

Year 1

September 2009 Newsletter

Dear Parents and careers,

Welcome to the start of the new academic year and an exciting Autumn term. I hope you have had a wonderful and relaxing summer holiday and feel refreshed going into the final months of 2009. I am delighted to be joining the teaching team at Duxford Primary School, and look forward to getting to know the children and yourselves over the coming year.



Literacy

In literacy this term our narrative focus will be looking at stories with familiar settings, stories from a range of cultures and stories with predictable and patterned language. We will also be learning about poems related to the senses and writing lists, labels and captions to use alongside pictures. For our non-fiction work we will be writing instructions and recounts as well as looking at dictionaries. Each week I will hear the children read as part of a guided reading group, where I will assess their progress and question their comprehension. The children will have the opportunity to change their 'home' reading book every week in school, but if you want to change their book in-between then please come in after school with your child to do so.



Numeracy

Our maths work will include counting on and back in 1's and 10's, and addition and subtraction. We will begin to use the addition and plus signs to form simple number sentences, as well as strengthening our number bonds for 10. The children will investigate different forms of measurement, such as weight, length and volume and practise estimating. This term will also include naming common 2D and 3D shapes and putting them into groups to categorise their features.



Science

Our first science topic is 'Ourselves', through this unit the children learn about their senses and how they can use them to explore the world around them. They also learn that humans and other animals move and grow. Our second science topic is 'Materials', during which the children learn about the characteristics and uses of a range of common materials and explore the vocabulary for describing and comparing materials.



History

Our history topic this term is famous people. We will be discussing what makes someone famous and sharing the famous people that we know. Our first historical figure will be Charles Darwin.



Art

In art we will be using our trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens to draw some of the beautiful plants and flowers we encounter.



Geography



This term our geography focus is to explore the world we live in. We have Barnaby the teddy bear with us to help the children learn about other countries and places. Barnaby is available to travel with any child to any location in the world! He comes with a diary book where the children can write and add pictures about his adventure to share with the remainder of the class.



Information Technology



In our I.C.T. lessons the children will be learning to use a word bank to create text. They will be labelling diagrams and learning to use a simple word program.



Physical Education



P.E. will include gymnastics and Games. P.E. lessons will take place each Monday and Wednesday, but please leave P.E. kits in school in case we need them at other times. The weather will be getting colder soon and we will be having games outside, please make sure your child has tracksuit bottoms and a warm top.



Religious Education



In R.E. the children will discuss special books. Later in the term there will be opportunities to discuss the preparations for Christmas.



Our Homework and Spelling routines



The children will be given a short piece of homework every Friday to be handed in the following Wednesday. Please continue to listen to your child read as often as possible as the practise helps your child to improve their reading skills. I will start to send home spellings for the children to learn after half term. The children will be tested each Thursday, with a new set of spellings to learn same the following Friday.



And Finally...



As you can see we have a lot to learn, but we aim to have lots of fun doing so. If you would like to join in the fun, we would be delighted to see you. Please let us know if you would like to help and we can arrange either a regular or a one-off visit, if you are not yet CRB checked, speak to Sarah Cahill ASAP.

Also, could I request for all parents not to accompany their child into the classroom in the mornings in the attempt to build the children's independence as a new member of Key Stage 1. If this causes difficulties for you and your child, please inform me or my T.A, Mrs Williams, so we can assist you with this matter.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything you need to discuss.

Best wishes

Mr James Hayward