

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## Curriculum Letter Spring Term 2009 year 1 and 2

Dear Parents,

A Very Happy New Year! We hope this year will continue to be enjoyable, challenging and stimulating for your children. Most of all we want the children to be happy so please continue the daily informal contact that we have established; don't hesitate to talk to us about any concerns you may have. We are lucky enough to have several parents who help out in class, if you would like to help in class please talk to us. Parent helpers are very much appreciated and it doesn't have to be a regular commitment.

This term we welcome Kayleigh Smith a trainee teacher who will be working with the class. Kayleigh will join the class on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Literacy**

In **Literacy** this term the range of work that we will cover will include traditional stories. The stories will include The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs, Tiger Child and How Rabbit Stole the Fire by Joanna Troughton. Our non-fiction work will concentrate on information texts. Literacy will also be taught through our Cross-curricular Fire, River and Journeys topics and this will include recount writing, role-play, diary entries and comprehension work. The children's writing confidence has grown and they are all prepared to 'have a go' at writing a story, which is actually a very difficult task (when did you last write a story? I know it is a long time since I did!)

Reading and spelling will continue to play a vital role in developing the children's literacy. Weekly spellings will focus on the phonic sound we are working on in class, and the High Frequency Words. The children will have the opportunity to change their reading book on a daily basis if they have read it, although as the children take longer and more challenging books, this will not always be appropriate. Please continue to read with your child daily; every child in this class enjoys books and I cannot tell you how satisfying it is to read to them and share books with them. The class have become quite adept at responding to literature.

We will read with the children individually as often as possible and they will take part in a group guided reading session regularly. We shall continue to work on the development of a neat, joined style of handwriting that is used consistently.

### **Homework**

We will continue to give the children their spelling homework and usually a piece of literacy and numeracy homework every Thursday, to be returned by the following Wednesday. On a Monday, when appropriate, the children may be given Science homework, often this will be of a practical nature. They will be tested on their spellings each Thursday just as we did last term. The children are all very familiar with this routine and try hard with their spellings and homework. Many thanks for your support with homework and the value that you give this home-school link.

## **Numeracy**

New language and methods will be introduced in addition and subtraction. For the Year 2 children we will be extending the numbers we work with to 1000. We will look at number sequences, multiples and rounding numbers to the nearest 10. The children will use mental addition and subtraction to solve simple word problems involving 'real life' situations. We will extend our use of multiplication and division. Some children know their 10x 2x and 5x tables randomly; if your child is still not sure please practice at home, a quick 5 minutes on the way to school can be a game (honest!). We will estimate, measure and compare mass and length. We will investigate shape and symmetry and begin to look at angles, position and direction. There will be a link with **ICT** which is based on controlling a floor turtle. We will extend our work with money and time using an analogue and digital clock. Finally we shall look at organising and using data.

## **Science**

In science we shall be studying 'Forces'. We will be looking at pushes and pulls and linking the work to our topic on Journeys and Routes.

## **Art and DT**

In **Art** this term our areas of study are **Painting**, which will include responding to the work of **Wassily, Kandinsky** and **Anthony Frost**, and **Textiles** which will include work on dip-dye, printing blocks and card wraps. In **DT** our design assignment is to produce a bridge this will take place after half-term.

## **Cross Curricular Topics**

Our topic 'Fire' will cover the areas of English, Science, Art, and DT; it will have a historical emphasis when we look at the '**Great Fire of London**'. This links very well with our geographical study of London last term, and our work on Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. Our second topic is 'Routes and Journeys'; the main emphasis of this topic is Science and ICT but it has links with Geography History DT Art PSHE and Music.

## **Gymnastics, Dance and Music**

In Gymnastics the children will be working on a sequence of movements that includes four elements. In music the children will be exploring Pulse and Rhythm. The children will be re-visiting some of the dance work that they did last term linked to our river project. Some of the children have been invited to demonstrate a dance lesson to PE co-ordinators in February, more information about this to follow.

As you can see the children will be involved in a wide variety of activities and I hope that they share many of these with you. You are very welcome to come into the classroom to look at what the children have been doing. The children are very proud of what they achieve and it is important that they have the chance to share it.

## **Requests**

Could we ask for old newspapers for covering tables in Art (please be aware that we are careful with the images that the children may see) and any small boxes for making 17<sup>th</sup> Century houses.

We look forward to meeting you formally again in March for Parents Evening but of course we look forward to seeing you regularly. We wish to foster a happy and caring environment, if you have any concerns about your child during the term don't hesitate to come in and talk to us. Should the matter need more than a few minutes, we can make an appointment.

We look forward to a happy, hard-working term,

Yours sincerely

Julie Packard & Gill Packard