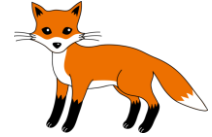


Foxes Class Newsletter



Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new term and a new class. I hope you and the children have enjoyed a restful summer holiday and that they are ready to begin an exciting new year at school in Year Two. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, getting to know your children and watching them progress and succeed. I will be teaching in Year Two across the whole week, with the exception of Thursday afternoons, when Mrs Berry will be teaching science. Mrs Richardson will be our full time Teaching Assistant in the classroom and Miss Mann will be supporting in class every morning. We will also be welcoming Miss Vella this term, who is completing her teacher training and will be with us between now and Christmas. I am sure she will quickly become a member of the team. Although she will be leading some lessons, please be reassured that I will continue to oversee the learning and her presence will give me the opportunity to work with different children in each lesson.

With the aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Foxes Class this term.

In **literacy** we will focus on stories with familiar settings, whereby the children will read and work with a selection of stories set in places familiar to them, including 'Dogger', 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and 'Five Minutes Peace'. The children will listen to stories, retell stories in their own words, explore narratives through role play and drama and engage in a range of fictional writing for different purposes. Within the literacy curriculum, we will teach phonics to support reading and I will hear your child read at least once a week through daily guided reading sessions. We will also practise spellings and maintain a focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting within literacy lessons.

Our **maths** this term will revolve mainly around aspects of number, including place value; partitioning; counting, reading and writing numbers; comparing and ordering numbers; addition; subtraction and calculations involving money. We will encourage the children to practise and secure their two and ten times tables, and we will have regular informal mental arithmetic tests to support the children's ongoing learning.

Our **science** topic is 'Everyday materials', within which we will explore the uses of materials in our everyday lives and how these materials can be changed. Our science lessons aim to take a practical approach to learning, with many opportunities for simple experiments around materials, in the classroom.

Our **history** topic this term is 'The Great Fire of London'. The children will learn about how this significant event in history began and how the fire spread, as well as finding out about Samuel Pepys and his famous diary. There will be many opportunities for creative writing within the topic, as well as making links with art and DT.

In **music** the children will learn rhymes and songs that enable them to practise singing in large and small groups, and allow them to explore rhythm, as well as making changes to familiar tunes. We also hope to start teaching the recorder to the whole class at a beginner's level later this term.

Our **RE** topic explores parables in Christianity, such as 'The Good Samaritan', 'The Lost Sheep' and 'The Two Builders'. The children will hear and retell the stories and reflect on their messages and teachings for Christians. As a Methodist school, Christian values will naturally be part of our learning, both in RE and within other areas of the curriculum.

Our **PSHE** lessons will focus on 'new beginnings', in which the children will consider ways of adjusting to the new school year and will think about their relationships with others.

Our **computing** topic is entitled 'We are Photographers'. This unit gives children the opportunity for lots of practical work using iPads to take photographs and gives the chance to experiment with selecting and editing photos. The focus of our photographs will be the project 'Photos show feelings', in which we will explore how our emotions can be captured in photographs.

In **DT** we will make links with our work in history. The children will explore vehicles and mechanisms in order to design, make and evaluate their own fire engines that could have been used at the Great Fire of London.

Our **PE** units this term are dance and tag rugby and will be taught on a **Tuesday afternoon** and a **Friday afternoon**. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school every day, with warmer clothing as the weather gets colder. Please also ensure that any long hair is tied back and earrings are removed for your children's safety.

Home learning

With regards to home learning, it is important that your children try to read every night with an adult, to continue to develop their reading beyond that which they do at school. They will have the opportunity to change their book three times a week, **on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. This will be closely supported by an adult at the moment, but we will encourage your children to change their own books more independently in time. Please ensure that if you listen to your child read, you make a note in their reading record, to help us keep track of your children's home reading, and when they need their book changed.

Spellings will be set on a weekly basis, sent home on a Thursday in homework books, and tested the following Tuesday. The children should evidence that they are practising these spellings on the given grid and write three of the words within sentences. We are really aiming to improve the children's spelling, therefore this will be the main part of their homework, but I will also set one additional piece of work a week that relates to another area of the curriculum, which I will also collect on a Tuesday for marking.

Important dates for your diary:

Monday 11th September: 'Meet the Teacher' 2.45pm

Friday 22nd September: BuB Fruit Run

Tuesday 3rd October: Individual Photographs

Thursday 19th October: End of Term 1

Friday 20th October: Staff development day (No school for children)

Monday 30th October: Start of Term 2

I hope that this will be a happy, exciting and rewarding year for your child. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes

Mrs Richardson & Miss Mann