

Welcome back to everyone and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good holiday. Here is an overview of the topics for the next term.

English

This half term our English will be focused around Owl Babies and non-fiction animal texts. Next term our English will be focused around poetry and the texts of Quinten Blake (Mrs Armitage and Angelica Sprocket's Pockets). A key focus this term is on the children writing sentences independently using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. There will be opportunities to read weekly with an adult and in a small group for guided reading. This will provide opportunities to practise the skills of decoding and learning the key words. Phonics lessons will focus on learning the alternative spelling patterns for sounds and recognising these within words. We will continue to practise blending sounds for reading and spelling. Speaking and listening skills will be developed through drama, storytelling and the use of talk partners.



Maths

We practise oral and mental skills daily including counting, recall of number facts and calculating. We will be working with numbers up to 100 and in some cases beyond. There will be a focus on quick recall of key addition facts e.g. pairs of numbers that add up to 10. The children will try some problem solving activities using addition, subtraction, sharing and grouping. We will do some practical work using measures e.g. telling the time, measuring length, weight and capacity using comparison and standard and non-standard measures. We will be using coins to buy items and find change.



Science

This half term we will focus on 'Animals including Humans'. In this unit children learn about human and animal bodies and consider similarities and differences between them. Children engage in a variety of activities including drawing and labelling the body, using their senses to conduct an investigation, describing animal bodies and sorting animals into groups.



Next half term we will be focusing on 'Seasonal Changes (Spring and Summer)'. Children will continue to use a class weather station to observe, measure and record the weather in different seasons and will start to make comparisons between two seasons, as well as across all four seasons. They will also observe changes across the seasons by exploring the signs of spring and summer through nature and wildlife. A range of learning activities are used in this unit, including observation, discussion and learning outside. Children also work scientifically by collecting, recording and interpreting simple data.

Computing

The topic for this half term is 'Painting'. Children will use a simple painting program to paint with different colours and brushes, create shapes, fill areas, undo and redo and add text.



Next half term our topic will be 'Word Processing Skills'. Children will learn how to type with two hands, use the shift, space and enter key properly, and edit work by using the backspace, delete and arrow keys. Children will then go on to learn how to use undo and redo and to select and format text.

Humanities



Our history topic this half term is 'Changes within Living Memory'. Our geography topic will be 'Our Local Area'. The class will explore their local area using first hand observation to enhance their locational awareness along with developing essential map and fieldwork skills.

Mrs Ward will be teaching RE this term. The children will look at the theme of belonging. They will explore different clubs and groups to which they belong. They will then investigate the importance of belonging to different religious groups. In the second part of the term they will learn about the festival of Easter and the importance of this festival to Christians.



Creative Arts

In Art this half term we will be exploring the work of LS Lowry. The children will have the opportunity to explore the life and work of Lowry and to learn about the industrial landscape that provided the subject of many of his paintings. Each lesson in the unit focuses on improving a key skill in art and design; comparing works of art, colour mixing, perspective, drawing figures, drawing buildings and scissor skills.



Next half term we will be exploring the topic 'Nature Sculptures'. The children will have the opportunity to learn about different kinds of nature sculptures and to explore the work of Andy Goldsworthy and other environmental artists.

PE

Each half-term the children will participate in dance, gymnastics and games. There will be a focus on safety and health issues, spatial awareness and working with a partner. The children will be developing jumping and travelling movements both on the floor and using low apparatus and learning to create sequences on their own and with others.



Music & French

The children will be continuing their music lessons with Mr Mitchell when they will be working on listening, composing and performing.



 The children will also continue their French lessons with Madam Bruce reinforcing previously learnt vocabulary and learning new words and phrases through songs and games.

Supporting your child's learning at home

- Please read regularly at home. Frequent reading practice will help your child to become a fluent reader. This will give them practise at decoding new words using their phonic knowledge and opportunities to learn the key words by sight. Endeavour to spend 10-15 minutes each day reading with / to your child and practising key words. Please ensure you write in the Reading Record as an indication to me of how much your child has read. Reading Records will be collected in and checked. If your child has read 5 or more times in a week they will get a sticker on their bookmark. Once they have 5 stickers they will be awarded a prize. Please ensure child's bookmark is in their Reading Record when this is due in.
- The children are set homework each week. Do talk to your child about their homework and encourage them to extend their weekend diary and to include wider vocabulary and varied sentence starters.
- Maths skills to practise at home; recognising coins and counting money, reading clocks - digital and analogue, practising addition and subtraction facts for all numbers up to 20.
- Useful Websites to support learning:
www.phonicsplay.co.uk
www.ictgames.com

Reminders

- **Please ensure all items of clothing and equipment are clearly named.** A spare pair of socks in their PE bag can be very useful!
- Girls should wear suitable hair bands for school. Long hair should be tied back in school and must be tied back for PE.
- Snack bar is open on Friday playtimes. The children's money needs to be in a **named** purse. Please leave in the basket on the lunchbox trolley.

Mr Wackett
Year 1 teacher