

Class 1 Newsletter Summer 2016



Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a really lovely Easter and that you're ready for the Summer Term, which is always busy and fun-filled! Our activities include a trip to Oxford Castle, the Explorer Dome, our class assembly and Sports Day.

English

English continues to take place within topic sessions, usually in the morning, and consists of whole class shared reading and writing, followed by independent activities. The main areas to be covered are non-fiction texts, stories, poetry on a theme and recounts.

Grammar and punctuation are taught continuously alongside word level skills and we will continue to teach phonics every day.

Guided reading

Guided reading continues this term, giving the children access to a wide range of texts and regular reading with an adult as part of a focused group. Reading skills are very important at this stage in your child's development, as it allows them to access all areas of the curriculum. It is through guided reading that we assess your child's fluency and comprehension skills.

Individual reading

We will continue to change reading books by Thursday each week providing your child has finished the previous week's books. We encourage children to read a text more than once as this helps to develop confidence in reading as well as sight vocabulary. Please continue to use the reading diary to communicate progress or make relevant comments on your child's reading.

Maths

Each lesson begins with a mental and oral warm up activity. These skills are then applied to all aspects of independent maths work to encourage mental calculation. This term, we explore a variety of number skills such as partitioning numbers into their 'tens' and 'units', rapid recall of addition and subtraction facts and adding numbers together where we have to go over a multiple of 10 for example $18 + 5 =$. We will also look at measures, comparing and measuring capacities. If you would like to practise anything with your child at home then we would suggest the following:

- Learning pairs of numbers that make 10 (by heart – not needing to work out)
- Counting on and back in 1s or 10s from a 1 or 2 digit number
- Counting in 2s and 5s
- Telling the time on the hour, half past, quarter to and quarter past
- Knowing the coin names and making amounts using different coins.

Topic

Our first topic for this half term is 'Out of this World' which will involve learning about space, inventions, aliens and other fantasy creatures or characters. After half term, our topic will be 'King of the Castle.' Children will be observing local buildings, drawing on their own experiences and exploring the influences of time. They will compare housing around the world and in other times, including the Middle Ages. The children will also be visiting Oxford Castle and exploring how it was used as a home. They will take part in two workshops, one focusing on daily life in the castle, and one focusing on the historical story of Stephen and Matilda.

ICT

The children will have frequent access to the laptops. This term we cover word processing skills, modeling and presenting information. The children will also be learning how to print and save their work.

PE

PE sessions will be on Wednesdays (with sports coach) and Tuesdays. Many of these lessons will be outside so please could you provide long warm trousers in a dark colour in case the weather is not being kind to us. We would like to remind you that children are not permitted to wear earrings for PE sessions, so unless your child can take out their own earrings, please remove them before they come to school on these days. We would also like to remind you that all items of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Homework

We will soon be sending out a 'Takeaway Homework Menu' that will provide a selection of tasks, related to what we have been learning in class, at different levels of challenge. The idea is that your child can choose the task or challenge that they would most like to tackle. More information will come out with the menu!

Please make sure you check our blog weekly to see what we have been learning!

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Marsh and Mrs K Lucas