



# Foxes Class Newsletter



## Term 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the final term of the academic year. I can't believe we are nearing the end of Year Two; the time has flown by, and I'm sure this busy term will follow suit. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big "well done" to the children for working especially hard to complete their Key Stage One Assessments last term. They approached the tests with an excellent attitude, and I am very proud of their efforts and achievements.

The following information 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 be making cross-curricular links with our history topic by using stories with a seaside theme as a stimulus for writing, including 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'The Lighthouse Keeper' series. This will involve reading for enjoyment, writing character descriptions, describing settings, retelling stories from an alternative point of view and planning a story sequel for the Lighthouse Keeper. We will also research and write non-fiction reports about lighthouses, and later go on to explore poetry. We will continue to teach daily phonics to support reading and spelling, and maintain a focus on grammar, punctuation and vocabulary within literacy and phonics sessions. Every child will read with an adult twice a week through guided reading, and we will continue to focus closely on reading comprehension, as well as deeper level reading skills such as inference and deduction.

Our learning in **maths** this term will cover number sequences, including ordering fractions; equivalent fractions; measuring related to capacity and temperature; and a range of problem solving with addition and subtraction in different contexts. I will be challenging the children to explain their mathematical thinking in different ways and to use reasoning to justify their answers when completing number work. In preparation for Year 3, I will be teaching the children the earliest form of the formal column method for addition and subtraction.

Our **science** topic this term is 'Plants', which explores how plants grow from seeds and bulbs into mature plants, and what they need to survive and thrive. This area of the curriculum lends itself perfectly to practical science and outdoor learning, and we will be planting some seeds of our own to closely observe and describe their growth. We will also conduct investigations to find out where plants grow most successfully and why certain conditions are better suited than others for enabling plants to grow.

In **history** the children will be learning about social changes within living memory under the theme 'Seaside Holidays'. We will be using lots of photographs, videos and information books to delve into the past, discovering what holidays were like for people living over one hundred years ago and in the last few decades. This will give lots of opportunities for asking questions, making inferences about the past, identifying changes from the past to the present and comparing the lives of others to our experiences today.

Our **music** this term will link to our seaside topic in history, whereby the children will be learning a selection of seaside-themed songs that they will rehearse and perform as a class and in groups. This will involve singing in unison and in rounds, adding actions to accompany lyrics and introducing some percussion instruments into performances.

In **RE**, we will be undertaking a new unit of work, following interesting changes in the RE curriculum. The aims of the new curriculum are to encourage children to ask and explore key questions in depth, with links to religious teachings and their relevance and application to the way we live. This term, we will explore the question '*How should we care for others and the world and why does it matter?*'. Within the unit, we will make links to Methodism, and explore teachings about caring for others, the golden rule, famous believers who looked after others and how we look after the world.

Our **PSHE** lessons will be based around the theme 'Changes', in order to help ease the transition for the children from Year Two into Year Three. The children will have the opportunity to explore feelings associated with change and identify strategies for helping them cope with changes in a positive way. There will be plenty of time this term to address any questions or concerns that the children may have about moving on into Key Stage Two.

Our **computing** topic this term is entitled 'We are Games Testers', which enables the children to explore how computer games work and to try creating some basic maze games of their own. This includes playing games on the software 'Scratch' and 'Purple Mash' to find out how they work, following precise instructions and algorithms. As always, there will be elements of internet safety taught within this unit.

In **art and DT** this term the children will be producing a selection of artwork linked to our seaside topic. We will explore how we can use different drawing, smudging and blending techniques with pastels, and experiment with colour to create pictures on a seaside theme. Later on in the term, the children will have a go at selecting and assembling materials to construct lighthouse models, with working lightbulbs, which they will then paint.

**PE** this term will take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. The children will continue to create and rehearse their class dance routine, which they will perform at the summer fayre, and later on, we will develop skills such as travelling and balancing using the large apparatus. The children will also practice athletics events and gradually be preparing for sports day. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school, that long hair is tied back and that earrings are removed for your children's safety. As the weather gets warmer, children should be wearing shorts and t-shirts and we will ensure children have access to their water bottles outside.

### **Home learning**

Our system for home learning will continue in the same way, with spellings being sent home on a Thursday, to be practised in the grids given, and tested the following Tuesday. The children will also be given homework from another area of the curriculum, which is handed out on a Thursday to be returned for marking the following Tuesday. We will continue to change reading books on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday to come home, and will encourage the children to hand in their own books for changing. Many of the children are choosing their own books now, with adult guidance, so please talk to your children about the choices they are making, and feel free to speak to me if you have any queries about their reading.

### **Important dates for your diary:**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Sponsored Bounce

Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> June: Travelling Book Fair in school

Week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June: 'British Values Week'

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July: Transition Day (Children visit their new teacher in new class)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July: Summer Fayre

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July: Sports Day (All morning)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July: End of Year Reports come home

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July: School Disco (3.30pm-4.30pm for Key Stage One)

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July: Last day of term

I am looking forward to a busy and enjoyable final term with the children before they move into Key Stage Two and, as always, I appreciate all of your continued support. Please do not hesitate to come and see me should you have any queries or concerns.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes & Mrs Richardson