



Ducklings **Summer 2nd 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers of Ducklings,

Welcome back to the last half term in EYFS! We cannot quite believe that the year is almost over! We hope you had a relaxing break and cannot wait to hear what the children have been up to!

This Half-Term's Learning

Our topic this half term is called , “Under the Sea and on the Sand”



We will start our new topic in Week 3 this half term. In Week 1 and Week 2 we will finish the outcomes to our topic “Our Wonderful World” including our visit to Barleylands on June 10th.

From Week 3, our topic will be **“Under the sea and on the Sand”**. We will be comparing and contrasting seaside holidays from the past to holidays today. We will think about the impact of single use plastic on our sea life and how we can care for the environment. We will also be talking about how to stay safe near water and essential lifesaving skills. We may enjoy some ice cream as well when we explore the best sand for making sandcastles and create rock pools in our outdoor area.

<u>RWI phonics</u>	Recap set 1 and 2 sounds. Beginning to recognise some Set 3 sounds. Secure blending on words containing all set 1 and Set 2 sounds. By the end of Summer term, Reception children should be able to read CCVC or CVCC words by sounding out (including nonsense words). Children will usually come home with red/green or purple books to practice.				
<u>Maths</u>	<u>Sharing and Grouping</u>	<u>Patterns</u>	<u>Mapping</u>	<u>Deepening Understanding</u>	<u>Consolidation</u>

Our topic "*Under the Sea and On the Sand*", is an engaging way for to explore the natural world while developing essential early skills. Through activities such as storytelling, sensory play with sand and water, creative arts, and simple science experiments, we will build knowledge and understanding of marine life, habitats, and environmental awareness. This topic supports several areas of the EYFS curriculum, including **Communication and Language** (as children learn new vocabulary and share ideas), **Understanding the World** (as they explore ocean animals, textures, and habitats), **Expressive Arts and Design** (through crafting sea creatures and imaginative play), and **Physical Development** (as they engage in fine motor tasks like pouring, digging, and building). It also encourages **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** by fostering curiosity, teamwork, and care for living things.

Adults in Class

I will be in class each day supported by our wonderful Teaching Assistants. Mrs Flood will be in class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Mrs Rivett will be in class each day.

Mrs Dearman will cover my PPA and leadership time.

Reading and Home Learning:

Thank you for supporting your children with their phonics, reading and home learning. Using the videos sent home as part of the home learning is great to help reinforce our learning in school at the appropriate level.



As we continue to move to set 3 sounds and get better at blending the sounds together (Fred Talk) you will have different books or sheets coming home. The children should be confident reading these as we read them in school at the beginning of the week. The children will also have a "Have A Go" book for you to share together. These books are not intended for the children to read independently. The children are also free to choose a story book from our class library to share at home as often as they wish.

Please look at the school website for more information on phonics and RWI in school.

Home Learning linked to our new topic will be posted on ClassDojo. It has been lovely to see the home learning activities on a Monday. The children do enjoy sharing them with the rest of the class.

School Dinners

Please remember: All meals must be pre-ordered (and paid) on the ParentPay website. Class teachers will no longer be taking a lunch register. Any children without a prebooked lunch must have a packed lunch. The children can get very upset if a lunch has not been ordered or they do not know what they are having.

General:

- ❖ Our PE days remain **Monday (outdoors)** – please ensure children have the correct kit and footwear.
- ❖ No jewellery is to be worn for PE lessons. If your child has earrings please make sure these are removed for PE. We are not allowed to remove or cover earrings.
- ❖ Please do name all PE kit and all items of uniform, including shoes. We cannot return missing items if they are not named.
- ❖ Long hair is to be tied up (with an appropriate coloured and sized hairband) at all times during the school day.
- ❖ Your child will need a named bottle filled with **water** every day. This will be kept in a tray in the classroom. They will be able to access and refill their water bottle throughout the day.
- ❖ Hopefully we will have some lovely sunny weather this half term. Please remember to apply suncream BEFORE the children come to school and send in a named hat to wear at playtime and lunchtime.
- ❖ A reminder, if you know that someone different will be collecting your child, please inform the school office who will get the message to us.

- ❖ Dates for your diary:
 - 3rd June – Class Assembly and Bible Presentation
 - 10th June – Barleylands Farm Visit
 - 25th June – Teddy Bear Picnic at Mayflower School

Should you have any questions, please feel free to 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.

Here is to a happy and exciting final half term!

Mrs Applewhite and the EYFS Team