

*Welcome back to everyone and A Happy New Year. I hope you and your children are well rested and ready for the new term and school year. The following is an overview of this term's planning which will be added to and adjusted as the term progresses according to the interests and needs of the children.*

*As you may be aware the children in year 2 and year 6 will be taking their SATs in May/ June 2016 for English and Maths. Throughout the academic year the children will be completing practise SAT papers (reading, writing, SPaG and Maths) We do this for a variety of reasons e.g. the papers are not so scary if they have been practised, they give accurate levels, they identify gaps in learning which will help guide future lessons etc.*

**English / Literacy/ Phonics** The phonics lesson will develop strategies for reading and spelling. Reading will take place on an individual and group level. Children's writing will be developed through poetry, nonfiction writing and story writing as well as writing through other areas of the curriculum. Speaking, listening and responding will be developed through class and individual discussion, drama, explaining what they are doing and by using 'talk partners'. Our nonfiction writing will focus on writing Non Chronological Reports and story writing will be developed through the theme of Stories with Familiar Settings.



**Maths / Numeracy** Mathematics will continue to be taught on a daily basis. Children will solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication or division in contexts of numbers, measures or pounds and pence. We will be working with numbers up to 1000. They will be encouraged and taught to explain their decisions, methods and results in different ways using mathematical language and number sentences. Children will be ordering, estimating, finding a half and quarter of shapes and sets of objects. They will extend their understanding of 2d and 3d shape, pattern, develop the concept of measures using standard units and collect record and read data in lists, charts, simple block graphs or pictograms.



**Science** In the first half of the term children will discuss how to remain healthy and grow, including what is meant by a balanced diet and the four food groups including the concept of 5 portions of fruit or vegetables per day. They will discuss the effect of exercise on bones & muscles, & that blood vessels carry oxygen & food to all parts of the body. Children will learn that medicines are drugs designed to keep us well & help us get better. We will also identify that some drugs are dangerous if not taken properly. Following this, children will learn about keeping our bodies clean & rested.



In the second half of the term, children will be learning about plants and animals in their local environment and how differences between places very close to each other result in a different range of plants and animals being found. They will learn that like humans, plants and other animals reproduce.

**ICT** Children will explore different sources of information and how they could be used. They will consider that information is accessed in different ways including using website addresses, shortcuts and/or favourites. Children will understand that information on the internet may not be true and to check using different sources and appropriate questions are essential to find specific information. Following this they will use a range of mind mapping software to organise ideas and information. Children will understand the importance of Internet safety and know what to do if they are concerned or worried.



**Humanities** Local and contrasting environments. In the first half of the term the children will strengthen their knowledge and awareness of Great Britain and Welwyn Garden City. They will look at local and UK maps and locate features and specific places on them.



Following this, in the second half of the term, they will discuss the effects of weather and weather changes on their own lives and the effects of weather on the wider world. They will compare their own locality with different environments such as Antarctica and Rainforest regions.

This will lead to discussion of environmental issues such as flooding and global warming.

**Design and Technology** During the first half term the children will be exploring kites, taking a closer look at how they fly and linking to maths investigating different shapes.. They will test and evaluate materials- strength, waterproof & whether it catches the wind investigate what Kites are made of and how they move. Using a variety of materials they will explore and evaluate different effects of these on flight.



Following this the children will design and explore small bags and fastenings, test & evaluate fastenings- try different methods- and test for strength, adding additional designs. They will develop a range of sewing techniques. We will also investigate a range of materials and techniques on the theme of fire and dragons in art sessions. This will include painting, printing, collage and 3d work. The children will be encouraged to work from their own ideas and imagination and evaluate their efforts.

**Physical Education.** There will be weekly games sessions and they will developing their gymnastics using a range of apparatus each week. The children will be improving their ability to listen and follow instructions, copy and create movements. There will be opportunities for individual and paired/ group work. They will continue to develop the skills of evaluating and observing one another.



**Art.** I art sessions the children will use 2D shapes to create pictures together and evaluate them. Children will practise mixing primary colours, cool and warm colours. They will learn to change tone of colour by adding white.



Children will explore different techniques and materials for drawing in the context of self-portraits with attention to proportions. They will also look at the work of famous artists such as Paul Klee and explore new ways to make pictures. Following this they will make self-portraits in relief using plasticine (plasticine faces).

## Reminders

- Mrs. Jeffrey will be teaching the class one and a half days a week including their weekly RE lessons concentrating on special places, the church and why some Christians visit church. The children will be continuing their music lessons with Mr. Mitchell on Tuesdays, when they will be working on listening, composing and performing. French lessons will also resume on Wednesdays with Madame Bruce.
- We have **PE on Monday and Thursday** however PE kits should be in school every day. Your child will need navy shorts and a jade t-shirt for indoor PE and suitable warmer clothing for outdoor PE e.g. plain jogging trousers and sweatshirt. They will also need suitable shoes for outdoor PE, e.g. trainers, as plimsolls are only to be worn indoors. Please provide suitable hair bands to tie back long hair. Should your child have pierced ears, tape **must be** provided to cover the earrings during PE times in accordance with Health and Safety rules.
- Please ensure that your child has correct **school uniform** including dark plimsolls and plain socks. Refer to the School Newsletter to remind you about rules regarding school uniform. Many items are available at the office. Please also name all items of clothing and equipment. **Nail varnish** and **tattoos** should not be worn at school and reminders will be given to remove them if the case arises. Girls should wear **suitable hair bands** for school.
- **Book Bags** should be in school every day as there are daily opportunities to read alone, with a friend, with Mrs. Deacon and with me. Endeavour to spend about 5 - 10 minutes each day reading with / to your child and practicing any 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 checked on a **Friday** and stickers will be given for 5 reading entries in and week. When your child has 5 stickers they will be able to choose a reading prize. It is up to the parents to ensure this reading takes place as the class teacher will not assume the child has read if there are no entries in the home/school reading record.
- Please check **book bags** daily for letters / notes and remove them to keep the contents to a minimum.
- Thank you for your co-operation in not coming into the classroom with your child in the morning. If you need to talk to me for any reason, either attract my attention while your child is lining up outside the classroom or if it is not urgent, make an appointment to see me after school.
- Please provide your child with a **water bottle** for use in the classroom (It should not contain flavoured water/juice or squash). As a 'Healthy School' we want to promote water as the best drink through the day.
- **Homework** is given out on a **Thursday** to be handed in the following **Tuesday**. Your support and feedback are valued. The tasks will be short and manageable (no more than 20 minutes at a time should be taken to complete a homework task although some tasks may need to be revisited on other days.) Your child will lose 5 minutes of their Golden Time if they have not completed weekly homework and handed it in on time. *Although I actively encourage the children to become more independent please note that the level of pupil progress is higher for those who have support with their homework including reading than those who don't.*
- Snack bar is open on Friday playtimes. The children's money needs to be in a named purse.
- Don't forget Shared Reading sessions. We look forward to seeing you!

### Useful Websites

- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize)
- [www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework)
- [www.mathszone.co.uk](http://www.mathszone.co.uk)
- [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- [www.ictgames.com](http://www.ictgames.com)