



September 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of a new academic year and an exciting Autumn term! I hope that you all had a happy and relaxing holiday. I am looking forward to getting to know the children and yourselves over the coming terms.

In Literacy this term we will be reading traditional tales. When reading we will be discussing settings, characters and the sequence of the stories. We will be writing our own story plans and using these to help our story writing. Our poetry work will be reading and writing poems with familiar settings. Non fiction reading and writing this term will be based on explanations and instructions linked to our Topic, Design & Technology and Science work.

The children will continue to follow the national Letters and Sounds phonics programme, this covers spelling and aspects of grammar. Our main focus for this term will be vowel sounds and past and present tense verbs.

The children will often have quiet reading time and they may bring in a book from home for this or choose a school book. Every child will take part in weekly Guided Reading sessions, the aim of this small group work is to read and discuss a text. I will note the reading target your child is covering in their Reading Record so that you can discuss it with your child at home.



Our maths work will include counting on and back in 1's and 10's to 100 and beyond, addition and subtraction, doubling and halving, and shape work. We will also be using units of time so please practise looking at a clock face and telling the time at home.



Our Science topics this term are Plants and animals and Variation. Our ICT work will include using Word and drawing programmes.

Throughout the year we will be learning about places around the world and to help with this we have Barnaby Bear. Barnaby likes to travel and if you are planning a trip to another part of the country, or abroad, Barnaby would love to come with you. He comes with a travel diary where your child can write about the place they visit. Just let me know if you have a trip planned.

Our topic work this term is all about famous people and famous events. We will be learning about Charles Darwin and his travels during the first half term. We will be visiting the Botanic Garden in Cambridge where the education team will talk to us

about Charles Darwin and we will look at some of the plants he would have seen. This links in nicely to our art work which is about nature.

This will be followed next half term by a study of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. In Design & Technology we will be designing a vehicle for Guy Fawkes.

In RE the children will discuss the preparations for and customs of the Harvest Festival. We will also look at the Bible and sacred texts for other religions. Later in the term there will be opportunities to discuss preparations for Christmas.

Our PSHE work throughout the term will focus on staying safe as well as social skills. Show and Tell will be on Fridays.

PE will include dance and Games. PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, but please leave PE kits in school in case we need them at other times. Please ensure that PE kits include shorts, T shirt and plimsolls or trainers. As the weather becomes colder, it is also useful to have jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt or fleece. If your child has long hair, please make sure they have a hair band with which to tie their hair up. Finally, we request that earrings are removed for PE lessons.



Our Homework and Spelling routines

The children will be given spellings every Friday, to be learnt at home, and tested on the following Friday. Please encourage your child to copy out their spellings into their Red spelling book, then return the Spelling book to school but keep the slip of paper at home to practise the spellings. Homework will be given out on Thursday to be returned the next Tuesday. The children will usually have 1 piece of homework each week. Please continue listening to your child read as often as possible. Many children are ready to read a wide range of books, not just the book they bring home from school.

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 help in class, 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.

If you have any concerns or if you need to speak to me about your child, please come and see me at the end of the school day.

Best wishes

Suzanne Blackburne-Maze