



Happy New Year!

Welcome back. We hope you and your families had a wonderful break.

If you have any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of Hazel Class life, please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojos or by email – ehoward37.210@lgflmail.org. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Regards, *Ms Howard*

Class Teacher – Miss Howard

Additional Support Staff: Mr Long

Spring 1 2026 - This half term Year 5 will be learning about the following topics:

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| English | In English the children will continue to exploring a variety of texts, including 'The Whale' by Ethan and Vita Murrow and 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan . Through these quality texts pupils will learn to apply their writing skills and produce extending pieces in a range of writing genres. We will be examining how language can be used to describe settings, characters and atmosphere. We will also investigate how we can build cohesion within paragraphs. In the Whale, we will look at reported speech, speech and thought bubbles, description, recount in role and a letter to a newspaper editor. In the Lost Thing, we will explore our own version fantasy narratives diaries, formal letters, adverts, character and setting descriptions, non- chronological reports. This term, we will be focusing on our handwriting and our presentation. We will be concentrating on improving our cursive handwriting and ensuring our presentation is consistent across our pieces of writing. Spelling tests will take place every three weeks. |
| Reading Records | We will continue with physical reading records. They are expected to bring these into school daily and write at least 4 entries a week about what they are reading. Reading records are checked every Tuesday. Children will have the opportunity to choose books from the school library each week. All children will be required to take their library book or classroom book home each night to read, and log comments into their reading records. Please read and discuss your child's book with them and ensure that it is returned each day in a school bag. The library reading books will be changed weekly as and when appropriate for each child. Reading rewards will be given to children for fantastic, in-depth comments. Children will also have the opportunity to read for 15 minutes in the afternoon after lunch, and should start to record these sessions in their reading records. |
| Spelling | Children will continue this half term to be tested on their spellings every three weeks. Please support them in learning to spell the words on their challenge card. Every time they have secured a section (bronze, silver or gold), staff will check that they have indeed secured the bronze, silver or gold block and the children will receive a certificate and they can begin learning the next set of spellings. |
| Maths | In Maths the children will begin the term by looking at Multiplication and division. We will look at multiplying numbers up to 4 digits by a one- or two-digit number using a formal written method, including long multiplication for two-digit numbers, multiply and divide numbers mentally, drawing upon known facts divide numbers up to 4 digits by a one-digit number using the formal written method of short division and interpret remainders appropriately for the context, solve problems involving multiplication and division, including using their knowledge of factors and multiples, squares and cubes, solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and a combination of these, including understanding the meaning of the equals sign and solve problems involving multiplication and division, including scaling by simple fractions and problems involving simple ratios. They will continue to develop their mental maths knowledge of all their times tables (12x12) through weekly time stable tests on TTRS and Maths frame. Please encourage the daily use of these at home. https://trockstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/ |
| Science | In Science we will be looking at Properties and Changes of Materials. The children will start by looking at transparency, hardness and magnetism, then electrical conductivity. They will then plan, conduct and evaluate an investigation around insulating heat, finishing off the unit by looking at the uses of these materials. In doing this, they will learn to give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. |
| Computing | Our focus in Computing this half term is: 'We are architects' . By the end of this unit, the children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the work of architects, designers and engineers working in 3-D • develop familiarity with a simple CAD tool • develop spatial awareness by exploring and experimenting with a 3-D environment • develop a greater aesthetic awareness. |
| Topic | Our Topic this half term is 'Exploring Eastern Europe.' In this unit, children have the opportunity to explore Eastern Europe. Firstly, they will learn about the countries of Europe. They will then look in more detail at some of the contrasting areas of eastern Europe, finding out about the landscape, climate and locations in |

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| | each area. Children will bring together their learning about one area of eastern Europe and create information booklets to share what they have found out. In the final lesson of the unit, children will find out more about Chernobyl and its impact on eastern Europe and the rest of the world. Children will begin the unit with a “Mystery Suitcase” activity, using maps, photographs, currency and food packaging to identify clues about Eastern Europe. This will support them in developing early understanding of location, physical and human features, and cultural diversity within the region. |
| Art | Our Art and design topic this term is ‘ Paintings and mixed media: portraits ’. Children will learn to outline a portrait drawing with words, varying the size, shape and placement of words to create interest and try a variety of materials and compositions for the backgrounds of their drawings. They will show that they are making decisions about the position of a drawing on their background, trying multiple ideas. They will explain their opinion of an artwork, then experiment with materials and techniques when adapting their photo portraits. Finally, they will create a self-portrait that aims to represent something about them. |
| P.E. | Hazel will have PE on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Children must wear their PE kit with their school jumper to school on this day. Please ensure that your child/children have the following kit for PE: Black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt (not a polo shirt) and black trainers or plimsolls. This term the focus will be gymnastics. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit on Wednesdays and Thursdays. |
| Music | Children will take part in weekly Brass lessons on Thursday. Please encourage your child to rehearse regularly and bring their instrument into school. |
| R.E. | This term in RE, we will be learning about inner forces . There will be a focus on how beliefs from all faiths can influence our actions. |
| P.S.H.E. & Citizenship | This term our focus will be on dreams and goals . The children will learn methods to stay positive when they are finding something difficult and how to help themselves and others achieve their goals. |
| MFL | Our Spanish unit this term will be ‘ The way we look ’. In this unit, we will apply previous knowledge of topic areas such as clothes and the body, developing our vocabulary at the same time. We will learn to describe our own appearance and we will have the opportunity to talk about our emotions and health, increasing their conversational skills. |
| Homework | Children are sent home weekly Maths and English homework in their folders. This is sent home along with spellings on a Friday, and should be brought in by the following Tuesday. They should continue to learn their times tables, which will be tested on a regular basis, and they should continue to practice these using Times Table Rock Stars, for which they have their own logins. Children also need to practice and learn the spellings that they are set. All homework will be set on a Friday and will be expected to be completed and submitted by the following Tuesday. |
| Additional Information | Please ensure that your child attends school with a fresh water bottle every day and is wearing the correct school uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6. |
| Key dates | <p style="text-align: right;"><u>January</u></p> <p>Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day Tuesday 6th January 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children return to school at 8:55am • Extended school provision (breakfast and after school clubs) to resume <p>Wednesday 7th January 2026 - Home Learning Project on World Book Day will be sent home today. Monday 12th January 2025 – Enrichment clubs to resume Friday 16th January 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading together and reading buddies begins. <p>Friday 30th January 2026 – Hazel class assembly (9:20am)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>February</u></p> <p>Monday 2nd February 2026 – Friday 6th February 2026 – Maths Week Thursday 5th February 2026 – Times table challenge Friday 6th February 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPCC Number Day (Fundraising) All pupils and staff to wear an item with mathematical symbols. Pupils to bring £1 donation to school. • Science workshop 9.20 – 10.00 (Ms Hopkins) <p>Thursday 12th February 2026 – Poetry recital assembly Friday 13th February 2026 – Last day of half term</p> |

Term will finish on **Friday 13th February 2026** and school will resume on **Monday 23rd February 2026**.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Hazel Class Team:

Ms Howard (Class Teacher – ehoward37.210@lgflmail.org)

Mr Long (Support staff)

