



Daffodil Class Newsletter – April 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

This newsletter should provide you with a bit more information about the curriculum content we will be covering this half term.

English

Using the book *Astro Girl* by Ken Wilson-Max the children will write in role as Astrid. Then they will pose questions and write predictions before reading to the end of the text. Finally, the children will write a leaflet about training to be an astronaut and space-travel.

Later in the term, we will be reading the book *The Magic Bed* by John Burningham and using it to write setting descriptions and a fantasy story where the children are transported to another world.

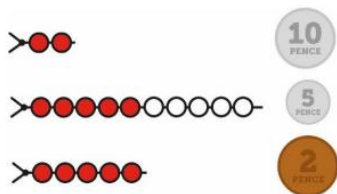
In our daily phonics sessions, we will be learning new ways of writing the phonemes (sounds) we have already learnt. For example, the children already know /e/ so we will be learning 'ea' can make the same sound in words like 'head'.

In handwriting, we will be focusing on forming the letters from the curly caterpillar family (g, f, q and o).

Maths

In maths, we will be using the Hertfordshire scheme of work. The points below illustrate our focus for this half term (you can also support your child by trying tasks similar to these at home).

Coins and Combinations to 20p, Ordering and Comparing



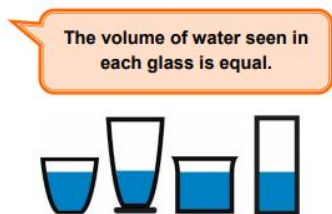
Match the coins to their value represented on the beadstring.

Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s

Add coins to each line to make the total.



Non-standard Measures and Introducing Simple Standard Measures



Do you agree?

How could you prove them right or wrong?

Multiplication and Division – Equal or Unequal Groups and Remainders



Bag A

Bag B

Which bag of money could be shared equally between two children?

Multiplication – Repeated Addition and Arrays (number of groups and size of group)

Find the odd one out.

6 lots of 2	
	6 groups of 2

Other Curriculum Areas

Science: Introduction to Plants – Venturing outside, children will identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. They will use magnifying glasses to observe and name plant parts and draw and label diagrams of flowers. Children will closely observe leaves and sort them into groups based on their appearance. Pupils will investigate if beans need water for growth and identify edible plant parts.

RE: Theme:Shabbat Key Question: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children? Religion: Judaism

PSHE: Relationships – During this unit the children will be discussing friendships, family, greetings and people who help us.

Computing: Animated stories - In this unit children create digital books using the 2Create a Story tool. They learn how to work with images, text and sound. Children also learn how to animate simple objects.

Music: We will be following the music scheme from Charanga.com.

Art: Paper play - Creating simple three dimensional shapes and structures using familiar materials, children develop skills in manipulating paper and card. They fold, roll and scrunch materials to make their own sculpture inspired by the 'Tree of life' screen at the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque. There are opportunities to extend learning to make a collaborative sculptural piece based on the art of Louise Bourgeois.

Geography: What is it like to live in Shanghai? Using a world map, children start recognising continents, oceans and countries outside the UK with a focus on China. They identify physical features of Shanghai using aerial photographs and maps before identifying human features, through exploring land-use. Pupils then compare these features to those in the local area and make a simple map using data they have collected through fieldwork.

PE: In one unit of work the children will develop their ability to run using different parts of their bodies. In the other unit we will focus on ball skills, developing the children's ability to apply effective dribbling skills.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children take pride in the way they dress for school. Please see the school website for more detail about the school uniform requirements. Please note that nail varnish should not be worn, long hair must be tidied back with hair bands that are plain and in school colours, jewellery should not be worn and earrings are not allowed.

PE

Our PE slots are on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** but the children must have their PE kit in school every day of the week. Please ensure your child's PE kit includes: a Hillmead red polo shirt, black shorts, trainers or plimsolls and spare socks. A black tracksuit top and bottoms might be necessary in the colder months but the children must still have a pair of shorts.

Home – Communication

If you have any queries or need to pass on any information to us, please contact the school office admin@hillmead.herts.sch.uk . The Class Dojo messaging system must not be used for parent teacher communication.

Homework

Homework will consist of DoodleMaths and Spelling Shed games. The Spelling Shed games will be assigned to your child every Thursday, whereas Doodlemaths can be accessed at any point during the week and your child need to aim for their weekly star goal. In addition to this, your child should read their school reading book at home every day. Reading books will be changed every Friday and we will provide up to two reading books per week. The children will only receive a new book if an adult has written in their reading log to indicate that the child has finished their current book(s).

Thank you in advance for all your help and support.

Yours faithfully, Mr Wisbey