

Kingfishers Class Newsletter

Summer 2nd 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Kingfishers,

I hope everyone had a restful half term holiday and enjoyed some time in the sunshine! As we start our final half term, it is normal to be thinking ahead to Year 5, but there is still a lot of fun and learning to be had in Year 4 – we have a very busy final 7 weeks ahead! Mrs Chapple and I are thoroughly looking forward to teaching the children and supporting with transition into Year 5. As always, please do get in touch via the school office if you want to talk to either of us.

This Half-Term's Learning

Our exciting new topic this half-term is called A Tale of Two Rivers. During this geography-based topic, Year 4 will journey across Europe to compare the River Seine in Paris and the River Vltava in Prague, discovering how rivers shape cities and the lives of the people who live there. We will explore river features, famous landmarks and the uses of rivers for travel, trade and tourism. Along the way, we will investigate the theft of the Mona Lisa, study paintings of Honfleur by Claude Monet and Eugène Boudin before creating our own watercolour artwork and listen to The Moldau by Bedřich Smetana as inspiration for our own music and dance performances.



Dates for the diary for this half term:

- 1st June – 5th June Multiplication Tables Check for all Year 4 pupils
- 16th June – Junior Music Festival 7pm
- 17th June – PTA World Cup Day (wear something red, white and blue)
- 18th June – Berlesduna Trust Football and Netball Tournament (invited pupils only)
- 23rd June – KS2 District Sports Competition at Billericay School (invited pupils only)
- 24th June – Class Photographs (morning)
- 24th June - Sports Afternoon (see details on Class Dojo)
- 26th June – INSET day
- 1st July – Berlesduna Trust Swimming Gala (invited pupils only)

Home Learning:

Children will continue to receive weekly Assignments on a Friday which should be completed by the following Friday. If there are any children who have not completed their home learning by Friday and there have been no messages from parents about this, children will be asked to stay in at lunchtime to complete their work.

Children should still ensure they are practising their weekly spellings on Spelling Shed, as well as their times tables.

Topic home learning will continue to be shared on Class Dojo. This is completely optional, but many children really enjoy these creative tasks. Please do send in any topic home learning they complete, as we love celebrating and sharing their efforts in class. As part of these changes, we will no longer be sending home the red home learning books each week.



Reading:

- ❖ Children will be expected to read to/with an adult at home as often as possible. This is to be recorded in your diary which will be checked frequently. Please note that it is absolutely fine for your child to record their reading, however we ask that you then sign their diary over the weekend ready to be handed in on a Monday.
- ❖ Reading sessions will happen on a Thursday and Friday where children practise a number of reading skills.
- ❖ Children will have a 'levelled' reading book for when they are reading with an adult in school. Children will have access to other books in the classroom and library that they are welcome to take home to read.

General:

- ❖ Children do not need to bring in stationery, however, they may like to bring in a small pencil case of colouring pencils to keep in their tray. Some children also prefer to have their own glue stick and whiteboard pen. Please ensure that these are labelled so the children know what belongs to them.
- ❖ Our PE days are **Tuesdays and Fridays** please ensure children have the correct kit and footwear. (However, sometimes there are changes to the timetable so PE kits need to be in school all the time).
- ❖ No jewellery is to be worn for PE lessons
- ❖ Children may wear a watch and a pair of small silver/gold stud earrings for school – no bracelets
- ❖ No makeup (including tinted lip balm and nail varnish) is to be worn
- ❖ Hair is to be tied up (with an appropriate coloured and sized hairband) at all times during the school day.
- ❖ Your child should bring in a healthy snack to enjoy during break time. This may include: a piece of fruit or vegetable, plain crackers, hummus, unprocessed cheese or plain rice cakes. A copy of the school snack policy can be found on the school website.
- ❖ Your child will also need a named bottle filled with water every day. They will be able to access and refill their water bottle throughout the day.
- ❖ A reminder that the children will be dismissed from the back playground at the end of the school day. If you know that someone different will be collecting your child, please inform the school office who will get the message to us.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to write a note in your child's reading diary, send an email via the school office (office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk) or catch us at the end of the day once all the children have been collected.

Kind regards,

Mrs Crook & Mrs Chapple