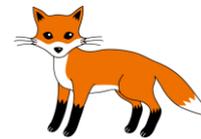




Foxes Class Newsletter



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 and cards we received last term and to wish you a 'Happy New Year'.

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 write factual reports. Our non-fiction work will be based largely around polar animals, enabling us to make meaningful cross-curricular links to our geography and science topics this term. The children will also explore instructional writing, with the view to writing instructions of their own. Within the literacy curriculum, we will continue to teach 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. The children will explore missing number problems with the four operations; partitioning in different ways; finding the difference and doubling and halving. They will learn about basic fractions and complete data handling work involving tally charts, graphs and tables. They will also investigate symmetry in shapes, and recognise and describe patterns and sequences.

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 in their own surroundings and further afield. They will also learn about the basic elements of an animal food chain.

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 singing our Key Stage One nativity songs, we will be focussing on playing a tuned instrument this term, with the whole class learning some simple tunes on the glockenspiel.

Our **RE** topic this term explores the question 'Who is Jewish and what do they believe?' and will teach the children about Judaism. They will consider things that are important to both themselves and the Jewish community and they will compare Jewish celebrations, such as Shabbat and Hanukkah, with our own celebrations. All of our RE lessons will give opportunities for the children to ask questions, discuss their ideas and share their points of view.

Our **PSHE** lessons will explore the key question: 'How can we be healthy?' This will enable the children to consider ideas about things that keep our bodies and minds healthy, such as exercise, rest and food; hygiene routines; and making healthy choices. Class discussions around friendships and respect for others will also be included in our PSHE learning, as and when they arise.

Our **computing** topic this term is a unit that develops data handling skills using ICT. The children will be taught to pose questions that lead them to collect, sort, organise and present data on a computer, using the 2Graph, 2Question and 2Count programmes on Purple Mash. As always, part of our computing work will include important learning around aspects of online safety.

Following some very successful art and DT units last term, in which the children sewed their Christmas tree stockings and completed papier mache globes, we now move onto an area of **Art and Design: Sculpture**. The children will experiment with using clay, focussing on shaping and manipulating clay, creating texture and making patterns.

PE this term will be taught on **Monday afternoons** and **Friday afternoons**. Our units are 'Key Steps' with gym mat work and hockey. Key Steps involves the children learning sequences of gym movements to perform, and there will be an informal in-school competition later in the term. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school every day, with warmer clothing for outdoor PE in cold weather.

Home learning

Thank you for your support with completing spellings and homework last term. Our system of sending spellings and multiplication tasks home on a Thursday, to be completed by the following Tuesday, will continue in the same way this term. 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.

In addition to multiplication practice, spellings and reading, your child may wish to investigate our polar environments topic further at home, such as finding out about polar animals or researching famous expeditions to Antarctica. This tends to be a topic that the children get very excited about, and any work that they do at home around this will be celebrated in class.

Important dates for your diary:

w/c 13th January: 'Bring your manners to school' week

Tuesday 11th February: Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th February: End of Term 3

Monday 24th February: Staff Inset Day (No school for children)

Tuesday 25th February: Term 4 begins for children

I am 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 & Miss Hobbs