

September 2026



Dear Families,

Welcome to Red Kites Class! I hope you have all had a lovely Summer; I look forward to hearing about your adventures in the first few weeks of term as we are settling into our new classroom routines. I am so excited to welcome you all to our new class and look forward to a great year of learning!

I have been very busy reading lots of books this summer (one of my huge passions) and I have chosen one of these books to inspire our writing this term. This novel was shortlisted for the 2019 CILIP Carnegie Medal, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the British Book Awards Children's Fiction Book Of The Year, the Branford Boase Award, and the Blue Peter Book Award. It is a great book! The House on Chicken Legs is written by Sophie Anderson. Twelve-year-old Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. Marinka wants to change her destiny, but her house has other ideas... This story is based on traditional Slavic folklore, specifically the legendary Baba Yaga and her iconic moving hut. It is full of adventure with a twist of humour and I have no doubt children will be inspired to write some amazing work based on this book this term.

We have a **Geography** focus this term looking at developing our mapping skills. We will be learning about compass points, longitude and latitude to find countries on a world map as well as looking closer to home using Ordnance Survey maps and symbols.

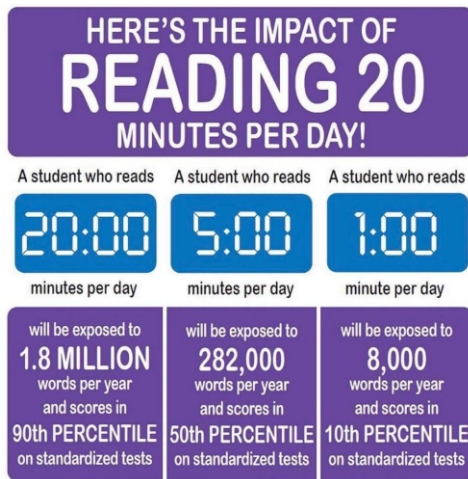
P.E lessons will take place on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. We will be playing basketball and hockey this term. As the weather will still be warm, please remember to apply sunscreen on your children before they come into school and pop the bottle in their bags so they can reapply the cream before outdoor activities. A sun hat will also be essential as well as a refillable water bottle.

We will be continuing with our whole day enhanced coaching this term as part of our 'supercurricular offer'. Children will need to bring a waterproof coat everyday as the British weather is unpredictable. They need to continue to bring a whole-fruit snack to school every day as well, as they get hungry and thirsty by breaktime! You may like to buy them a snack card.

Bring a **reading book** in every day; we read at every opportunity so it is important that they have one to pick up straight away when asked to.

Spellings: Children will be given their new spellings every **Monday**. The children will stick these into their new reading diaries so you will know what words they are practising. Please encourage your child to practise these (these spellings are also on the SPaG slides on Red Kites Google Classroom-the children know their login details). Children will then be tested in school every **Friday** afternoon to see what they have remembered.

At South Moreton we do not set large pieces of homework, as educational research proves that this is of little value in Primary School, and our parents have supported this. However, we do expect children to read daily, as this is the single most effective way to build academic success. Reading at home is crucial for Red Kites to build the vocabulary, imagination and understanding they will need for their writing and other academic learning.



We have a weekly whole-school competition to reward 'Reading Nights', and ask that children read for 20 minutes per night Monday - Thursday, recording progress in their reading diary. Below are some question prompts to support you to read with your child and enjoy conversations with them about what they have read.

[KS2 Reading VIPERS](#)

Plimsolls

Please could you make sure your child has these in school every day. This is so important, especially as the weather is turning.

Enrichment activities for this term based on our Geography unit focusing on developing mapping skills

Secret Agent Living Room Trail (8-Point Compass & Directions) Map a room in the house on paper, marking a starting point (e.g., the doorway). They then write a coded list of step-by-step instructions using directional commands to lead a family member to a hidden "treasure" object.

Contour Mountain (Contour Lines & Elevation) Build a miniature 3D mountain out of salt dough (equal parts flour, salt, and water). Once set, slice the mountain horizontally into 3–4 layers of equal thickness. Trace around the bottom of each slice onto a piece of paper, stacking smaller rings inside larger rings to draw a real contour map of their mountain.

Home Ordnance Survey Legend Hunt (OS Map Symbols) Invent and draw a custom map key (legend) for your house or garden using official OS map icon styles (e.g., blue icons for water/taps, green icons for trees/nature, red icons for main paths). They then draw a plan of your garden or bedroom incorporating at least 8 distinct symbols.

The 6-Figure Grid Reference Battleships (Grid Coordinates) Play a custom version of Battleships! Draw a 10x10 grid on graph paper, labeling the bottom axis with 3-digit eastings (e.g., 100 to 110) and the side axis with 3-digit northings (e.g., 400 to 410). Place 4 "landmarks" on the grid and take turns trying to hit opponent targets using full 6-figure grid references (e.g., 104406).

Please don't hesitate to get in contact with me if you have any questions.

Warm wishes

Mrs Salmon