



Foxes Class Newsletter



Term 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term Five. I hope that you and the children have had a lovely Easter break and that the children are refreshed and ready for a busy term ahead.

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 work in geography by looking at stories from other cultures, largely focussing on stories set in Africa and producing creative writing around the theme of African safari. There will be opportunities for the children to listen to and read stories, retell the plot, explore the settings and characters, discuss their likes and dislikes about the stories and share their opinions. The children will also produce non-fiction writing on African wildlife and later write their own poems on this theme. 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 there will be a continued focus on reading comprehension.

Our learning in **maths** this term will cover various aspects of the four operations (+, -, x and ÷) in a range of contexts and explore the links between numbers through number families and the inverse. There will be an increased focus on using number skills for problem solving involving money and measures and lots of opportunities for children to reason and explain their mathematical thinking. The children are already well prepared to tackle the maths assessments that are coming up this term, but we will continue to familiarise them with the style and content of these tests in our normal maths lessons.

Our **science** topic this term is 'Animals, including humans', which explores animals and their offspring, animal life cycles and human growth, and the basic needs of animals, including humans, to survive. We then look at the idea of a healthy lifestyle, including learning about a healthy, balanced diet, the importance of exercise and the importance of hygiene for humans to stay healthy.

In **geography** we will be doing a comparative study of two places, in which we will compare Boughton and a small village in Tanzania, 'Mto wa Mbu Village'. This will be an excellent opportunity for the children to gain an insight as to how people live in another part of the world, very different to our own village, and will offer the chance to find out about the similarities and differences between the two. As part of this topic, I would like to take the children for a walk around Boughton to explore aspects of the village. Further information about this will follow.

In **music** the children will continue learning to play the recorder and build up a bank of simple tunes that they can play on their own, in groups and as a whole class. We will also listen to, appraise and explore examples of African music, making links with our work in geography and literacy.

In **RE** we will continue to look at Hinduism, this term with a focus on Hindu worship and Hindu gods and goddesses. The children will hear some important stories for Hindus and find out about what some of the well-known Hindu gods and goddesses represent. Later on we will look at Pentecost in Christianity, which tells the story of the birth of the Christian church. Mrs Berry will be teaching RE this term.

Our **PSHE** lessons will be based around the theme 'Relationships', in which the children will think about people who are important to them and how we manage relationships with friends and the people around us. We will look closely at the qualities of a good friend leading to a piece of work on 'A recipe for friendship'.

Our **computing** topic this term allows the children to be programmers! We will use 'Scratch' and 'Purple Mash' on the iPads and the laptops for the children to build basic programs on screen. They will learn how to make simple algorithms by planning accurate sequences of instructions and they will find ways of 'de-bugging' problems within simple computer games. As always, we will talk in detail about aspects of online safety through our computing lessons.

In **art and design**, the children will complete their artist study from last term, using drawing and block printing to replicate the work of William Morris. They will then develop drawing and painting skills, with the chance to use pastels, charcoal, crayons, pencils and watercolours. To make cross-curricular links with our work in geography we will produce artwork related to Africa, with a particular focus on African animal patterns and colour.

PE this term will take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, with some sessions on a Wednesday alongside Mrs Fulton. Our indoor PE will be core strength, followed by dance, with a 'West End' theme, and our outdoor sessions will be cricket and tennis. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school every day, that long hair is tied back and that earrings are removed for your children's safety.

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.

I also urge the children to keep practising their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables at home, as well as any additional number facts, such as recalling odd and even numbers, common doubles and number bonds to 10, 20 and 100.

Key Stage One Assessments (SATs)

As you are aware, the Key Stage One national assessments will be administered this term, across three to four weeks in May. These consist of two maths tests and two reading tests. I would like to reassure you that these tests will be administered by myself in a fairly relaxed manner and generally in smaller groups, rather than as a whole class, which is why we can be flexible across three to four weeks. I will be emphasising to the children that these tests are nothing to worry about, and simply a chance to try their best and prove how much they know! As I have previously mentioned, the children's progress is not assessed on these tests alone, but on the culmination of my ongoing teacher assessments throughout the year.

Important dates for your diary:

Tuesday 17th April: KS1 Drama Workshops

Tuesday 1st May: Class photographs

Monday 7th May: Bank Holiday

Friday 25th May: End of Term 5

Monday 4th June: Staff Inset Day

Tuesday 5th June: Term 6 begins for children

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 and Mrs Richardson