



# Foxes Class Newsletter



## Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, which promises to be a very busy term, as we quickly lead up to Christmas. I hope you and the children enjoyed a rest last week and that the children are ready for another term full of exciting learning opportunities. I would like to take a moment here to say well done to all the children for their hard work last term. Despite the unfamiliar and unusual routines as a result of Covid, they worked extremely hard, showed excellent attitudes to learning and were a pleasure to teach. I have no doubt this will continue this term. Following the same structure as last term, I will be teaching in Year Two for the whole week, with the exception of Monday and Wednesday afternoons, when Mrs Berry will be teaching computing, PE and RE. Miss Hobbs continues to be our full time teaching assistant in Year Two.

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 start with a focus on poetry, including listening to, learning, reading and writing poems. This will include lots of creative work around language. We will then be exploring narratives with recurring language patterns around the theme of winter stories. Within the literacy curriculum, we will teach daily phonics to support reading and spelling, and there will be a consistently strong focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar within literacy lessons. We will continue to teach guided reading every day, within which I will hear your child read as part of a group with a shared text, along with many other activities around reading and comprehension.

In **maths**, we will cover a range of topics, including calculations in the context of money; multiplication and division; 2D and 3D shapes; symmetry; and basic data handling. We will continue to secure the 2 and 10 times tables and regularly use and apply place value and basic number knowledge from Term One. We will also be working to strengthen mental arithmetic skills and continually build in opportunities for reasoning and problem solving.

In **science** our topic this term, and continuing after Christmas, is 'Living things and their habitats', within which we will explore the seven life processes that all living things must do; investigate habitats in which living things survive and thrive; and find out about food chains. I am hoping the weather will be kind to us, so that we have plenty of opportunities to get outside and discover the animal habitats our school environment has to offer!

Our **RE** topic this term explores the question '*what can we learn from sacred books?*' in the context of Christianity and Judaism. The children will consider stories that are special to them, and how religious stories in the Bible and the Torah can teach lessons about the way we might live our lives. All of our RE lessons will give opportunities for the children to ask questions, discuss their ideas and share their points of view.

Following a detailed history topic last term, we will now cover a **geography** unit on 'Continents and Oceans of the World'. The children will use maps, atlases and globes to find out where places are in the world, and we will look in detail at some aspects of each of the seven continents. We will also make cross-curricular links with art and DT, as the children take on the project of making their own papier-mache 3D globes.

Our **music** this term will be based around singing, as we work towards our class nativity in December. The children will work together to learn new songs which they can sing as part of our filmed performance.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled 'what is bullying?' and explores ideas about the impact of hurtful teasing and bullying; online bullying; the feelings associated with appropriate and inappropriate physical contact; and recognising how we can have positive, co-operative relationships with people around us.

In **computing** the children will work on the Chromebooks and become more familiar with the use of Google Classroom. They will then look at ways we can communicate online via email and have a go at writing and sending some fictional emails within Purple Mash. During computing lessons, the children will develop further understanding of internet safety and being responsible online.

In **DT** this term we will be experimenting with sewing! The children will go through the process of exploring existing products, designing their own creations, making their designs into finished items and evaluating their work. In this case, it will be to make hand-sewn Christmas tree decorations. We will also produce some artwork early in term two around the theme of autumn, and will create papier mache globes linked to our geography work.

In **PE**, half of our lessons will be based around creating a wake and shake routine as a class and the other half will be basketball, including basic skills such as throwing and catching, dribbling, shooting and small games. Our PE lessons will take place on **Monday and Friday afternoons**, but 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

Thank you for your support with the whole school changes to homework last term. I hope you are still finding ways to help your children practise their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables at home, as well as their weekly spellings and regular reading. Our system will continue in the same way, with spellings being sent home on a Thursday for practising, and tested the following Tuesday. We will continue to change reading books on a Tuesday and Friday, and will be encouraging the children to hand their books in independently for changing, helping them develop a sense of responsibility over doing this for themselves. As always, if you have any queries around homework, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me on the gate.

If the children want to do any extra work at home to support their learning at school, they might like to investigate world maps and find out about the seven continents. They could also research animals and their habitats. Any work the children choose to do at home will always be celebrated at school.

### Nativity

You will have seen a letter/email at the end of last term regarding arrangements for the KS1 nativity this year. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will each perform a separate nativity in their class bubbles which will be filmed, as we sadly cannot invite parents to watch in school this year. These changes have been carefully made in order to minimise risks in connection with Covid, while still enabling the children to experience this special event in the school year. Please look out for further information regarding parts and costumes very soon.

I am sure this will be another busy, rewarding and enjoyable term for the children, and I appreciate all of your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes