



Foxes Class Newsletter



Term 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term, after what I hope has been an enjoyable Christmas holiday for you all. May I take this opportunity to thank you for the generous Christmas gifts we received last term and to wish you a 'Happy New Year'. We now look forward to another busy term full of exciting learning opportunities in Year 2.

With the continuing 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 be delving into the world of non-fiction, within which the children will explore the features of non-fiction texts, plan and create information pages and factual reports and then go on to look at instructional writing, with the view to writing instructions of their own. I am very keen to exploit many cross-curricular links for our non-fiction writing, particularly with geography and science. Within the literacy curriculum, we will continue to teach daily phonics to support reading and spelling, and every child will read with an adult at least twice a week through guided reading sessions. We will also maintain a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar within literacy lessons and phonics.

In **maths** we will cover a range of topics, some of which will be new, and some of which will continue building on our ongoing work related to number and place value. The children will explore problem solving involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; partitioning numbers in different ways; making estimates; identifying basic fractions; doubling; and 'finding the difference'. We will also look at telling the time and other aspects of measure.

In **science** we will continue our work on 'Living things and their habitats', which will give the children the chance to ask and answer scientific questions about habitats both in their own surroundings and further afield. There will be opportunities to explore habitats in the outdoor environment at school, as well as finding out first-hand about animals on a farm during our visit to Kent College that took place on Wednesday 10th January. We will also look at scientific terminology in animal food chains.

In **geography** we have the exciting topic 'Living in the freezer: Investigating polar environments'. This gives the opportunity to find out lots about the Arctic and Antarctica, such as weather and climate; polar wildlife and landscapes, as well as learning about human expeditions to these incredible places. This topic will provide the content for much of our non-fiction work in literacy.

As much of our **music** last term revolved around our Key Stage One nativity songs, we will be focussing on playing an instrument this term, with the whole class learning some basic tunes on the recorder.

Our **RE** topic explores special places, with a focus on the church as part of the Christian community and the Christian celebration of baptism. I am hoping to liaise with Reverend Jean to arrange a visit to Boughton church so that the children can see first-hand some of the things we will learn about. Further information will follow about this.

Our **PSHE** lessons will focus on 'Going for goals', in which the children will think about challenges they can set themselves and look at the skills and attitudes we need to develop to be able to achieve our goals.

Our **computing** topic, taught by Mrs Berry this term, is entitled 'We are Researchers', which is a unit that develops research skills using ICT. The children will be taught to collect, organise and present information on a computer. The research will link to our geography topic on polar environments.

Following a very successful DT unit last term, in which the children sewed their beautiful Christmas tree decorations, we now move onto an area of **Art and Design: Sculpture**. The children will each make a clay animal sculpture this term with a focus on shaping and manipulating clay, creating texture and making patterns.

PE this term will be taught on **Tuesday afternoons** and **Friday afternoons**. Our units are multi-skills and 'Key Steps', which involves the children learning sequences of movements to perform. Mrs Fulton and I are hoping this will offer the chance for some Key Stage One children to take part in a 'Key Steps' competition later in the Spring Term. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school, with warmer clothing for cold weather.

Home learning

Thank you for your support with completing spellings and homework last term. Our system 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 continue to 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.

I know some of the children are busy learning their times tables at home, which is an excellent support for their learning in maths. If you do want to practise times tables with your child, the main focus in Year 2 is on the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables, but there is nothing to stop your child moving beyond these if they are ready to do so.

Important dates for your diary:

Wednesday 10th January: Kent College Farm Visit (morning only)

Friday 9th February: End of Term 3

Monday 19th February: Staff Development Day

Tuesday 20th February: Start of term 4

I am continually pleased with the growing independence of the children so far in Year Two and I am proud of their continued progress. I am looking forward to another busy, rewarding and enjoyable term for the children, and 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