



Springfield Primary Academy Newsletter



Spring Half Term 1 - 2024/2025

13th February 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Spring half term one, I am delighted to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our pupils at Springfield Primary Academy. It has been a wonderful start to the new year, and I feel truly honoured to lead such a vibrant and dedicated school community.

Across the school, pupils have been engaged in exciting and enriching learning experiences. In the Acorn Room and Reception, our learners have been exploring the theme of Everyday Heroes and learning about healthy lifestyles, developing their communication skills and building strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, and social interactions. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have been inspiring to see.

In Key Stage 1, pupils have been expanding their creative and analytical skills. Year 1 explored the world of Henri Rousseau, creating imaginative art inspired by his jungle scenes and working hard on their phonics skills. Year 2 went on an exciting educational trip to ThinkTank Museum, where they engaged in hands-on learning and explored interactive exhibits, deepening their understanding of science and the world around them.

Key Stage 2 pupils have shown incredible creativity, curiosity, and historical awareness. Year 3 delved into the world of Pop Art and learned about the human skeleton in a fun and interactive way. Year 4 celebrated Chinese New Year with a fantastic assembly performance and have been developing their cricket skills with coaching sessions. Year 5 explored the fascinating history of the Tudors and enhanced their geographical knowledge by comparing Northern Ireland and Jamaica. Meanwhile, Year 6 embarked on an adventurous journey into the world of earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, showcasing exceptional analytical and problem-solving skills.

We also marked Safer Internet Day with the theme 'Too Good to be True', empowering pupils to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. This important topic was explored through Computing and RHSE lessons, reflecting our commitment to fostering digital citizenship and safeguarding our pupils online.

It has been wonderful to see so many pupils wearing their school uniform with pride. Their smart appearance reflects their sense of belonging and commitment to our school community. We kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that all pupils wear the correct uniform each day.

I would also like to remind parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children, particularly avoiding cycle lanes to ensure the safety of our pupils and local residents. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

I am incredibly proud of the hard work, creativity, and resilience shown by every pupil this half term. Their achievements are a testament to their dedication and the support of our committed staff and parents.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Have a wonderful and restful half term break!

Mr S. Ahmad
Head Teacher



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Acorn Room: Everyday Heroes



This half term, the Acorn Room has been exploring the topic of **“Everyday Heroes,”** learning about the important jobs that help the community

thrive. Each week, the pupils focused on a different role, including doctors and nurses, firefighters, police officers, dentists, and vets. They discovered the responsibilities of each profession, the uniforms worn, and the equipment used.



Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed role-playing these jobs by dressing up, using props, and engaging in small world adventures. A particular highlight was learning how to call the emergency services using a real phone and understanding the importance of only calling in a genuine emergency.

Maths — Pupils have continued to explore number, shape, and pattern through a variety of hands-on, sensory experiences. These activities have helped them build a strong foundation in mathematical concepts while having fun.

PE—Throughout the half term, the pupils have made great progress in developing their physical abilities. They have been practicing jumping, balancing, throwing, and catching, and their confidence has grown with each session.



Makaton—To support communication, the pupils have been actively learning Makaton signs. They are becoming increasingly confident in using signs during conversations, when making requests, and during song and story time. This approach has been a wonderful way to enhance their communication skills and ensure everyone can express themselves.

Cooking — pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly cooking lessons, making a range of delicious foods such as pizza, pasta, and cookies. These sessions have provided an excellent opportunity to practice measuring, following instructions, and exploring new tastes and textures.



English — Many pupils have been busy learning their Set 1 sounds and are beginning to blend sounds to read words. This marks incredible progress, and everyone is excited to see how they continue to develop throughout the year.

In Literacy, learning has been brought to life through sensory stories. This half term, the pupils explored *Burglar Bill*, *Topsy and Tim Go to the Doctor*, *Alan's Big Scary Teeth*, and *Hospital Dog*. They loved experiencing these stories through multisensory activities and have successfully retold the tales using pictures and props.



The pupils have also been using Colourful Semantics to write sentences about the stories and their topic. This approach helps them understand sentence structure by using colour-coded cards to represent different parts of a sentence. It has been an enjoyable and effective way for them to create their own sentences and describe what they have learned about everyday heroes.

As the half term comes to a close, the progress and enthusiasm shown by all the pupils in the Acorn Room have been truly inspiring. Their curiosity and eagerness to learn about everyday heroes have been wonderful to see. The team looks forward to continuing this journey of discovery and growth next half term.



Reception: Everyday Superheroes

This half term in Reception, the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the topic of Everyday Superheroes. They have been learning about the important roles played by people who help us, including firefighters, police officers, vets, and doctors. Through engaging stories, role-play activities, and discussions, they have gained a deeper understanding of how these community heroes keep us safe and healthy.

A standout moment was the visit from Nurse Blessing, who kindly took the time to share her experiences as a nurse. She explained the different ways she cares for patients and the important tools she uses in her job. The pupils were fascinated and asked thoughtful questions, showing great curiosity and respect. This visit not only brought learning to life but also helped the pupils understand the value of kindness and helping others.



In addition to learning about community helpers, the pupils have been actively developing their gross motor skills on the large playground. They have been practicing climbing, balancing, and navigating obstacle courses, which have helped to build their strength, coordination, and confidence. These physical challenges have also encouraged problem-solving and perseverance as they learned to take safe risks and celebrate each other's achievements.

Outdoor play has provided wonderful opportunities for the pupils to build relationships with their peers. They have been practicing important social skills such as taking turns, sharing equipment, and cheering each other on. This has fostered a positive and supportive environment where friendships continue to blossom.



Reception: Keeping Healthy

Pupils have also been learning all about **how to keep themselves healthy**, with a special focus on **dental hygiene** and making healthy food choices. They discovered the importance of brushing their teeth twice a day and learned the correct technique to keep their smiles bright and healthy. They explored the effects of sugary foods on their teeth and discussed the difference between healthy and unhealthy snacks.

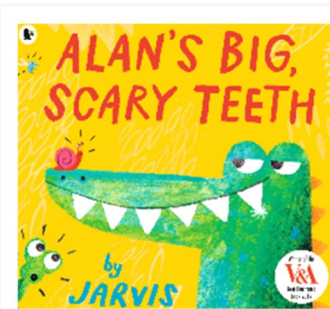


To bring this learning to life, the pupils had great fun role-playing as **dentists and hygienists**, using pretend tools to check each other's teeth and practicing how to clean them thoroughly. They also became **nutrition experts**, sorting foods into healthy and unhealthy categories

and learning how a balanced diet helps them grow strong and stay active.



A favourite story during this topic was **"Alan's Big Scary Teeth"** by Jarvis. The pupils loved hearing about Alan the alligator and his not-so-scary secret. The story helped them understand the importance of looking after their teeth in a fun and engaging way. It also sparked great conversations about being brave and learning from mistakes.



Why not visit your local library and borrow a copy to read at home? It's a fantastic way to continue the conversation about healthy habits and enjoy a fun story together!

Year 1: Inspired Art by Henri Rousseau

Year One, the pupils have been exploring the stunning artwork of **Henri Rousseau**, focusing on his vibrant and imaginative jungle scenes. They have been studying how Rousseau cleverly used **contrasting colours** to bring his paintings to life, making different elements of the jungle stand out against one another.



Through this exploration, the pupils have discovered how bold, bright colours can create visual interest and convey emotions. They observed how the lush greens of the jungle foliage contrast beautifully with the warm oranges and yellows of the exotic animals, creating a sense of depth and excitement in the artwork.

Inspired by Rousseau's unique style, the pupils have loved experimenting with **contrasting colours** in their own creative masterpieces. They have applied what they learned by using bold brushstrokes and vibrant hues, bringing their own jungle scenes to life with imagination and flair.



Year One has truly enjoyed this artistic journey and is excited to continue exploring the world of art and self-expression!

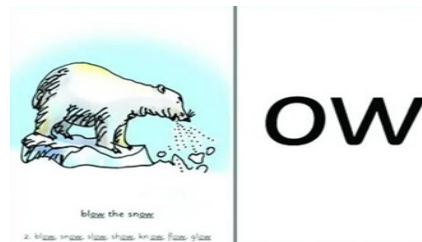
Year 1: Fabulous Phonics

Year One have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their Phonics Screening Test, and they are making fantastic progress! The pupils have been practicing their sounds daily, building their confidence and fluency in blending and segmenting words. Their enthusiasm and determination have truly shone through.

To support both pupils and parents, the Year One team has organised interactive workshops where parents learned valuable strategies to help their child with phonics at home. These sessions provided practical tips and fun activities to make learning engaging and effective. Parents left feeling more confident and equipped to support their child's reading journey.

In addition to the workshops, teachers have sent home QR codes linking to a variety of helpful resources, including phonics games, videos, and practice activities. These digital tools have made learning fun and easily accessible, allowing pupils to practice their phonics skills anytime, anywhere.

To ensure every pupil feels confident and ready, Year One has also been participating in exciting and engaging phonics



interventions. These sessions are designed to build their skills in a playful and supportive environment. From phonics treasure hunts to sound-matching games, the children have been having a blast while mastering their phonics sounds.

dream	seat
please	

voice	coin
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cake	name
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steen	sclee
treek	cheeth
fleep	dreen

It's been a true team effort, with teachers, parents, and pupils working together to make learning a positive and rewarding experience. The Year One team is incredibly proud of how hard the pupils have worked and how far they've come. They are feeling well-prepared and confident as they approach the Phonics Screening Test!

Year 2: Trip to Birmingham Thinktank

Year 2 are excited to share highlights from their recent trip to Think-tank, Birmingham's amazing science museum, where they had an unforgettable day of hands-on learning, exploration, and adventure.

The excitement started on the coach journey, with many of the pupils singing and creating their own fun lyrics to "The Wheels on the Bus!" Upon arriving, they broke into small groups and eagerly explored all three floors of the museum.

One of the most thrilling parts of the day was visiting MiniBrum, an interactive child-sized city where the pupils engaged in imaginative role-play. They took on various roles such as builders, shopkeepers, doctors, and postal workers. The huge slide and exciting racing track were also big hits, filling the room with laughter and excitement as the pupils raced each other.

In addition to the role-play activities, the pupils participated in a hands-on workshop on classifying animals. This fascinating session allowed them to explore taxidermied insects, amphibians, mammals, and fish, learning about the characteristics of different animal groups and their important roles in nature. The workshop brought science to life in an educational and awe-inspiring way.

It was wonderful to see the pupils so engaged, curious, and excited to learn throughout the day. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about their favourite moments from the trip—they may be surprised by the fun facts their child has picked up!

The Year 2 team is incredibly grateful for your continued support in making such enriching experiences possible for the pupils and looks forward to many more exciting adventures ahead.

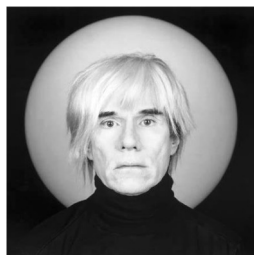
Year 2: Classifying Animals Workshop



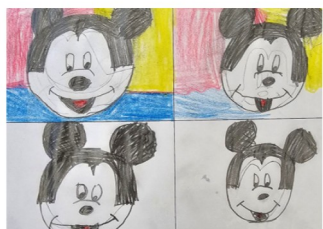
Year 3 Art and Science Highlights

Year 3 are excited to share the incredible work they have been doing this half-term in both **Art** and **Science**.

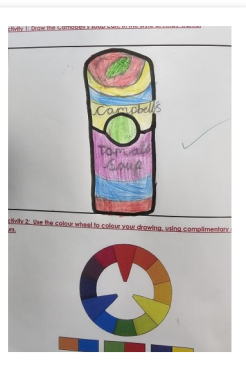
In **Art**, the pupils have been unleashing their creativity while exploring the world of **Pop Art**. They have been studying the



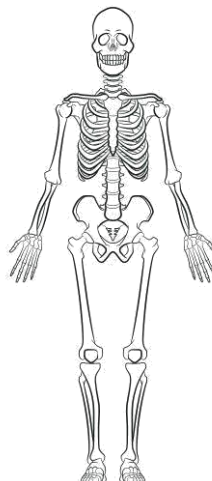
iconic style of **Andy Warhol** and practicing his famous techniques to create their own unique **Pop Art** images. The pupils have enjoyed experimenting with bold colours, repetitive patterns, and iconic imagery, developing their artistic skills and understanding of how Pop Art reflects popular culture. Each pupil created a personal interpretation of Warhol's style, producing vibrant and eye-catching pieces that show their growing artistic talents.



As part of this exploration, the children have learned about the key features of Pop Art and how it challenged traditional art forms by focusing on mass production and consumer culture. The pupils have also developed a greater understanding of how art can be both fun and thought-provoking, bringing a modern twist to traditional artistic techniques.



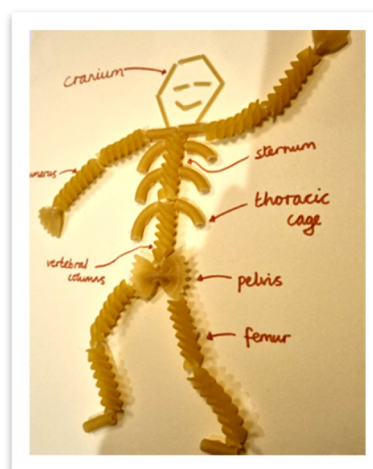
Both subjects have been a great opportunity for the pupils to think critically, problem-solve, and express their creativity. We are excited to see where their curiosity and passion for learning will take them next!



In Science, Year 3 have been exploring the fascinating world of skeletons. The pupils have been enthusiastic and curious about how the skeleton functions and how different muscles work together to help us move. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, they have learned about the vital role our skeleton plays in supporting our bodies and protecting our organs.

To bring their learning to life, the pupils got creative by using different types of pasta to represent bones in the body. They enjoyed constructing their very own skeletons, carefully arranging the pasta pieces to form the shape of the human body. This fun and interactive activity allowed them to better understand the structure of the skeleton while reinforcing their knowledge of bone names and positions.

As part of their studies, the pupils also learned about how muscles work alongside bones to enable movement. They explored the relationship between the two, understanding how muscles contract and relax to create motion, and how the skeleton provides a framework for this movement to occur.



We are sure the children's will continue exploring the wonders of the human body.

Year 4 Celebrate Chinese New Year



This half term, Year 4 have been busy preparing for their special Chinese New Year celebration assembly. The pupils worked hard to create vibrant costumes and props for the event, embracing the cultural significance of the holiday. They also learned a lively song about Chinese New Year, which they performed with enthusiasm during the assembly.

On 29th January, the pupils took to the stage to put on a fantastic performance for parents and students. They explained the myth of the Chinese zodiac, sharing the story of how the animals were chosen to represent each year, and highlighted the traditions and activities enjoyed by families during this time of year. The pupils were incredibly proud to showcase their knowledge of the holiday, while also demonstrating their creativity and teamwork in bringing the celebration to life.

In addition to their performance, the pupils also enjoyed a delicious Chinese-inspired lunch at school, further immersing themselves in the culture and traditions associated with Chinese New Year.

The Year 4 team is extremely proud of the pupils' hard work and dedication in preparing for this event. The assembly was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about and celebrate an important cultural tradition while sharing their learning with the wider school community.

Year 4 Cricket Coaching

Year 4 has been participating in exciting cricket coaching sessions provided by a local cricket team in Birmingham. Every Thursday, the pupils have had the opportunity to hone their bowling, batting, and catching skills while also working on their teamwork and communication. These sessions have been a fantastic way for the pupils to build their confidence and improve their abilities in the sport.



Throughout the coaching, there has been remarkable progress in all areas. The pupils have worked hard to refine their techniques, from learning how to bowl accurately to perfecting their batting stance. Additionally, they have demonstrated excellent teamwork, supporting each other and learning to communicate effectively on the field. It's been wonderful to see the growth in both their skills and their enthusiasm for cricket.

The enjoyment and excitement the pupils have shown during each session has been truly inspiring. It's clear that they are not only developing their sporting abilities but also learning valuable life skills such as collaboration, resilience, and perseverance.

Pupils have made excellent progress and we look forward to seeing how they continue to develop their cricket skills in future sessions.

Year 5: History—The Tudors



This half-term, **Year 5** has been fully immersed in the fascinating world of the **Tudors**. The pupils began their journey by learning about **Henry VII** and the **Battle of Bosworth**, a pivotal moment in history that marked the beginning of the Tudor dynasty. They explored how Henry VII secured his throne, focusing on his strategic use of **marriage alliances** to strengthen his political position and consolidate power in England.

The exploration of the Tudors continued with a study of **Henry VIII** and his infamous six wives. The pupils delved into the complex reasons behind his multiple marriages, discussing the political, personal, and religious factors that influenced his decisions. They also learned how Henry VIII's actions, including the formation of the Church of England, had a profound and lasting impact on the course of English history.



As their Tudor studies progressed, pupils studied the reigns of **Queen Mary I** and **Queen Elizabeth I**, comparing and contrasting their different approaches to ruling. They examined Queen Mary's efforts to restore Catholicism and her troubled reign, while also exploring Queen Elizabeth I's significant achievements, such as the defeat of the Spanish Armada and her role in shaping England's identity as a global power. The children discussed how these two queens left their marks on England's religious landscape and international standing, understanding the challenges they faced as female monarchs in a male-dominated society.

Throughout the topic, the pupils developed a deeper understanding of the political, social, and religious changes that defined the Tudor period, and they enjoyed exploring the rich history of this fascinating era. They were particularly excited to engage with primary sources, such as portraits and historical documents, to gain insight into the lives of the Tudor monarchs.



Year 5: Geography learn about Northern Ireland and Jamaica



In **Geography**, **Year 5** have been broadening their global knowledge through the study of **Northern Ireland** and **Jamaica**. The pupils began by locating both



countries on the map and explored their distinct **human** and **physical features**. They compared the **landscapes**, **climates**, and **cultures** of the two locations, discussing the stark contrasts between the lush, green terrain of Northern Ireland and the tropical, sun-soaked beaches of Jamaica. The children enjoyed learning about how geography influences everyday life, from the weather patterns that shape the lifestyle in each region to the cultural traditions unique to each place.

A key focus of the topic has been exploring how **diversity** is reflected in both countries. The pupils discussed the cultural influences in Jamaica, from its rich history rooted in African heritage to the island's vibrant music and food culture, while also examining Northern Ireland's unique cultural blend, shaped by its history, religion, and the interplay between rural and urban life.

This topic has provided an excellent opportunity for the children to further develop their **geographical skills**, including **map reading** and using atlases to find key landmarks and features. The pupils have become more confident in understanding how to read maps, locate places, and identify important geographical aspects like physical features and human settlements.

Pupils have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the topic, and the **Year 5 team** is incredibly impressed by their dedication and critical thinking. It has been a pleasure to see them explore different cultures and environments, deepening their understanding of the world around them.

Please encourage your child to share what they have learned at home, as their enthusiasm and curiosity have made this unit particularly enjoyable!

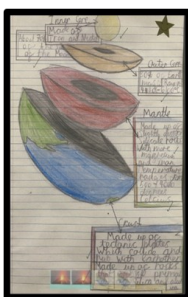
Year 6 Geographers Explore the Power of Natural Disasters!



This half-term, Year 6 explorers have been diving deep into the fascinating world of earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, and what an exciting adventure it has been! The pupils began their journey with a hands-on earthquake and volcano workshop, sparking curiosity and excitement as they uncovered the natural forces shaping our planet.

Throughout the topic, pupils have explored Earth's layers, investigating the movement of tectonic plates and understanding how these movements contribute to natural disasters. They have focused on comparing earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis in different parts of the world, specifically looking at events in New Zealand and St. Vincent, and considering how each region prepares for and responds to these powerful phenomena.

Pupils have gained a strong understanding of the different types of volcanoes—active, dormant, and extinct—and have researched major historical earthquakes and eruptions, studying how these events have impacted local populations and the environment. They have used a variety of resources, including maps, iPads, and atlases, to track the locations of famous natural disasters and learn about the science behind them.



Additionally, the pupils have delved into how governments and emergency services prepare for such events, discussing evacuation plans, early warning systems, and disaster relief efforts. This has provided them with a deeper understanding of how communities around the world work together to mitigate the effects of these destructive forces.

The enthusiasm and engagement shown by the pupils have been truly impressive as they have developed a comprehensive understanding of the natural world and its dynamic processes. The Year 6 team is incredibly proud of the critical thinking and curiosity demonstrated throughout the topic, and looks forward to further exploring the wonders of the natural world with them.

Year 6: Staying Safe in Earthquake zones

To wrap up their exciting exploration of earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, Year 6 pupils have been putting their analytical and problem-solving skills to the test by learning how to stay safe in earthquake-prone areas. They have explored earthquake safety procedures, including the importance of “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”, as well as how to identify safe spots within buildings. They have also learned about the significance of emergency kits and practiced creating their own safety plans to protect themselves and their communities.

The pupils have investigated how countries around the world prepare for and respond to earthquakes, exploring the use of early warning systems, earthquake-resistant buildings, and community drills. This has provided them with valuable insights into disaster preparedness and risk management, helping them understand the importance of planning and resilience.



A major highlight was learning about the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami—a real-life event that left a lasting impact on communities worldwide. Through images, maps, and sequencing activities, the children gained a deep understanding of how tsunamis form and their devastating effects.

It has been an action-packed and thought-provoking start to the term, and the Year 6 team is incredibly proud of the pupils' enthusiasm, curiosity, and engagement. They have shown remarkable creativity in designing safety plans and have demonstrated excellent teamwork while discussing real-world solutions to natural disasters.



Internet Safety - Reminders:

On 11th February 2025, Safer Internet Day was held with the theme of Too Good to be True. With use of AI, DeepFakes and scams increasing online, it's important to keep yourselves and your children safe while browsing online. Through our Computing and RHSE lessons, children learn how to keep themselves safe and how to properly behave online, but it is important for parents to support and keep themselves up to date with the rapid changes online. Below are some top tips, helpful websites and quick fixes to help keep your child safe while they are using internet devices.

Top tips	Helpful websites	Quick fixes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use child friendly websites and apps such as YouTube Kids and Google Safesearch ◆ Read PEGI ratings and age ratings carefully on the Appstore ◆ Play games with your child and encourage them to discuss and share what they are watching online ◆ Set limits for how long the family use devices 	<p>https://kids.youtube.com/ Child friendly version of youtube</p> <p>http://www.safesearchkids.com/ Internet search engine with filters in place</p> <p>www.internetmatters.org A database for all internet safety tips and links</p> <p>https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained Explanation for the most common ratings seen on video games</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Call your internet provider and ask for parental controls to be enabled or for support in activating them ◆ Check the apps your child uses most frequently and their history ◆ Install child friendly apps and encourage their use ◆ Have a conversation with your child about what they look at online

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14.02.25	Pupils break up for Half Term Holiday
24.02.25	Start of Half Term - Pupils return to school
11.03.25 -18.02.25	Scholastic Book Fair
13.03.25	Year 3 Trip—Cadbury World
27.03.25	Year 5 Eid Assembly
03.04.25	Year 4 Trip—Botanical Gardens
07.04.25	Inkpen Trip—Attwell Farm
08.04.25	Mckee/Acorn Trip—Attwell Farm
11.04.25	Break up for Easter Holidays
28.04.25	Start of the Summer Term – Pupils return to school

Food Bank:

If you are able to donate to our foodbank before the end of half term, please ensure food items are non-perishable (canned goods, pasta, rice etc) and within their use-by date.

We appreciate this may be difficult for some families, so any donation will be greatly received.

Suggested Donations:

- Rice • Flour • Pasta • Lentils
- ◆ UHT / long-life milk • Long-life juice • Squash
- ◆ Cereal boxes • Crisps • Sugar • Tea and coffee
- ◆ Tinned fruit • Tinned vegetables • Tinned meat/fish
- ◆ Soap • Shower gel • Hand sanitizer
- ◆ Toothpaste • Toothbrushes
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products

