

# d'Auvergne Weekly Update 24.4.26

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Head Teacher's Comments**

Welcome back to everyone! I trust you all had a great break and, like me, are looking forward to a long hot summer!

A quick heads-up in respect to our School Walk on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. To celebrate our Liberation, we should like all children to wear red and white on the day – you may add a splash of blue, if necessary. The children will be making Jersey flags to wave on our walk which will be more of a challenge for some in Key Stage 2 this year. Years 3 and 4 have the challenge (if they wish) of walking to St. Aubin's, whilst Years 5 and 6 may (if they wish) walk to the Elephant Park.

More information will be following very soon, along with a request for much parental support please!

For your information, on Thursday and Friday next week I am away in Belfast at a conference. I shall also be off-Island (with Year 6) for the week of 11<sup>th</sup> May. The school will be in Mrs Wheaton's very capable and safe hands.

Kind regards,

Mr Cooper

## **Year Group Updates**

### **Futures**

We hope you all had a fun school holiday. We have enjoyed welcoming pupils back this week, and they have been really impressed with how they have settled into the routine. It has been a very exciting week as we have restarted our swimming lessons, and also had our first Cycling Without Limits session of the year. This ties in with our transport topic this term. Pupils had the opportunity to ride a variety of specially adapted bikes. Everyone did brilliantly and showed lots of resilience, with some cycling longer distances than they previously managed or doing it more independently. If your child has not yet gone, they will have their first session next week.

In maths this week, we have introduced our termly focus. In addition to recapping our numbers within ten (this week focusing on 1 and 2) to develop our knowledge of them further, we will be learning about positional language. This week, our focus has been on the words "on" and "in". We have enjoyed practicing it through play – using activities such as Duplo and small world play, along with lots of songs and dancing. Across the term, we will also be learning about: up, down, left, right, under, next to, forwards and backwards.

In phonics, we have continued to practice our phonics sounds. We are recapping the sounds we know, with a particular focus this week on "e" – involving lots of talk about elephants, eggs and elves! Each week, we will also be doing activities about a traditional tale and this week has been about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Pupils have enjoyed joining in with the story, playing with porridge oats, retelling it, and doing activities around "too big" and "too small".

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As the weather gets nicer, we hope to make the most of our outside facilities including lots of water play and our mud kitchen. Please can you make sure your child has suncream and a hat in school, along with a change of clothes.

Have a good weekend,  
The Futures Team

### **Nursery**

One of my favourite things about the first day of the Summer Term is watching the beautifully trained, super motivated and excited little learners enter the Nursery. They slot straight back into our routine; understand what the bells mean, know when it's Key Group time and follow the rhythm and pattern of the day so fabulously. It seems you guys had excellent breaks, but we are pumped to get going with the full summer of fun and Reception Ready learning ahead.

We are actively increasing the children's hydration at the moment with a few tweaks to our routines. Before play we are using phrases like "wee wee, wash hands, water" and are insisting on the children bringing their bottles to snack time. This has worked well as the children tend to chat whilst slurping their water in the snack line! Bottles are also being insisted upon at the lunch tables. As the weather heats up this is an important development throughout the school day.

We are also working lunches closer to the Reception class's timings this term. In September the children will only get 30 minutes to eat before heading outside to play, and we are mirroring this to support the slightly slower eaters. If your child is coming home with more food then by all means grab myself or another member of the team to chat through our plans - or monitor at home.

We have kicked off this week with b-b-b as our sound and a picture of a b-b-boot to support this learning. We have also been doing Listening Walks around the school and signing, speaking and unpicking the concept of "tall" within other Key Group sessions.

With the sun shining and the kids smiling - let's attack this term!

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mr du Feu and Team

### **Reception**

We're already one week into the summer term and what a fantastic start it has been! The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm, curiosity and energy as we begin our brand-new topic,

**'Nature Rocks!'** 🌸

One of the highlights of the week has been welcoming our new classroom caterpillars. The children have been fascinated watching them wriggle and explore, and we're all very excited to observe their transformation over the coming weeks. We're hoping they stick to leaves rather than chocolate cake and cherry pie like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar!*

Inspired by Eric Carle's much-loved story, the children have already begun writing simple sentences to describe the fruits the caterpillar eats. We've seen some brilliant vocabulary choices, such as:

*"He ate the juicy, purple plum."*

*"On Monday, he ate the tasty, red apple."*

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The children have also been creating story maps to help them retell the story in their own words. This builds on our previous work with traditional tales and it has been wonderful to see their confidence, imagination and expressive language continuing to grow.

In maths, we've been revisiting addition and subtraction through practical play. A firm favourite was our bowling game using 10 cups. The children worked out how many cups were knocked over and how many remained, before matching this to a number sentence (equation), for example:

$$10 - 3 = 7$$

Learning through hands-on activities like this really helps to deepen their understanding.

### **Sponsored Walk – Friday 8th May**

On Friday 8th May, the whole school will be taking part in our annual sponsored walk. Reception children will enjoy a loop around the woods at the back of school, a walk along Vallée de Vaux, followed by a (rather adventurous!) climb up the steep steps and back to school via Manor Park Road.

For this exciting event to go ahead safely, we do need parent helpers. If you are able to spare approximately 1.5 hours on Friday morning, please speak to your child's class teacher – your support would be hugely appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to another exciting week ahead! 🌻

Mrs Rachel Lutkin-Clarke and Mrs Susie Wilkinson (The Reception Dream Team)

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### **Year 1**

#### **Welcome back!**

We hope you have had a great rest over the Easter break. The children have settled well back into routines and have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum.

In writing, the children have been busy exploring superheroes. They have enjoyed creating their own characters (superhero fruit and vegetables) and thinking carefully about descriptions, actions and exciting vocabulary. This has been a great way to build imagination and confidence in their writing. In maths, our learning has focused on division, including sharing into equal groups and solving practical problems. The children have shown good understanding, and next week we will be moving on to fractions, starting with halves.

We have begun our new topic, Food and Farming, which looks at where our food comes from and how it gets to our plates. The children have been very engaged and are already asking thoughtful questions about farming and food production. In science, we have been learning all about the weather. The children have been observing different weather conditions and discussing how weather can change from day to day.

#### **Reading at Home**

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home. Regular reading makes a huge

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difference to children's progress, so please continue to read with your child as often as possible and record this in their reading record.

**Special Food from Home for our topic:**

As part of our Food and Farming topic, we would love for children to bring in a food that is special to them or their/your culture to talk about in class. Please ensure items are clearly named and are suitable for school (and be mindful of allergies). We would love for these to be brought in on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026. For example, Miss McEnery will bring in some Irish soda bread, Mr. Worthington will bring in some Yorkshire puddings. You could bring Jersey Wonders, cabbage loaf, pastel de nata, bacalhau, pierogi or Jersey Royals (too many to list!).

Thank you for your ongoing support – we've had a great week back and are looking forward to the weeks ahead.

**Year 2**

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school this week – we hope you all had a fantastic Easter break! The children have returned with great enthusiasm, and we've already had a busy and engaging week of learning.

In Literacy, we have begun exploring our new text driver, *Grandad's Island*. The children started by designing their own dream islands, using their senses to imagine what it would be like there. They then wrote detailed descriptions, using their senses tables and expanded noun phrases to really bring their islands to life. We also looked at the front cover of our new text and made thoughtful predictions about what the story might be about.

In Maths, we have started our new unit on shapes. The children have been focusing on identifying different shapes and exploring their properties, including vertices and sides. They have also begun learning about lines of symmetry. Everyone has made an excellent start and shown great confidence so far.

Our new topic for this half term is the Battle of Jersey! This week we looked at a picture of a painting that was showing scenes of the battle. In groups the children each had a different part of the painting and had to match their pieces together to try and complete it. The children then wrote down their predictions on what they thought was happening and discussed that this was the Battle of Jersey. We watched a video on it and had a class discussion on what we could remember about it. Next week (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May), we are going on a trip to the Royal square to learn more about it.

In Science, we are continuing our learning about animals and their habitats. This week, the children worked in pairs to design a suitable habitat for a chosen animal. They carried out research to find out what their animal needs in order to survive. Next week, the children will begin making their habitats, which we are all looking forward to!

**Reminders:**

- Please could children bring in a shoebox (or a box of a similar size) to help them create their habitats next week. Thank you in advance for your support.
- On **Thursday 15th May**, Year 2 will be hosting a traditional Christian wedding ceremony as part of their RE learning. If you are able to support this event, please email your child's class teacher.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Miss Aubert and Miss Crocker

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### Year 3

Welcome back! Although it's only been a 4 day week, we have started as we mean to go on.

In English, we continue to work on our poetry skills by describing what different seasons would be like in Narnia. We will be experimenting with different sentence types to bring our settings to life. Once we have done some shared writing the children will be completing their independent writes, which we can't wait to read.

In reading, we will be studying the book *The Stolen Spear* by Saviour Pirotta. It's a wonderful adventure story based on the Stone Age. It's the first book in the *Wolfsong* series, which some of the children may like to explore further.

Our maths lessons continue to focus on measure and money. We will also be working on our arithmetic skills and using what we have learnt in our weekly test. This half term, our times tables focus is the multiplication facts for the 8 times tables.

Our topic focus for this term is Stone Age to Iron Age. Hopefully the children will enjoy this as much as the last two topics.

This week we have also started our DT challenge to design and build a tipper truck using pneumatics. We can't wait to see the imaginative ideas that the children come up with and create! If you have any shoe boxes with a completely removable lid, please send these in as they will be useful.

We have also started working with a tennis coach from the Caesarean Tennis Club in our PE lessons. There will be an opportunity for some of the children to attend a tournament where they will play teams from other schools. Children will be selected for the tournament due to their skills and their attitudes in lessons.

And finally, a date for your diary. On May 20th, we are heading to La Hougue Bie to explore Stone Age artefacts, the dolmen and the long house to see how people from that time would have lived. It's a great trip and we always learn so much from working with the amazing education team at Jersey Heritage.

Should you have any questions about our learning this term please get in touch.

With warmest regards,

Mrs Davies and Miss Bolton

### Year 4

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

We have an exciting and busy term ahead! In our **Writing** lessons, we will be continuing our focus on poetry, exploring how authors engage and excite readers through the use of metaphor, simile and onomatopoeia.

In **Maths**, the children will be learning how to interpret information presented in graphs, as well as how to plot and draw bar charts and line graphs. Please see the attached optional worksheet should you wish to provide extra practice at home.

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During **PSHE**, we have been learning about the effects that smoking has on the body. The children shared some thoughtful and insightful ideas and asked some excellent questions during these discussions.

In **Reading**, we have recently completed our work on *Viking Boy*. Our next class text will be *The Indian in the Cupboard*, which the children are very much looking forward to.

This term in **PE**, Coach Rob will be teaching Striking, and Throwing and Catching skills.

### **Dates for the diary**

On 28<sup>th</sup> April 4AB, and on 29<sup>th</sup> April 4H will be visiting Hamptonne Farm. We will leave school at roughly 9.00am and return at 12pm. If any parents are available to help 4AB on 28th April, we would be very grateful. Please note that children should come to school in their PE kit and should wear either trainers or wellington boots. Any cuts or grazes on hands should be covered by a plaster or gloves, as we will be handling soil and may get a little dirty. We have also been asked by Jersey Heritage to let you know that ideally children should wear trousers, to prevent nettle stings, and to wear a waterproof jacket as the majority of the session will be outside.

More information will be shared with you shortly, however, please note that the School Walk is due to take place on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Reminders**

- PE is on a Tuesday and Wednesday for 4AB, and a Wednesday and Friday for 4H.
- Please ensure laptops come into school each day and are fully charged at home.
- Your child will need to be signed up to Year 4 Google Classroom, as we be using this platform to support learning. Logins are in planners.
- Please ensure your child reads as often as possible, and planners are signed. As mentioned in our Meet the Teacher, Bug Club, TTRockstars and Spelling Shed are also available as additional extras.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs AB & Mrs Hyde

### **Year 5**

We were so happy to welcome the children back to school for their last term in Year 5! We hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday and we have loved hearing about all the adventures and exciting things you got up to.

In reading, we have just started a new book called *Poppy Pym and the Pharaoh's Curse*. This week, we have been predicting what we think the story will be about by exploring the front cover and blurb, as well as getting to know the main characters and their personalities. The children have shared thoughtful ideas and are already very curious about what might happen next.

In writing, we have begun a new unit on warning stories. We first discussed what a warning is and why people might sometimes choose to ignore them. We then started learning a model text called *Keep Off the Tracks* using text mapping, which is drawing small pictures to help us remember each sentence. Alongside this, we have been acting out and rehearsing the story to help us learn it off by

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heart. We have also begun creating a writer's toolkit by identifying powerful examples of how the author describes the setting, which we will use when we eventually write our own warning stories.

In maths, we are coming to the end of our topic on fractions by learning how to multiply fractions by whole numbers. The children have been applying their understanding confidently, and we will soon be moving on to our next topic on decimals.

This week, we also had a really interesting and important assembly led by RNLI lifeguards. They reminded us to always tell someone before going into the water, explained what the different flags at the beach mean, how to recognise a rip current, and what to do if we are caught in one. The children also learned that if they need help in the water, they should put a fist in the air rather than waving. This was a valuable and memorable session, especially as we head towards the summer months.

PE Days Update: 5F's PE days have now changed to Monday and Thursday. 5B and 5M will remain the same, with PE taking place on Monday and Friday.

Thank you for your continued support, and please continue to encourage daily reading at home.

## **Year 6**

It has been so lovely to see the children back in, full of energy, after the Easter break. We hope that you and your family have had a lovely time off, we are really looking forward to all of the exciting things coming throughout the summer term.

We have kicked the term off with some 'SATs' revision, focussing on the key topics we are yet to cover. The children have done brilliantly and have come straight back in with a fantastic attitude to it all. We have had a 'YouMatter' session this week focussing on 'Boundaries'. The children were incredibly respectful and asked some fascinating and insightful questions.

We have also kicked off our WW2 topic this week, having a great session with Mrs Willis, looking at some real-life examples of what it would have been like to live in England in the build-up and during the war. We are all really looking forward to sinking our teeth further into this topic.

### A few gentle reminders:

- Our PE days are **Monday and Wednesday** this half term. The children will have a session on Monday with their class teacher and their regular PE slot with Rob on Wednesday.
- Laptops need to be brought in to school every day fully charged.
- Please check your ParentMail for updates and information regarding the trip to England, which is fast approaching.

### Home Learning:

- Reading: Daily for 20 minutes.
- Arithmetic Practice daily for 10 minutes (Google Classroom for supportive videos).
- Daily Spelling practice
- We will be resuming the 'SATs' homework next week, sending it out on Wednesday.

### Achievers

The achiever in 6G this week is Anthony! This young man has shown a brilliant attitude to not only his own learning, but he has supported others as well with his improved confidence. He has been

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developing his oracy skills throughout the year and has shown a great level of independence and leadership when discussing a range of ideas in small groups and in whole class discussions. Keep up this brilliant work Anthony, well done!

The achiever in 6H this week is Tracy. This young lady has settled back into d'Auvergne life wonderfully. She has shown real commitment to her learning and has been focused on achieving the best she can. Tracy's efforts have been demonstrated across many different subjects, and she has shown dedication to whatever activity has been put in front of her. Whether it has been working individually, with a learning partner, or in a group, Tracy has had an excellent first week back! Well done!

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