ALKERDEN
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Director of Nursery, EYFS & Key Stage 1: Mrs Glenda Philpott

Butterfly Class – Autumn Term 2 2026

Dear Families,

Our topic for Term 2 is 'Sparkle and Shine – Let's Celebrate.'

This term we will explore different celebrations that take place in Autumn and Winter, focusing on the significance and symbolism of light at this time of year. We will take part in a variety of creative activities and discover more about how Firework Night, Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah are celebrated around the world.

Supporting your child at home

- Talk about special events that you celebrate at home.
- Share photos of events that you celebrate.
- Talk about how you prepare for special celebrations including the clothes you wear, food you prepare and gifts you give or receive.
- Share and discuss the 'Did you know?' resource.

Homework:

Reading books: As learners begin to decode and blend, they will be bringing home books with words in (how exciting!). These books will have been read three times at school focussing on:-

Read 1: Decoding and Blending - teaching children the ability to apply their knowledge of letter-sound relationships to correctly pronounce written words.

Read 2: Prosody - teaching children to read with understanding and expression.

Read 3: Comprehension - teaching children to understand the text.

Reading books will have been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please do not worry that it is too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book **many times**. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they cannot read a word, read it to them, by modelling how to decode and blend using pure sounds. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Don't forget to colour in one star each time you read the **reading book** together.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT READING PRACTICE BOOKS ARE RETURNED ON A MONDAY IN ORDER FOR ANOTHER GROUP TO USE THEM FOR MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY'S READING PRACTICE SESSIONS.

Phonics Books: The pink phonics books are updated each week with the new sounds we have learned in school during the course of the week. Please encourage your child to say the sound; teach you the formation phrase for writing the letter; find objects around the house that begin with the initial sound; trace over the letter; write the letter. There is a space in the pink phonics books for your child to practise writing the graphemes (letters).

Last term, I added our Term 1 decodable words and Tricky Word list to both Seesaw and the pink phonics books. I will continue to do this. Please practise reading these words **as often as possible**. Challenge, ask your child to orally segment (spell) the words out for you and try writing them.

Numbots and EDShed

I have issued all learners with log-ins for Numbots and EDshed, which can be found in their reading diaries. The assignments set on EDShed match the words we have been reading and writing in class during the course of the week and these are updated weekly.

Polite reminder regarding school uniform:

- Black school trousers, tunic, shorts or box-pleat skirt (not jogging bottoms or leggings)
- Black or white socks, or black tights
- Bottle-green sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo
- Plain white collared polo top

Please note: Black jogging bottoms or leggings are intended for the Year 1 Outdoor PE kit, or for our Nursery-aged learners when they start in September 2027.

PE Kit:

Our PE session (when we change) is Tuesday afternoon. To ensure that all learners can fully participate in PE lessons, please ensure that they have their 'named' PE kits in school throughout the term, earrings are removed or taped and hair tied back.

The correct PE kit includes:

PE: Green Logo PE T- Shirt, Black shorts and plimsolls. We do **not** require tracksuits as our PE sessions are all scheduled indoors.

Please refer to the Autumn Term 2 Medium Term Plan for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to either speak to me at the end of the day, when I will be on the playground; leave a message with one of the Teaching Assistants or message me on SeeSaw.

Don't forget, you are always more than welcome to attend a Phonics lesson, either in our class or in Year 1, just message me to arrange a convenient morning.

With kind regards,

Ted Medley
Butterfly Class Teacher

Important Dates

Tuesday 3rd November: Return to School
Wednesday 11th November: Remembrance Day Service
Friday 20th November: Children in Need
Wednesday 9th December: Christmas Lunch (TBC)
Thursday 10th December: Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children
Monday 14th December: Nativity to parents @ 9:30am in the hall
Wednesday 16th December: Nativity to parents @ 9:30am in the hall
Thursday 17th December: Rhodes Day – Arts Day
Thursday 17th December: Butterfly and Bumblebee Christmas parties – more information to follow
Friday 18th December: Interim Reports to be sent out
Friday 18th December: End of Term 2