



Spring Half Term 2 (March 2026)
Hey with Zion V.C. Primary
Happy Easter

To do
the best
we can

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been rewarding with plenty of valuable learning taking place along the way. Thank you for your continued support and for the effort put into home learning—it truly makes a difference.

In school, we have seen notable improvements in handwriting over a short period of time. To support this further, we have introduced new lined handwriting books and paper, which are already having a positive impact.

Online safety remains an important concern, and it is essential that we continue to work together on this. If you have not yet had the opportunity to watch the online safety workshop delivered earlier this term by Stacey Brackenridge, I would strongly encourage you to do so. The video is available on Class Dojo, and a QR code can also be found displayed around the school.

We recently welcomed an OFSTED inspector for a Quality Assurance visit, which proved to be a valuable experience. The inspector praised the quality of teaching observed, and the visit included looking at pupils' work, speaking with children, and observing learning in the classroom. It was particularly pleasing that our Early Years provision was recognised as a place where strong foundations are established.

We have also begun a new joint initiative with St Edward's through shared worship, and I hope that those of you who attended will find it to be a meaningful and enjoyable experience.

This term, I am especially proud of the children and their involvement in The Big Serve. The kindness and generosity shown across our Trust community have been truly inspiring. Organisations such as Our Community Wardrobe, Dr Kershaw's Hospice, and EDUKIDs have all benefited from the children's efforts, and their appreciation has been heartfelt.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Enjoy the break,

Sara Machin

News from Class

Acorn Class

We have had fun learning about minibeasts and life cycles this term. We had toy frog spawn, tadpoles, froglets and frogs in our tuff tray so we could show a frog life cycle, and we looked for minibeasts and signs of spring during our forest school sessions. Our focus book was "Bee and me" and it provoked lots of conversations about plant growth and how to look after our environment. We have been learning about daffodils and other spring flowers and some of our Easter customs. Some of our class shared their experiences of celebrating Eid and we made Mother's Day cards and Easter cards. World book day was fantastic with fabulous costumes, and we had our turn visiting Lees library where we listened to a story and used the machine to scan our books.

Pine, Elm and Birch classes

This half term has been a busy and exciting adventure for the classes! In Maths, we explored shape, multiplication, and division through practical activities, and in English we worked on making our sentences more exciting while developing neat cursive handwriting. Our science lessons helped us to discover what animals and plants need to survive, while in History we learned about Florence Nightingale and her impact on nursing. We also travelled the world in Geography, investigated freestanding structures in DT, and created colourful artwork in Art.

Alongside our classroom learning, we enjoyed some brilliant experiences. Our visit to Lees Library inspired us with new stories, and World Book Day brought fantastic costumes and lots of fun. We also took part in the Oldham Athletic sponsored penalty shootout and were incredibly proud to raise the most money in the whole school—earning prizes and even tickets to a match! From exciting lessons to favourite playground games like Duck, Duck, Goose, it's been a half term full of memorable moments.



This half term we have truly been working hard. The children have created some amazing pieces of artwork experimenting with primary and secondary colours. Our reading VIPERS this half term have all been focused on traditional tales and the children have loved being vocabulary and retrieval detectives during these sessions. In PE, the children have been working on their movement and coordination skills with Coach Matt and have developed their ability to work fantastically during team activities which I am very proud of them for. Finally, a new firm favourite of our class is the beach ball phonics game where children have been consolidating their knowledge of different phonics sounds.



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Beech, Rowan and Chestnut classes

We have really enjoyed learning our new instruments -the toots this term. The children have learnt a whole range of notes and can now play 'Mary had a little lamb' along with other songs.

Beech class have also enjoyed learning more about how to be SMART with a heart in computing and working on improving our computing skills to create a PowerPoint aimed at spreading this message in KS1.

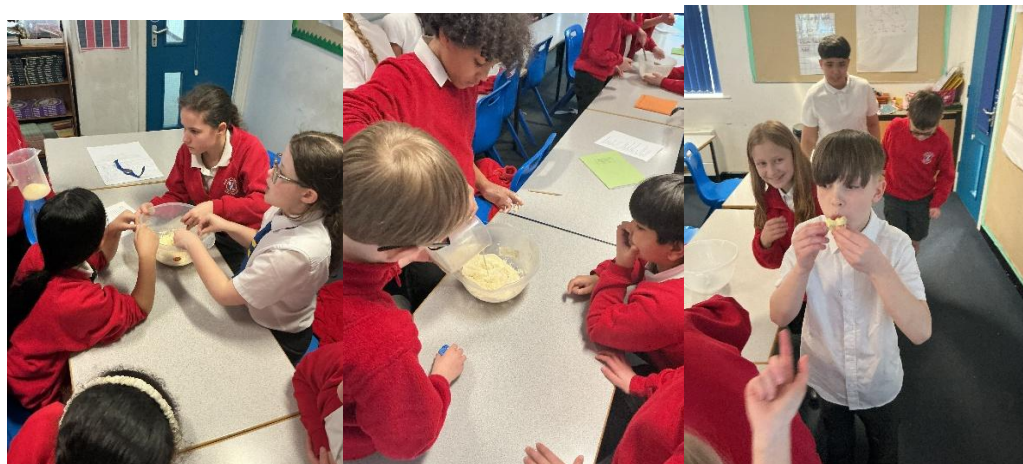
Beech class have also enjoyed learning about our history unit of the Romans and how they lived during this era. We looked at the soldiers and how they had special curved shields that meant arrows couldn't hit them as easily and that they could use their shields in different ways for protection including creating a form called 'the turtle'.

Our art topic has been focussed on colour blending this term, the children were able to create skin colours out of red, blue, yellow and white, they produced some beautiful paintings of Frida Kahlo. Our class text for English was, the book eating boy, the children really enjoyed this text and produced some quality writing that included speech that was based on dinner table scene in which the boy is eating books. In D & T the children are learning about nutrition, they have designed a meal that includes a balanced diet and are going to make, taste and evaluate their choices. In Maths, they have enjoyed our fraction topic and have further developed a rapid recall of the times tables.

Litter picking was fun for all, and the children have really made a difference!

Sycamore Class

This half term in Sycamore class we have been really progressing to some positive SATS scores. The children have been working tirelessly to improve at their weaknesses, and it is really starting to show. In D&T, the children have been working in 4 groups to research, plan, bake and assess the making of scones. The children worked tremendously during these lessons which resulted in some scrumptious scones. Finally, in English, we have been looking at the book The Explorer. During World Book Day, we incorporated two of the characters from the book, Max and Lila into an activity. The children had to use all the fabulous vocabulary to describe how the characters looked and acted like, which included their own book day characters.



Larch Class

We have been working extremely hard on equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages in maths and have a good grasp of this concept. In computing they have designed their own keyring on Tinkercad and will make these on the 3D printer next half term. They had a fun afternoon with Mr Phelan playing team games showing how well they cooperate with each other.

Ash class

We have had a very busy half term. The children have researched and written a chronological report on the Amazon rainforest. This was linked to our exciting core text 'The Explorer' in English. The children are really enjoying this adventure story about four children who are stranded in the Amazon after their plane crashed. In Maths we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages and making links between these aspects of the Maths curriculum.