



Inspire Bulletin - February Half Term 2026



Welcome to this term's Inspire Bulletin!

Celebrations



Chinese New Year - Beginning the 17th of February, millions of people around the world – especially in East and Southeast Asia – will be celebrating the beginning of a new year in the lunisolar calendar. This year will be the Year of the Horse.



Ramadan - Also from the 17th February, Muslims around the world will be celebrating the holy month of Ramadan – a period of fasting, reflection and prayer. During this month, Muslims refrain from eating and drinking during daylight hours.

Words of the week

Abundance (noun): a very large quantity of something - *During celebrations of the Chinese New Year, there is an **abundance** of food.*

Authentic (adj): something that is real and genuine - *All around the world, people celebrate cultural festivals with **authentic** traditions.*

Thinking Challenges



Years 3/4 - How many of each animal did Moses take on his arc?

Years 5/6 - You are driving a train. There are 1,002 people on the train. In Reading 213 people get off and 194 get on. In Twyford 118 people get off and 46 get on. In Maidenhead 298 people get off and 7 get on. In Slough 341 get off and 357 get on. Finally, you reach the final destination in London Paddington. What is the name of the train driver?

Maths

Years 3/4 - A father is counting coins to put in red envelopes for their children for the Chinese New Year. He splits the coins in four piles. The third pile has 10 coins. The first pile had four more coins than the second. The second pile had one less coin than the third. The fourth pile had twice as many coins as the second. How many coins did he put in each pile?



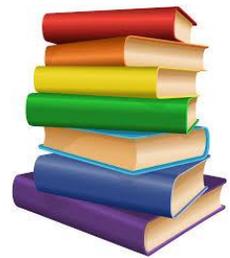
How many coins did he put in each pile?

Years 5/6 - Write this number in words: 52,341,344

Recommended Reading

Years 3/4 - *Matilda* by Roald Dahl

Matilda Wormwood is a kind, intelligent girl with nasty parents and an even nastier headteacher, Miss Trunchbull, who punishes students in cruel and unusual ways such as locking them in a cupboard! However, with the help of her sympathetic teacher, Miss Honey, Matilda learns *magic powers* – she can control objects using only her mind. Can Matilda use her new powers to get rid of Miss Trunchbull for good? Or will the headteacher continue her reign of terror over the school?



Years 5/6 - *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan



Percy Jackson is a normal 12-year-old boy with ADHD and dyslexia – until one day he isn't. It turns out that Percy is the son of the sea god Poseidon, and therefore a *demigod*! However, there's a problem: Zeus, the king of the gods, thinks that Percy has stolen his powerful lightning bolt, and is threatening to start war among the gods! Percy, armed with his new sword Riptide and fighting alongside his friends Annabeth and Grover, must retrieve the bolt before the summer solstice, to prevent war breaking out between the gods once more. Will he succeed?

Poem of the week

The Witches' Spell, William Shakespeare (from Macbeth)

Double, double toil and trouble;

Fire burn and caldron bubble.

Fillet of a fenny snake,

In the caldron boil and bake:

Eye of newt and toe of frog,



Wool of bat and tongue of dog,

Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,

Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,

For a charm of powerful trouble,

Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble;

Fire burn and caldron bubble.

Cool it with a baboon's blood,

Then the charm is firm and good.



Wellbeing

Magic Tree - Close your eyes, be very still and imagine that you are standing at the foot of the most enormous tree you have ever seen. You see a little door in the trunk of the tree. Open the door and go through, and you find a magical fairy world with hundreds of corridors and rooms inside. Have a look and see if you can find a door with your name on it.

This is your special room. What can you see? There is a big, comfy chair in the corner. Go over to the chair and sit very quietly. Right next to the chair is a table, and on the table is a silver box. Open the box, and you see lots of colourful cards with a different word written on each one. Can you read what the cards say?



LOVE. PEACE. FORGIVENESS. HAPPINESS. STRENGTH.

Choose a card and read what it says. What card have you picked? What does the word on the card mean? When you are ready, put the card back inside the box, get up from the chair, come out from the room, close the door and come out of the magic tree. Whenever you feel scared or upset or unhappy, just pop back into your secret special room and take a card, and you will feel much better.

And now, when you are ready, wiggle your fingers and toes, have a big stretch and open your eyes.

Inspiring Women

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a Nigerian writer whose works of both fiction and non-fiction paved the way for feminist literature (writings which focus on women), especially for Black women. Her work has granted her several honorary degrees from many universities. She



also has received several accolades [awards], including a MacArthur Genius Grant, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton, the Africa Freedom Prize 2020 and the International Herman Hesse Prize. In 2019, she was named on OOOM Magazine's World's Most Inspiring People.

Thought of the week

'Wherever you go, go with all your heart.' - *Confucius*

Answers

Thinking Challenges

Years 3/4 - None! It was Noah who took the animals on his arc.

Years 5/6 - Your name!

Maths

Years 3/4 - First pile - 13 coins; Second pile - 9 coins; Third pile - 10 coins; Fourth pile - 18 coins.

Years 5/6 - Fifty-two million, three hundred and forty-one thousand, three hundred and forty-four.