Cedar Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 1st half -2026

Meet your teacher

Hello! I'm Mrs Bates, and I've been at Springmead since 2017. I have worked in schools since 1998 and every day is still a learning experience.
I live with my husband, two sons, a dog, a cat and a hamster. Despite numerous requests from my children, I refuse to get a snake! I would, however, love another dog.
I am a passionate Arsenal supporter and also enjoy watching Formula 1. I am dedicated to teaching and expect the same level of effort from the children in my class as I give to them every day. In my free time, I enjoy reading and other peaceful activities – relaxing with a coffee in a picturesque setting is one of my favourites. My favourite colour is yellow, although most of my clothes are black!
My favourite number is 7. You'll need to remember this, as it is a question I often ask throughout the year to settle tie-breaks. I also hate bugs, so I'll need a dedicated spider-catcher in the class – who's up for the job?
If I wasn't a teacher, I would love to be a racing car driver, a long-distance lorry driver travelling all over Europe or have a role where I get to spend all my time with dogs.

Useful website links

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zhgppg8
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?AgeGroup=3
https://mathsbot.com/primary/ks2Mini
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zpnvf82#zpghhcw

Optional Homework Activities

We will be celebrating children who independently challenge themselves by practising additional year 3,4,5 and 6 spellings and complete more than the 10 minute expectation for TTRs.
Children can also further their learning by conducting research into our topics and creating fact files on these

P.E. Days

Wednesday and Friday

Homework

Handed out Friday, due in Thursday.
Spelling, arithmetic, TTRs.

Important Dates

3rd September – First day of school
Week commencing 19th October – Parents Evening (PTCs)
26th-30th October –Half term

Wellbeing

Starting a new school year can be exciting but may also feel overwhelming. Help children feel confident and supported by:

1. Using a visual timetable to establish routines.
2. Returning to regular bedtimes before school starts.
3. Encouraging independence with everyday tasks.
4. Talking about feelings and encouraging friendships.
5. Keeping active through play and exercise.
6. Maintaining healthy routines, including limited screen time.
7. Asking simple questions about their day.
8. Modelling positive ways to cope with change.

Every child adjusts differently. Patience, reassurance and consistency can help them settle into year 5 with confidence.

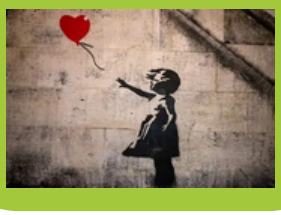
This half term Cedar class are learning about...

History:
Anglo-Saxons
Who were the Anglo Saxons and how do we know what was important to them?

Science: Light

Exploring how light travels and it can be manipulated

Art:
Banksy/Printing and patterns
Using a "tag" of their name

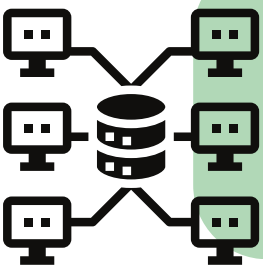


Autumn Term 1st half

Maths:
Number, Place Value, the Four Operations

English:
Writing a mythical narrative based on the legend of Beowulf.

P.E
OAA and Netball
Team building activitives and learning tactics within matches



Computing:
Online Safety and Databases
Creating and exploring how data can be sorted into spreadsheets.