



Nettlesworth Primary School
Front Street
Nettlesworth
Chester le Street
Durham

5th January 2026

Welcome back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Spring 1, I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break.

This half term our topic is Beachcombers. This topic is all about the seaside! We have our brand-new role play, a seaside souvenir shop, as well as our new challenge area, seeing what we can find in the sand. We will be learning all about coastline features, what kind of things we might see at the seaside, looking at different types of sea creatures and habitats and lots more! I have attached our welcome letter with lots more information about our new topic. For our topic engagement, we will be painting our own seashells to keep. We will also be celebrating our topic by having a beach day in school, taking part in some fun seaside activities and enjoying some fish and chips! A letter will follow at the end of the half term.

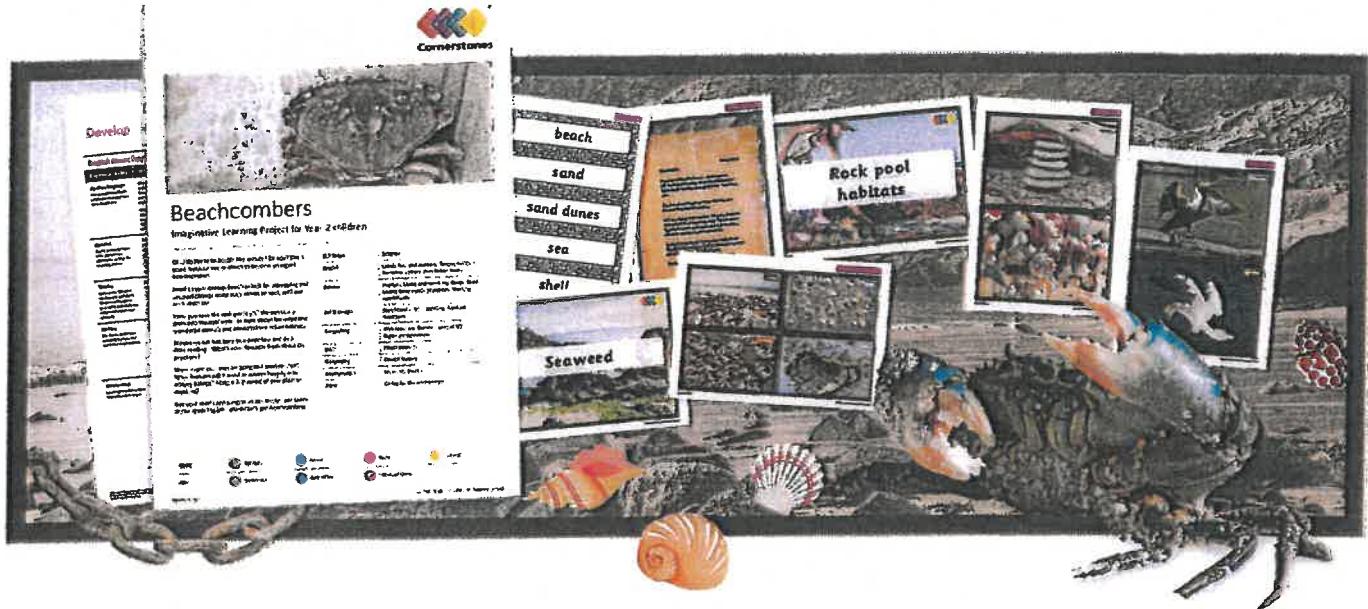
Just a reminder of important diary dates:

- Homework and spellings – these will be given out on a Monday. We expect these to be completed and back in school for a Friday morning.
- Reading - We will be continuing to send out reading books that link to the phonics/reading level your child is working at in school and these will be changed on a Friday. It is important that the children are reading at home, as well as twice a week in school. Could you please read with your child at home, once a week, and record this in their planners, so that we can fill our reading display and earn some nice treats throughout the year! Could you please also continue to complete any phonics sounds that are being sent home, to prepare your child for the next group.
- PE kits – Please send in a PE kit on a Monday morning and leave it at school throughout the week, we will return this home on a Friday. Our PE days this half term are Monday and Wednesday, however, we often have events in school that require PE kits, so it is important to still ensure children have their kits every day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Many Thanks
Miss Grimes.

Beachcombers



Pack up some sandwiches, pick up a fishing net and keep your eyes peeled because we're off to the coast to go beachcombing!

This half term, we'll visit a local beach to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the seashore and explore rock pools to find living and non-living things. Bringing shells, pebbles and seaweed back to the classroom will help us to learn about a wide range of coastal plants and creatures. We'll read a range of seaside stories and use the coast as a setting for our writing. Maps and film footage will help us to find out more about the coast and we'll create a wide variety of artwork. We'll use books and the internet to search for information about the seashore and use our knowledge to write our own non-fiction books.

At the end of the project, we'll decide how we should look after the coastal environment and how the beach can be kept clean. We'll use our ICT skills to create a final presentation including photographs, captions and sound files.

ILP focus	Science
English	Labels, lists and captions, tongue-twisters, stories, letters, non-fiction books
Science	Habitats, living and non-living things, food chains, basic needs of animals
Art & design	Sketchbooks, 3-D modelling, sand art, seascapes
Computing	Web searches, digital presentations
D&T	Finger puppets
Geography	Coastal features
Mathematics	Measures (mass)
PSHE	Caring for the environment

Help your child prepare for their project

Beaches are fascinating places. Why not visit a beach and go on a rock pooling expedition of your own? Alternatively, you could visit a local pet shop to see a wide variety of fish, crustaceans and aquatic plants. You could also create drawings, paintings or models of sea creatures using online images for inspiration.