



Sunflower Class Newsletter

April 2026



Dear Parents and carers,

Hello and welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are feeling ready for the summer term. I can't quite believe we've already completed two terms of Year 3! We have another busy and exciting term ahead, and I can't wait for all the fantastic learning to come.

Reminders

We have recently noticed a decline in the amount of reading children are doing at home. Regular reading is essential for building confidence, vocabulary, and a love of learning, so we encourage all families to make time for reading each day. Even a short daily session can make a big difference.

We have also seen an increase in children bringing toys and fidgets into school. These items are becoming a distraction to learning in class. Please remind your child that they should be left at home unless prior permission has been given by myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Curriculum Overview

Maths

This half-term, we will be focusing on developing a secure understanding of formal methods for multiplication and division. Towards the end of the half-term, we will move on to a unit on time.

To support learning at home, TT Rockstars and Hit the Button remain invaluable resources for practising and consolidating multiplication tables.

English

We will continue reading *The Black Dog* by Levi Pinfold, exploring how the dog's size reflects fear and worry. Children will write their own suspense stories based on personal fears, using the book's structure and applying speech and adverbials (how, when, where).

We will then read *Cloud Tea Monkey* by Elspeth Graham and Mal Peet, using it to develop grammar and comprehension skills. Children will write thank-you letters to the monkeys and, inspired by the author's note, research and produce a non-chronological report on tea, the tea trade, and related traditions.

Guided reading

In Guided Reading we will be exploring the fiction text, *A Necklace of Raindrops*. Through this text we will develop the children's fluency alongside their comprehension skills – Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising.

Foundation Subjects

This half-term in **Science**, we will study plant reproduction, including what plants need to grow, their structure and functions, water transport, life cycles, and seed dispersal. In **Computing**, pupils will continue creating presentations using PowerPoint, with a focus on online safety. In **Geography**, our question is 'Are All Settlements the Same?'. Pupils will explore UK regions and settlements, use OS maps, and compare the local area with New Delhi. In **French**, we will learn the names of instruments. In **DT**, we will complete our Edible Gardens topic before moving on to prehistoric art, creating cave-style artwork using charcoal and natural pigments. In RE, we will explore the question, Do Sikhs think it is important to share? and in **PSHE**, our focus is Relationships. **PE** will take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Reminders:

Uniform, water bottles and snack

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children wear the correct school uniform; full details, including PE kit, are available on the school website. Children should also bring a named water bottle containing only water and a healthy fruit or vegetable for morning snack.

Attendance and punctuality

Children are able to enter the corridors from 8:45am and should not be on the playground before this time. The corridor doors close at 8:55am so children who arrive after this will need to sign in at the office and their late attendance can be registered accordingly. KS2 collection is at 3:20pm. The children will be dismissed in an orderly manner as I see parents. Parents must inform the office as soon as possible if there is a change to the collection arrangements, or if a child is unwell.

Homework

I will set homework on Thursdays. This year homework will be more streamlined with tasks to be completed online alongside daily reading. Whilst pupils are completing their tasks, please be mindful of their online activity and ensure appropriate measures are in place to keep your child safe online.

Staff:

I will be in class all week supported by Mrs Smith and Mrs Lawson. On Thursday afternoon Mrs McMillan, Mrs Smith and Mrs Lawson will take the class while I take my PPA time.

Please come and talk to me if you have any worries or questions. You can pass any quick messages through the member of staff on duty at the door but if you would like longer to talk I can be contacted through the office:

admin@hillmead.herts.sch.uk .

Thank you in advance for all your help and support. We are very much looking forward to a term full of exciting learning opportunities. We look forward to a very enjoyable year working in partnership with you in order to develop and nurture your children in their learning.

Miss Lynch