this, they will be learning about mass, capacity and temperature. They will compare and measure using standard units, and begin to read scales for weight, volume and temperature. Through practical activities, children will develop their understanding of how we measure and describe the world around us. Finally, the children will study time. They will practise telling the time to the nearest five minutes, including quarter past and quarter to, and begin to explore durations of time. Through practical activities and real-life contexts, children will build confidence in reading clocks and understanding how time is used in everyday life.

Science: This term in science, the children will be learning about animal habitats. They will explore different environments around the world and specifically in the UK and discover how animals are suited to the places they live, including what they need to survive. Through hands-on activities and discussions, children will develop their understanding of living things and how habitats provide food, shelter and protection.

Geography: This term in Geography, the children will be learning about mapping. They will explore simple maps and atlases, learn to recognise symbols, follow routes and use basic directional language. Children will also begin to understand how maps help us find places and learn more about the world around us.

R.E- in RE we will be focusing on:

Reception: This term in Reception, we will be exploring the key question of "Which stories are special and why?" We will listen to and talk about a range of special stories from different religions and cultures. We will think about what these stories mean, why they are important to different people, and what we can learn from them.

Key Stage One: This half term, children will be learning about Hinduism. They will explore key beliefs, special places of worship such as the mandir, and important festivals including Diwali. Through stories, discussions and creative activities, children will develop their understanding of Hindu beliefs and how they are lived out in practice.

Music: As musicians we will compose music to represent different characters in the Gruffalo story. We will think carefully about the sounds that we choose alongside the pitch, dynamics and duration of the notes. We will listen carefully to a piece about the Gruffalo and describe how the composer represents his character, we will then sing it with actions. We will also learn a simple rap telling the story of Little Red Riding Hood and develop our performance skills and reading of notation to add a glockenspiel part. Later in the term we will focus on the songs for our end of year musical. Listening skills will be developed exploring the songs we have been challenged to prepare, increasing our musical vocabulary and developing our abilities to use our inner ears. We will use our inner ear and musical memory to recall all the songs. We will develop our performance skills – singing with accuracy of pitch and expression and interpreting the songs through actions.

French: As French linguists we will explore where France is and learn the surrounding countries. We will learn how we can travel to France. We will learn about the capital city and the main landmarks of Paris. We will also revisit colours and practise recognising these in drawing

activities linked to ice creams. We will learn how to order an ice cream. Throughout the tasks we will be completing speaking, reading, listening and written activities.

Computing: This half term, we will continue learning about data. Children will begin to understand what data means and how this can be collected in the form of a tally chart. They will learn the term 'attribute' and use this to help them organise data. They will then progress onto presenting data in the form of pictograms and finally block diagrams. Learners will use the data presented to answer questions.

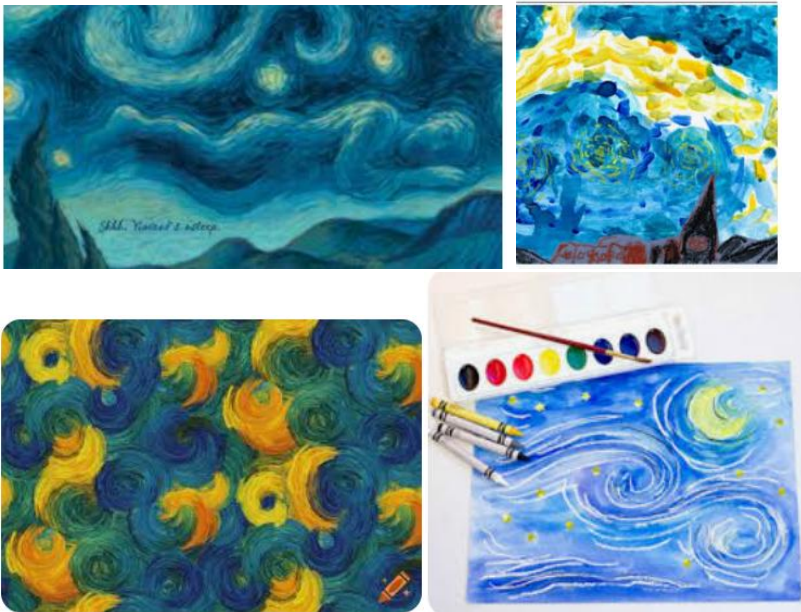
Art: In Art this term, children will be learning about the artist Vincent van Gogh. They will explore some of his famous artworks, including *Starry Night* and *Sunflowers*, and learn about his use of colour, texture and brushstrokes. Children will then create their own artwork inspired by van Gogh, developing their skills in painting and expressing their own ideas creatively.

P.E: In PE this term, all children will be taking part in multi-Skills and Athletics sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They will develop a range of fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, throwing and balancing, as well as improving coordination, control and teamwork. Children will be encouraged to build confidence, try new challenges and enjoy being active.

Learning at Home activities:

Years 1 & 2

Art - Draw a picture of your own night sky or garden in van Gogh style



Science: Go on a walk and record:

- living things
- non-living things
- possible habitats

Think about survival

- What does an animal need to survive in its habitat?
 - food, water, shelter, space
- Draw an animal and label how it survives

Geography: Mapping

Draw a simple map of your bedroom or house

Year 2 extension: Add labels and a key with symbols

Make a simple map of a story setting (e.g. Little Red Riding Hood's forest)

Reception

Understanding the World: Go on a habitat hunt in your garden or local park—what living things can you spot?

Draw your favourite animal and show its habitat (e.g. jungle, ocean, desert, woodland)

Draw a picture of your bedroom or favourite room at home

Maths - Build and Show Numbers

- Build numbers to 20 using LEGO, blocks, or objects
- Show the same number in different ways (e.g. $10 = 5+5$ using toys)

We can't wait to see the children's efforts in the last week of term!