



Squirrel Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Squirrel Class!

Welcome back to another school year; we hope that you all had a fantastic summer break. We are excited to start the new term and establish new routines. We strive to make lasting learning memories and to have a productive year.

Squirrel Class is part of Upper Key Stage 2 in school. Mr T Robinson is the class teacher, supported by two teaching assistants.

	In Squirrel Class, children develop their skills in reading, phonics, comprehension, writing and handwriting through engaging, personalised activities. We enjoy daily phonics and reading sessions, with every child working at their own level. Developing a love of reading is a key priority, and we encourage children to enjoy sharing books both at school and at home. Reading books will be sent home daily, and we ask that they are returned to school each day. Through phonics, children will practise blending and segmenting to support their reading and writing, while comprehension and handwriting activities help to build confidence and communication skills.
	In Maths this term, we will be focusing on number, using and applying, and shape, space and measure. Pupils will develop their understanding of place value, addition and subtraction, and begin exploring multiplication and division. We will also cover key areas of shape, time, money, length, mass, and capacity. Through practical tasks and problem-solving activities, we will build confidence and develop important life skills linked to everyday maths.
	We will take part in regular communication sessions to develop speech, language and social interaction skills. We will join group activities that encourage sharing, turn-taking and discussion, as well as work on individual communication targets through one-to-one and paired tasks. These sessions will support the development of skills such as using Makaton, expressing ideas and communicating confidently with others.
	This term in Science, Squirrel Class will be learning about the human life cycle and how to keep ourselves healthy. We will explore how people grow and change from babies into adults and learn about the different stages of life. We will investigate ways to stay healthy through eating a balanced diet, being active, getting enough sleep and practising good hygiene. Through practical activities and discussions, we will learn how healthy choices can help us to feel our best and look after our bodies.





This term, our topic is **Marvellous Me**, where we will be exploring what makes each of us unique and special. Throughout the term, we will enjoy a range of engaging stories linked to ourselves, friendships, feelings and celebrating individuality. These texts will help to develop children's vocabulary, imagination, communication and understanding of the world around them. Some of the books we will be sharing include *The Day the Crayons Quit*, *Remarkably Me*, *What Makes Me a Me?* and *Super Duper You*. If you would like to see the full list of books we will be reading, please let us know.

 History	This term, we will be learning about the Victorians and the Black Country. We will explore what life was like in Victorian times, including homes, schools and jobs, and compare it to life today. We will also learn about the Black Country's industrial heritage and how it helped shape our local area. Through this topic, we will develop our understanding of the past and how it has influenced the community we live in today.
 Geography	This term, we will explore our school and the local area of Dudley. We will use maps, photographs and practical activities to identify key features of our school and community. Through this learning, we will develop our geographical skills and gain a better understanding of the area where we live and learn.
 PSHE	Our Jigsaw topics this term are <i>Being Me in My World</i> and <i>Celebrating Difference</i>. Through a range of group and individual activities, we will explore our thoughts, feelings and experiences while learning more about ourselves and others. We will focus on building positive relationships, developing confidence and self-esteem, and understanding the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion. We will also learn how to support our mental health and wellbeing while celebrating what makes each of us unique.
 Art	This term, we will be creating self-portraits while exploring what makes us unique. We will learn about the artist Pablo Picasso and his distinctive style of artwork. Using a range of materials, colours and techniques, we will experiment with shape, pattern and facial features to create our own imaginative portraits. Through this topic, we will develop our creativity, artistic skills and confidence in expressing ourselves through art.
 Music	This term, we will focus on playing and singing quietly and carefully, learning how to control the volume of our voices and instruments. We will explore simple rhythms, songs and musical activities while developing our listening, concentration and turn-taking skills. We will also celebrate International Music Day and enjoy a range of opportunities to make and respond to music together.
 Computing	Throughout all topics, children will have the opportunity to learn and develop new and existing skills in; problem solving, logical reasoning, simple algorithms, understanding computer networks and e-safety. They will use and explore a range of programs and technologies in a variety of ways.
 RE	Our RE focus this term is Christianity. We will learn about Christian beliefs and values, including how kindness and care for others are important in the faith. Lessons will include stories, discussion, and reflection to support understanding and empathy.
 PE	This term, we will take part in hockey and gymnastics sessions. We will develop a range of skills, including teamwork, coordination, balance, movement and control, while building confidence and staying active. Our PE lessons will be led by specialist coaches from the Wolves Foundation, providing exciting opportunities to learn new skills and improve our physical development. Please ensure PE kits are in school each week. Our PE lessons take place on Tuesdays and Fridays.
 Life Skills	This term, we will learn how to care for our environment by taking part in litter picking and recycling activities. We will explore ways to keep our school and local community clean and tidy. Later in the term, we will focus on road safety, learning how to stay safe near roads, cross safely and make sensible choices when out in the community.