

Reception Class Newsletter

Spring 2017



Welcome back! I hope that everyone has had a lovely break over Christmas, myself, Mrs Hayhurst and Mrs Oxlade have loved hearing about everyone's visit from Santa! We have had a great start to the Spring Term and are very much looking forward to the weeks ahead.

Themes

We have started the term with the topic of 'Bears' and are very excited to now have our own bear cave in the classroom! During this topic we will be exploring bear stories such as We're going on a Bear Hunt and Goldilocks and the Three Bears as well as looking at facts about real bears. The children will also be given the opportunity to talk about any special teddy bears they have at home.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children have formed good relationships with both each other and the adults within the class. This term we will continue to work on encouraging the children to share their ideas and opinions as well as listening to the ideas of others. We will also be thinking about our feelings and discussing how to stay healthy.

Communication and language

Throughout the term the children will be given lots of speaking and listening opportunities. To support this please continue to encourage your child to draw, write and/or stick photographs of what they have been doing outside of school into their Wow books to share with the class. We will also still be regularly doing show and tell however show and tell items do need be kept in book bags for the rest of the school day to ensure that no objects are lost or broken.

Maths

This half term we will continue to work on counting and ordering numbers to 20. We will be learning about one more and one less. We will also be using groups of objects to learn how to add and take-away. Through our topic we will also explore shape, space and measure by learning about length and capacity.

Literacy.

In literacy we will be looking at both non-fiction and fiction books about 'Bears.' The children will also be developing their writing skills by writing some simple words and sentences linked to the topic.

Phonics

The children will continue to receive daily phonics sessions. The children are all trying extremely hard in phonics and they will be encouraged to use what they learn in phonics, within their reading and writing, outside of the sessions.

Understanding the world

This half term we will be learning more about how to be healthy. Last term we looked at healthy and unhealthy food and we will be broadening this by looking at different activities that we can do to stay healthy. We will also be learning about bears around the world, their similarities and differences and their habitats. The children will also be developing their ICT skills by having one session a week in the school ICT suite

Physical development

The children will continue to learn gymnastics through P.E sessions on Wednesdays and dance on Fridays. Please ensure that all of your child's P.E kit is labelled with their name.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be taking part in various creative activities, including combining and exploring different materials. We will also be developing our drama skills through acting out our favourite bear stories. In music we will be listening to and creating different sounds, as well as experimenting with movement to music.

Reading books

All of the children are very enthusiastic about their reading books. Any support that you can give your child with reading is very much encouraged. Please can you ensure that your child brings their reading book to school every day so that their reading can be listened to throughout the week. Books will continue to be changed once a week in school on a Monday.

Tapestry

It has been fantastic to have so many parents viewing their child's learning journey on Tapestry and adding their own comments and photographs. You will continue to receive observations to view throughout the year so that you can keep up to date with what your child has been learning in school. We love to hear about what the children have been doing outside of school so please continue to add your own photographs and observations, the ones we have had so far have been great! Also thank you to everyone that completed the technology task and showed their child's ICT skills, this was really useful to add as evidence to their learning journey. More tasks will be on their way!

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support and if you would like to discuss anything please do not hesitate to speak to myself, Mrs Hayhurst or Mrs Oxlade.

Miss Anderson
Reception Class Teacher

What are we learning this term?

English

The children will explore both fiction and non-fiction genres this term. We will focus on narrative, recounts and information texts.

Children will also explore a range of space poems, linking to our 'Space' topic and Space fantasy stories.

The children will continue to have daily phonics lessons, in ability based groups along with Guided Reading sessions to develop comprehension skills.

Science

Our science topic this term will focus on **Humans** and then **seasonal change**. Children will identify, name and label the basic parts of the human body and explore the senses. They will also begin to observe changes across the seasons and describe weather associated with each season.

The children will also be further developing their scientific enquiry skills.



Year 1

Spring Term

2017

Welcome back!

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and that the children are rested and ready for the new term ahead!

The following information will help you in supporting your child's learning at home.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to call in and see me at the end of the school day.



Maths

The children will continue to work on their number facts: doubles, bonds and more and less of a number. They will also continue to work on addition and subtraction including using money and word problems.

As the term continues, the children will also explore 2d and 3d shapes, time, measures and also fractions. Children will begin to find half of a shape and number.



Reminders!

Please ensure that children bring their reading book bags to school every day with their books and records in. Reading books will be changed on Mondays.

Children may also bring a water bottle to school to keep in the classroom. It would be helpful if this was filled up at home and brought in each morning.

Show and Tell remains on a Friday afternoon. This will now be done on a rotational basis- please see letter to follow. The children may bring in 1 item but please ensure that this is not of great value.

Enquiry

Our new topic is Space. This is a really exciting and fascinating topic which I'm sure the children will love. Children have already started to think about what they already know and what they would like to learn in this topic.

Children already seem very enthusiastic about our new topic so we can't wait to get 'stuck-in'. The children will learn about the solar system, how the sun and moon move and about the Space Race.

After half term the children will focus on Neil Armstrong and the exciting adventures of Tim Peake.

Art/DT

Our Art and D&T sessions will link with our overall theme of Space.

This half term, the children will be designing and making their own space vehicles with wheels and axels. Any junk boxes to help with this would be much appreciated!

After half term, the children will be completing an artist study on Van Gough's, 'Starry Night'.

PE

The children will take part in outdoor games on a Thursday and dance/gym on a Tuesday.

These days can change from week to week, so please ensure that outdoor and indoor PE clothing (including suitable footwear) is in school at all times.



ICT

The children will use ICT to support and enhance their learning throughout the curriculum. This will involve developing their skills such as: finding things out, developing ideas, sharing information and evaluating. We will also continue to learn about how algorithms work.

Homework

Children will be bringing home their spelling list this week for the half term. Children will not be formally tested on these, instead they will be 'drip-fed' into phonics sessions. Please support your child to learn their spellings.

Please continue to listen to your child read and question your child about the book and please continue to support your child on RM maths.



I am very much looking forward to the term ahead!

If you have anything space related that you would like to share with the class, that would be fantastic and we will take great care of anything brought in!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Midgley

English

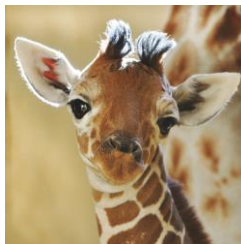
As part of our Africa based enquiry we will be exploring stories from Africa, such as some of the traditional Anansi stories, as well as Handa's Surprise and Handa's Hen by E.Browne. As we find out more information about the African continent and the animals there, we will be writing our own informative reports.

Year 2 will continue to have daily phonics and spelling lessons, along with Guided Reading sessions to develop comprehension skills.



Science

In the first half term we will explore '**Animals and their habitats**' in relation to African animals and we will find out more about the needs of living things and their young.



We will also be investigating the uses of everyday materials and the children will be planning and carrying out their own enquiries.

What are we learning this term?

Year 2
Spring Term
2017

Happy New Year!

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and that you are all ready to help us explore our new enquiry:

**Where would you prefer to live:
England or Africa?**

The following information aims to help you in supporting your child's learning at home.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to call in and see us at the end of the school day.



Maths

In Maths our focus will be on the four operations. We will continue to explore the addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers and investigate statements about these.

Your child will also learn to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. You can help with this firstly by practising counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10, then with regular practise of recalling the facts.

Everyday problem solving is also a great help. For example, 'Sweets cost 5p each. I have 30p. How many sweets can I buy?' Or 'There are 5 in our family. If we all have 2 sausages how many will I need?'

Reminders!

Please ensure that children bring their reading book bags to school every day with their books and records in. Once your child has read their book they should answer some comprehension questions in writing. We aim to change books on a Tuesday and a Friday. Please encourage your child to place their book in the basket when it needs changing.

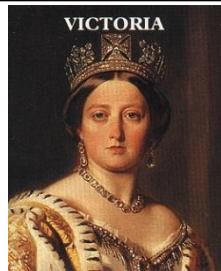
PE is on a Thursday and Friday, children need both their indoor and outdoor PE kits.

Children may bring a water bottle to school to keep in the classroom. It would be helpful if this was filled up at home and brought in each morning.

Enquiry

The topic for the first half term is '**Where would you prefer to live: England or Africa?**' Through this topic the children will explore what life is like in a contrasting part of the world. We will look at the climate, animals, people and cultural art work from some African countries, with greater reference to Kenya.

During the second half term we will be asking '**Who was Queen Victoria?**' We will compare similarities and differences between life now and in the time of Queen Victoria.



ICT

The children will use ICT to support and enhance their learning throughout the curriculum. This will involve developing safe use of the internet and finding reliable information. We will also use creative programmes to help create African patterns and designs.



PE

During the first half term children will have indoor PE (Gymnastics) on a Thursday afternoon.

The outdoor games session (Tag Rugby) will take place on a Friday afternoon.

Please ensure that outdoor and indoor PE clothing (including suitable footwear) is named and in school at all times.



Homework

In Year 2 we find that homework is best when it is 'little and often'. During the week we expect the children to regularly practise their reading and respond to questions in their yellow reading journal.

Your child will also bring a copy of the number facts and times table booklets so that they can practise these regularly. Each Friday there will be an informal times tables test focusing on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Spelling lists will be given for each new unit so that you can help your child learn the spelling patterns we are currently focusing on. Remember that your child should also be able to read and spell the common exception words for Years 1 and 2 by July.

They will continue to bring home practise sheets for grammar hammer .

We are looking forward to an exciting term in Year 2!

If you have anything related to our topic that you would like to share with the class, that would be fantastic and we will take great care of anything brought in!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mrs Lewer and Mrs Webb

What are we learning this term?

English

This term we will be looking at a range of different genres of writing including instructions, adventure stories, information texts and diaries. These writing styles will be linked with our topics (Staying Healthy, Plants and the Stone Age).

The children will have focused sessions on grammar, punctuation and spelling each week. There will also be regular Guided Reading sessions to develop their comprehension skills and weekly spellings to practise at home.



Science

During the spring term we will be learning about Magnets, Staying Healthy and Plants. These topics will link with our English and Geography sessions throughout the term.

Within the topics there will be opportunities for the children to plan and conduct investigations and experiments.

The children will also be further developing their scientific enquiry skills in addition to their teamwork skills.



Year 3

Spring Term

2017

Welcome back!

I am really looking forward to teaching your child in the spring term. The following information will help you in supporting your child's learning at home.

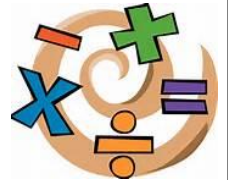
If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to call in and see me at the end of the school day.

Maths

We will continue to build on previous knowledge, revising place value, all four operations and problem solving throughout our mathematics lessons.

We will continue to work towards the children learning their times tables as this will assist them with the maths work.

Throughout the term we will be learning various written methods for all four operations and developing methods to help apply our mathematical knowledge and skills.



SEAL

Social and emotional aspects of learning

Our SEAL topics are 'Going for Goals' and 'Relationships'. As part of these themes the children will consider how to interact with others and how to work effectively towards their goals in a positive way.



Enquiry

We will begin the term looking at staying healthy and considering the question '**How do we keep our bodies healthy?**'



We will then move onto plants and think about '**Why are plants not all the same?**' Through this we will look at the parts and purpose of plants whilst comparing different plants in various geographical locations. For the second half term the topic we will be focusing on is the Stone Age.

Both topics will be based on questions raised by the children and therefore personalised to their interests.

Throughout the enquiries the children will be developing their skills in investigation, communication and analysing evidence.

Art/DT

Our Art and D&T sessions will link with our topics for the term.

We will be developing our art skills through using a range of media and techniques.

PE

We will be focusing on Football, Tag Rugby, Netball and gymnastics during games in the spring term. We will develop and build up the necessary skills and focus on team work.

PE will take place on Wednesday and Friday each week. Please ensure kits are in school each week.



ICT/Computing

The children will use ICT to support and enhance their learning throughout the curriculum. We will be continuing our email project during this term also.

RE

Miss Hornshaw will continue to teach RE to the class every Thursday afternoon. The focus of RE is both Hinduism and Christianity.

Homework

Weekly spellings will be given out on Thursdays and spelling tests will occur on Wednesdays. Children will also bring home reading journals. We would be grateful if you can complete three comprehension questions with your child after reading a book. A selection of questions can be found in the back of the reading records.

Occasionally further homework will be set and homework books will be sent home to assist children in completing this.



Please ensure your child brings their reading book, reading diary and times table challenge card to school on a daily basis. In the first half term, Miss Alcock will be teaching the class also as part of her Schools Direct teacher training placement.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hoyle

English

The children will look at spelling and grammar each week throughout the term and opportunities to apply what we have learned will be presented through topic work and by exploring different genres of writing. This term we will cover persuasive writing, poetry, myths and legends and instructions and dramatic conventions.

As a school, one of the areas we are looking to continuously improve is spelling. As a class the weekly spelling results have been good, I would appreciate your continued support in making sure that your children have learned their spellings for the week by Friday. It is also really important that the children read with you and change their books regularly.

Science

In the spring term, we will focus on the biology units '**Living Things and Their Habitats**' and '**Humans and other Animals**' and '**States of Matter**'.

These science units will give us an excellent opportunity to explore our outdoor learning area, something I know the children really enjoy.



What are we learning this term?

Year 4 **Spring Term** **2017**

Welcome back!

As we move in to the spring term, I would first of all like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

The children have worked hard and learned lots in the autumn term – hopefully we will return to school ready to continue with our learning. The spring term for a lot of children is the term in which they make the most progress as they have become comfortable and settled in the routines and lessons and therefore can concentrate on moving forward quickly.

The following information will help you in supporting your child's learning at home.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to call in and see me at the end of the school day.



Maths



The children will continue to consolidate and develop their knowledge of the four operations daily. The focus of the lessons this term will be around fractions, time, decimals, and money. We continue to use ICT as part of the children's learning and have login details for Sumdog, RM Easimaths and TimesTables Rockstars. These are excellent and enjoyable ways of helping to develop maths skills. All children **need** to know their times tables to enable them to undertake all maths work. Thank you for supporting the children with their maths homework which will continue to be set to consolidate learning from the previous week.

ICT

The children will continue to use ICT to support and enhance their learning throughout the curriculum. Through the Purple Mash platform, we will be developing our programming skills as part of the computing strand of this subject as well as using ICT as part of other subjects. We will use spreadsheets and data bases and continue to use multimedia to display our work and our learning. Look out for posts on Twitter and the See Saw app!



Enquiry

What does sustainable mean? Our enquiry topic will look to investigate sustainable development and our impact in the environment. This topic will lean towards the geography elements of the curriculum but gives opportunities to develop skills in art, design and technology, and science. As part of this topic we will look at how we use energy and other resources and how we can change habits to ensure that we are using resources wisely.

Music/RE

Mrs. Drewery will teach RE and art on a Thursday afternoon; this will link in with our enquiry topic while also giving the children opportunities to develop their skills in this subject area.

We will develop our music skills and knowledge of theory through our enquiry topic, linking in different musical themes and using different instruments.



PE

Indoor PE will take place on Monday afternoon in the hall and will alternate half termly around gymnastics or dance and outdoor games will be on a Friday afternoon.

Towards the end of the autumn term there were some children who needed to borrow PE kit or outdoor shoes in order to take part in PE and games so please ensure PE and outdoor games clothing (including suitable footwear) is in school throughout the week in case of a change of day due to bad weather.

PE and games are mandatory subjects in the same way as maths and English.

Modern foreign languages



We will continue to develop our written and spoken French and look at the culture of this country.

We will extend our knowledge of numbers in French while developing our vocabulary for seasons and calendars, pets and family, the home and schools

Homework

Maths homework will continue to be given weekly on a Monday, and needs to be returned on Friday. Maths homework will be set to consolidate prior learning or develop new skills. The reading journal plays an important part in the children's homework. Please ensure that your children read with you as often as they can and record this in their reading journal along with any questions answered, or other activities linked with reading. As with all books, homework should be completed in pencil or black ink. The children will bring home weekly spellings and times tables to learn. Please continue to support your child to learn their tables and spellings. Spellings tests will be on a Friday morning.

Please ensure your child brings their reading book, reading journal and times table challenge card to school on a daily basis.

To avoid congestion around the Year 4 door, please drop off and collect the children from the playground.

Mrs Drewery, Miss Hornshaw and I are looking forward to building on our good start to this academic year and look forward to the term ahead.

Mr Nevet

English

The children will revise specific genres this term covering fiction and non-fiction. They will mainly focus on persuasive text, narrative and biography/autobiography.

Other written work will be carried out during topic time and linked to our new theme of St Lucia.

The children will continue to have focussed sessions on grammar, punctuation and spelling. The children will also have weekly Guided Reading sessions to develop their comprehension skills.

Science

For the first part of the spring term we will be learning about **Living things and their habitats**.

In the second part of the spring term we will be learning about **Electricity**.

The children will also be further developing their scientific enquiry skills.



What are we learning this term?

Year 5/6
Spring Term
2017

Welcome back!

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and that the children are rested and ready for the new term ahead!

The following information will help you in supporting your child's learning at home.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to call in and see me at the end of the school day.



Maths

We will continue to build on previous knowledge, revising place value, all four operations and problem solving. We will also have a focus on fractions and measures this term. All children **need** to know their times tables to enable them to undertake all maths work.



Maths Homework will build on work taught in class.

SATs Revision Club / Revision Guides

For our Year 6 children, SATs Revision Club will take place on a Wednesday after school. All children in Year 6 are welcome. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their confidence in solving SAT style questions.

The Year 6 children will be bringing home their own Revision Guides. Please work through the guides with the children to help them prepare for their SATs. The children's guides need to be brought to school every day.

Adults continuing to work in the classroom with us during the Spring term include Mrs Atkins and Mrs Drewery. The children will also be taught by Mrs Lilly for half a day each week and Mrs Drewery will continue to teach the children RE and Music. RE will focus on the religions of Christianity and Hinduism.

Enquiry

Why live in St Lucia?

Our new topic is St Lucia. We will begin the topic by asking the children what they already know about St Lucia and what they would like to learn. The children will then ask specific questions about the topic area. We will then plan the topic based around these questions so that the children find the topic engaging and personalised to their interests. Throughout the topic the children will be developing their skills in investigation, communication and analysing evidence.

Art/DT

Our Art and D&T sessions will link with our overall theme of St Lucia. We will be focusing on the landscape of St Lucia compared with that of our local area. In particular we will be studying the artist and work of David Hockney.

Throughout our St Lucia topic we will be finding out about Fairtrade. This will then link to the designing, making and evaluating of our own Fairtrade snacks.



PE

As the children covered their outdoor sessions in tag rugby and cricket during the autumn term, they will begin the spring term with indoor sessions focussing on dance. These sessions will be on a Monday afternoon.

The children will need their outdoor and indoor PE kit on a Monday for their session although they should have their PE kit in school at all times to allow for any changes to the timetable.



Computing

The children will use ICT to support and enhance their learning throughout the curriculum. This will involve developing their skills such as: finding things out, developing ideas, sharing information and evaluating. They will also have the opportunity to take and edit their own photographs linked to their art topic of landscapes. Towards the end of the term the children will use specific apps on the iPad to create a presentation.

Homework

Weekly homework will continue to be given on a Friday and needs to be returned by the Wednesday of the following week. Children will also bring home weekly spellings and times tables to learn. Spelling tests will be on a Tuesday. Please support your child to learn their spellings. Every child also has their own login for Times Tables Rock Stars. Please encourage your child to play this online game, in order to support them learning the rapid recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12.



Please ensure your child brings their reading book, reading journal, times table challenge card and Revision Guides (Year 6 only) to school on a daily basis.

Thank you for your support throughout this school year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Burkinshaw