

Dear Parents,

Class 1 Spring Term 2010

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely holiday and had some fun in the snow. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Hannah, Emily, Chloe, Harry and William, who started school on Monday 11th January. Hopefully their school experience will be a positive and exciting time.

This term our topic will be 'Journeys'.

This half term we will start by 'exploring' with the story 'We're Going On a Bear Hunt', by Michael Rosen. The children will use this story as an impetus to examine story language, participate in role play, to go on a bear hunt of their own and to create maps. From this they will further learn all about maps: using them and making their own. They will then find out about different vehicles, how they have developed through history and why. They will use this as a basis to learn about the science of forces and motion and will touch on the environmental impact of transportation. The Children will design and make their own vehicles and around this time we will be going on a trip to Bicton Park (further information to follow) to go on their train. We will be writing recounts of the experience. Next half term, we will be embracing the international nature of our class this term and will be learning about another location, discovering North America - both the USA and Canada. We will examine the Geographical diversity of this vast continent, some simple history and culture, and we will use my background in Anthropology to learn about Native American or First Nations cultures. All our Art and Music lessons will be in relation to our topic.

Literacy: Our Literacy this term will be linked entirely with our topic, including 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'The Magic Bed', recount about our train ride and information texts about North America.

Phonics: New intake children will be learning Phase 2 of the Letters and Sounds scheme. Year One and September-intake children will be continuing with Phase 3.

Maths:

Foundation children will continue to consolidate their use of numbers to 10 and beyond. They will engage in practical activities that give them opportunities to practice counting, adding and subtracting, and will develop their independence in writing out the sums they do. Children will sort and talk about sorting, based on numerical properties or properties of shape. They will learn how to talk about shapes in terms of their properties and begin to identify 3D shapes by name.

Year 1 children will continue to consolidate their use of numbers to 20 and beyond. They will understand place value of 2 digit numbers and be able to use this information to help with addition and subtraction activities. They will engage in practical activities that give them opportunities to practice counting, addition, subtraction, doubling and halving, as well as the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They will record their work appropriately using mathematical functions, number lines and tables. They will start to learn how to create simple bar charts and how to read data when presented in simple forms. Children will consolidate their understanding of properties of both 2D and 3D shapes, including when they appear in their irregular form. They will also use all their Mathematical understanding to solve problems and carry out their own investigations.

PE: We will continue to use the Leap Into Life scheme for PE. At this point, the children will not need PE kits as we will be indoors. Depending on how the weather is this year, I doubt we will be using PE kits until at least after half term, if not after Easter.

RE and PSHE: Mrs Clark will be teaching these subjects on the 8th and 14th January, and then Mrs Jane Anear will be teaching them every Monday afternoon until Mrs Clark returns at the end of term. Mrs Anear is a former member of Tedburn teaching staff and is our regular supply teacher. The children know her well.

Reading: We teach the skills of reading in our daily phonics lessons. We also do Guided Reading every Tuesday afternoon. School-home reading books are more for reading at home. We endeavour to read your child's home-school books with them once a week. So long as you continue to read with them at home, this is perfectly sufficient. Each child will have 2 reading books at a time. This will keep them from going through the scheme too fast and will allow them to ensure their skills are secure. If you find your child has read their books and is ready for another, either come in at the end of the day and we can give you another or (preferably) share other books with your child, such as picture books they enjoy, or even comics or magazines. Reading is about much more than 'Reading books' and it is very healthy for children to explore a wide range of literature and genres.

Reading evenings: I will be holding informal reading evenings on Tuesday 19th January and Thursday 21st January at 15:40. All are welcome to attend either date to learn more about reading with your child and Phonics. I hosted a similar meeting last term, which was well attended. If you came last time you may be interested in coming again as we are now in Phase 3 and it would also be good to share ideas and experiences of reading with children over the last term. I also have some new handouts with some nice activity ideas. If you cannot attend, please let me know and I will send a copy home. I look forward to seeing you!

If any one has any time they would like to use to come into school and volunteer with the children you will be most welcome and appreciated. This may be to read with the children, to go on trips, do Art activities, ICT, Music or any other skill you think you might be able to share. Maybe you have something you could talk to the children about in relation to their topic. In the past, I've had parents talk to children about being a pilot, fishing, babies, living in another country or their childhoods. If you think you might like to do ANYTHING, even on an ad-hoc basis then please come and talk to me about it.

If you have any questions about anything in this letter or about your child's education then please come and see me.

Yours faithfully

Amy Williams