



Alpine Class Newsletter Term 1&2

Our topic for Term 1:

In term 1, we will focus on our local Geography and the key question that we're going to explore is, "What makes us proud of Ashford?" The children will discuss which landmarks they see in their local town, which activities they enjoy doing in Ashford and who is important to the history of Ashford. After reading through and writing around *Jack and the Beanstalk*, we will then include our topic in our English work, as the children will write out leaflets and advertisements, encouraging visitors to come to Ashford! Your stories and ideas will be a huge help to them all as they find out more about the history, traditions and modern life of this very important town. Furthermore, some of our Maths and Art activities will also include drawings and problem solving questions around this theme.

Our topic for Term 2:

In term 2, we will have the key question: "Why do we celebrate anniversaries?" Here the children will look at key celebrations that take place for lots of different people, including important national celebration days and events in UK history. We will focus on the Great Fire of London and why this is a commonly known and remembered event. We will also discuss the history and traditions surrounding bonfire night. This will be particularly exciting as we approach the Christmas period and also lots of birthdays for the Alpine Goats! Finally, we will look at how the traditions of these annual events have changed over time. For example, did you know that Christmas traditions and gifts have changed a huge amount over the past 30 years? Be sure to ask your children about this.

Finally, towards the end of Term 2 we will rehearse and perform our Christmas Nativity, *Hey Ewe*, with some help from Year 1 who will sing the songs with us.

Class news:

Hello and welcome back to all of the amazing Alpine Goats! We hope that you enjoyed your summer holidays whether you stayed at home, caught up with friends and family or even managed to get away as well. We have thoroughly enjoyed our first few days with the new Year 2 children and we cannot wait to find out more about them and to help them learn more about themselves and the world around them. The pupils have been grouped into table teams, based around the Alpine countries in Europe.

In Year 2 our pupils will be making some big leaps in their reading, writing and Maths skills and it is our priority to make sure that they enjoy themselves while they do this. The children will be encouraged to read as often as possible at home and there will be some great work activities to complete at home and in school. In return, pupils who work to the best of their abilities, as often as possible, will receive lots of rewards and enjoyable experiences too, while also progressing academically and socially as well. If you have any questions at all, please do email us or contact us through the school office.

We are so excited to start a new school year with Alpine Class in Year 2!

Mr Leone

Mrs Cooper

In English we will be focusing on our phonics, spellings, handwriting and basic sentences.

When we read through *Jack and the Beanstalk* and information about Ashford, we will look at useful questions to ask and answer in class.

We will give sensible, well-structured descriptions of Ashford and its landmarks whilst ensuring that our spellings, punctuation and presentation is as neat as possible.

We will listen to each other's ideas and opinions and discuss and debate different viewpoints about what makes us proud of Ashford.

In Maths, we will be looking at larger numbers that go up to 100.

We will be writing numbers in numerals and in words. (24 = Twenty-four)

We will practise counting forwards in 2s, 5s, 10s, then 3s and practising their relevant times tables.

Using our number bonds, and developing these, we will be adding two-digit numbers to a one-digit number ($27 + 4$) in our heads, and also looking at written methods that can help us with these types of question.

Throughout this work, we will be tackling general arithmetic and reasoning questions to maintain and develop all of our basic skills.

In Science, we will be focusing on *All Living Things and Their Habitats*.

In Term 1, in preparation for our *Jack and the Beanstalk* learning, we will plant our own beans to see if they can grow in our classroom.

We will look at, and discuss, the differences between organisms which are dead or alive, see how most living things are adapted to their habitats and look at the different habitats of plants and animals. We will look at simple food chains and discuss how animals obtain their food from other animals and plants.

In Term 2, we will focus on plants and plant our own bulbs which should hopefully grow throughout next year.

In PE we will be improving our football skills outdoors with expert coaches from Elite, this will be on Tuesday mornings.

Each Thursday, we will be practising our PE skills indoors with Boccia and Curling.

Please send your child into school in their PE kits on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Can you also make sure that your child starts to bring in warmer clothing and a coat as the weather gets colder in the Autumn and Winter?

Useful websites:

[Topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years)

[Maths-aids.com/addition/](https://www.maths-aids.com/addition/) [Maths-aids.com/Subtraction/](https://www.maths-aids.com/subtraction/)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year/year-2>

<https://sciencebob.com/category/experiments/>

<https://www.artforkidshub.com/how-to-draw/>

How you can help your child:

- *make sure they have plenty of sleep*
- *make sure they have a good breakfast*
- *try to read with them every day*
- *help them to learn their spellings or encourage them to use spelling shed at home*
- *support them in completing any home learning tasks*
- *encourage them to speak to an adult if they are having problems with anything*
- *make sure they are on time and in school every day*
- *you could also ask them what they have been learning in school and support them to find out more. Perhaps a local visit or a trip to the Library could help?*