

Welcome to Unicorn Class

Autumn 1



Welcome to Unicorn Class! ✨

We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new school year. A very warm welcome to our new class! We are so excited to begin this journey together and look forward to getting to know every one of the children.

This first half term will be all about settling into new routines, building friendships, and creating a happy and supportive classroom environment. The children will have lots of exciting learning opportunities as they explore new topics, develop their confidence and independence, and become familiar with their new surroundings.

We're looking forward to watching the children grow, celebrate their achievements, and make lots of wonderful memories together. It's going to be a fantastic start to the year, and we can't wait to see what the children accomplish!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to working together with you and sharing all the exciting learning and experiences that the new school year will bring.

School Uniform

At Gateford Park, the uniform consists of white polo shirt (with or without logo), black or grey skirt/pinafore or trousers, blue gingham dresses, blue sweater or cardigan (ideally with logo). Children should wear black school shoes with school uniform, NOT trainers. Jewellery should be kept to an absolute minimum for safety reasons and because valuable items can be easily lost. Please no necklaces, bracelets, rings, dangly earrings.

HT1 WEEKLY ROUTINES

Tuesdays and Wednesdays- are our PE days are returning to the original days so you will need your PE kit in school, please come to school in your kit, it must be school kit, no football kits.

Snack - If your child would like a snack at first break time then please send the money in a marked packet with their name on. Money to be sent in daily or if you prefer to send in for the week/multiple weeks we can make note and let you know when your child's snack money needs topping up. Prices below:

Toast 30p, Teacake 40p, Croissant 60p, Pizza 60p (Fridays)



Diary Dates

Here are some dates for the diary:

Tuesday 2nd September – Inset Day

Wednesday 3rd September- Inset Day

Thursday 4th September – First day of school!

Friday 16th October – Last day of half term 1

Monday 2nd November – First day of HT 2



Mathematics

This half term, our main Maths focus will be **number and place value**. We will build on the children's Year 1 knowledge, developing their understanding of numbers up to 100.

The children will explore **tens and ones**, learn to read, write, partition, compare and order numbers, and count in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s. We will use practical resources and problem-solving activities to help children explain their mathematical thinking and develop confidence with number.

English



This half term, our English learning will focus on **starting Level 6 phonics** using the Twinkl Phonics scheme, building on the children's knowledge and confidence with sounds and spelling patterns.

We will also explore three engaging texts: *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas, *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers and *The Hummingbird* by Nicholas John Frith. These stories will provide opportunities to develop **reading, comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills**, while encouraging children to share their ideas, explore emotions and make connections with the world around them.

We will have weekly spelling tests on a Friday that we will be working on during the week please note that everyone will start on the same spellings until we have more of an indication on levels and where different focusses need to be.

Marvelous me and Our Local Area

This half-term, our topic learning will be as follows:

This half term, our topic will focus on Marvellous Me and Our Local Area. The children will begin by exploring themselves, their families, friendships and what makes each of us unique. We will then broaden our learning to discover more about our local area, including important places, people and features in our community.

Through a range of exciting activities and experiences, the children will develop their understanding of themselves and the world around them, while building their confidence, curiosity and sense of belonging.

If you have a query, concern or question, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via Class Dojo. I feel that strong links between school and home really help children to enjoy school and achieve their best.

With my very best wishes,

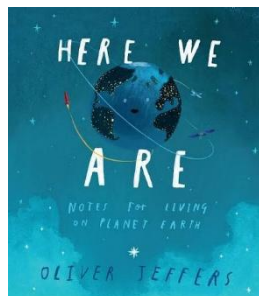
Mr Boulton 😊



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Whole-school focus:

This half-term our topic is: **Marvelous Me & Our Local Area**



Maths

This half term, we will develop our understanding of number and place value. We will practise counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s, and explore the value of tens and ones in two-digit numbers.

We will learn to represent, estimate, compare and order numbers to 100, using number lines and the symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$. We will also practise reading and writing numbers in numerals and words, using our place value knowledge to solve problems.

English

This half term, we will explore three wonderful books: The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas, Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers and The Hummingbird by Nicholas John Frith. We will explore emotions, our world and imaginative storytelling, developing our descriptive, non-fiction and narrative writing skills.

Alongside our books, we will continue to develop phonics, spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar, helping the children become confident and independent writers.

Phonics

Children will begin Level 6 phonics by applying their existing phonics knowledge to read and spell increasingly complex words. They will learn new graphemes and alternative spellings, develop fluency when reading unfamiliar words, and build confidence in applying phonics when reading and writing independently.

Art

This half term, we will explore self-portraits and sculpture. We will develop our observational skills by looking closely at facial features and creating our own self-portraits. We will also experiment with different materials and techniques to create 3D sculptures, developing our creativity and understanding of shape and form.

Science

This half term, we will explore Living Things and Their Habitats. We will learn how to identify things that are living, dead and have never been alive, and investigate a range of habitats and micro-habitats. We will discover how plants and animals are suited to their environments and how they depend on each other. We will also explore simple food chains, identifying where animals get their food from. Through practical activities and outdoor investigations, we will develop our skills in observing, identifying, recording and explaining what we discover.

Geography

This half term, we will develop our map and geographical skills. We will use maps, atlases and globes to locate the UK, its countries, continents and oceans.

We will learn to use compass directions and simple directional language to describe locations and routes. We will also explore aerial photographs and create our own simple maps using symbols and keys. Through fieldwork around our school and local area, we will identify and observe human and physical features of our surroundings.

PE

In PE, we will begin the year by developing our team-building skills. The children will take part in fun, practical activities that encourage them to work together, communicate, share ideas and solve challenges as a team. We will focus on following instructions, working cooperatively with others, playing fairly and developing confidence when tackling new challenges. We will also explore how to use and create simple diagrams and maps to help us complete activities.

Alongside team building, we will develop our fundamental movement skills. The children will practise running at different speeds, changing direction, balancing, hopping, skipping and jumping with increasing control and coordination. We will also begin to develop skipping skills using an individual skipping rope and learn to describe how our bodies feel during exercise. We will encourage the children to use simple key words when giving feedback to their partners and celebrate each other's successes.

PSHE

This half term, we will explore our emotions and learn how to recognise, understand and manage our feelings. We will develop positive relationships by thinking about kindness, respect and how we can work well with others. We will also explore how we can look after our planet and make choices that help to protect our environment.

RE

Children will explore why churches and cathedrals are important to Christians. They will identify key features, symbols and artefacts, explore prayer and worship, compare different places of worship, and consider how churches and cathedrals support their local communities.