



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 Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings, when Mrs Berry and Mr Packer will teach science and PE. Mrs Richardson will be our full time Teaching Assistant in the classroom.

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 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.

In **science** our 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 retell the stories and reflect on their messages and teachings for Christians.

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 digital cameras and iPads to take photographs and the chance to experiment with selecting and editing photos. While the better weather remains, I hope to link this work to the theme of 'nature', so that we can take advantage of the outdoor environment for learning.

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 **Monday afternoon** and a **Tuesday morning**. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school on these days, 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:

Tuesday 13th September: 'Meet the Teacher' 2.45pm

Friday 16th September: Art/DT Enrichment Day

Friday 23rd September: BuB Fruit Run

Tuesday 4th October: Individual Photographs

Friday 21st October: End of Term 1

Monday 31st October: Staff development day (No school for children)

Tuesday 1st November: Start of Term 2 for children

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