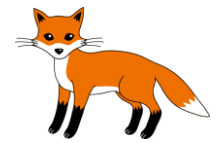


# Foxes Class Newsletter



## Term 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5. 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 to our work in geography by looking at stories from other cultures, largely focussing on stories set in Africa. The children will produce creative writing around the theme of an African safari and will read and retell stories set in Africa. We will also work on some non-fiction writing about African wildlife, during which the children will be able to use and apply learning from earlier in the year about the features of non-fiction texts. 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 reading four times a week, during 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 be continuing with work we had previously started on measures, including measuring weights and solving problems in the context of measures. We will then spend much of this term on the four operations, practising, using and applying addition, subtraction, multiplication and division within various types of problem solving. 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.

In **science**, we will continue to dip into a range of topics, including forces and friction; growing seeds and bulbs; conditions for plant survival; the five senses; food groups for humans; and animal diets. I am hopeful that with potentially nicer weather this term we will be able to do some of our science work outside, especially for learning related to plants and growing.

Our **RE** topic for the next two terms explores the broad question 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' This topic will teach the children about key aspects of Islam as a major world religion, and enable them to find out about Muslim ways of life and beliefs. The nature of the RE curriculum allows the children many opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions and reflect on their own beliefs in relation to religion.

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 am hoping to take the children for a walk around Boughton to explore aspects of the village. Further information about this will follow.

In **music** this term, we will be exploring a collection of African songs and chants with the focus on singing collectively with others, singing in rounds and singing songs containing simple harmonies. The children will also explore how percussion instruments, including body percussion, can accompany these kinds of songs.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled 'What helps us grow and stay healthy?' and explores ideas about making healthy choices for looking after our bodies and minds. This will include discussions around the idea of keeping active, eating healthily and avoiding too much screen time.

Our **computing** topic this term allows the children to be programmers! We will use coding games on 'Purple Mash' 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 be immersing themselves in African art to develop drawing and painting skills using a range of media. We will produce African landscape pictures with pastels, and then explore how colour and pattern is used in traditional African art. The children will create African tribal masks, patterned animals and decorative Maasai jewellery using pens, pencils, crayons and paints.

In **PE**, we will be doing units of work on cricket, dance and Outdoor Adventure Activities (OAA) with team games throughout the summer term. 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, and as the weather gets warmer, please make sure that your child's PE kit includes shorts and t-shirt. They may also wish to wear a sunhat in outdoor PE lessons as the weather (hopefully!) gets sunnier. 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 ongoing support with reading and spellings at home, as well as supporting your children to learn the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. Our home learning system will continue in the same way this term, with spellings being sent home on a Thursday for practising, and tested the following Tuesday. I will set assignments on Maths Shed on a Thursday, which can be accessed any time until the following Tuesday morning. As a whole school, we will be awarding a weekly certificate to one pupil per class who is engaging well with tasks on Maths Shed, which we hope will encourage all children to have a go! 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. If your child is ready, do feel free to go on with learning other times tables, and with practising any basic maths skills, such as addition and subtraction, to encourage quick recall.

If the children want to do any extra work at home to support their learning at school, they might like to investigate aspects of African culture, such as safari animals, traditional African artwork and African music.

### Key Stage One Assessments (SATs)

As you are probably aware, the Key Stage One national assessments (SATs) 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 small 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! In terms of results, the children's progress is not assessed on these tests alone, but on the culmination of my ongoing teacher assessments throughout the year. If you would like to know your child's specific scores, I am very happy to share these with you in July, at the time of our end of year reports.

When I am administering the tests with small groups of children, the rest of the class will be working on an independent project, which, in previous years, the children have really enjoyed. This creative, literacy-based project tends to act as a happy distraction from the tests, which I believe is very important for the children during the period of testing.



### **Our Class Targets**

Across the school, we are working hard to develop all children's independence by setting small targets for the children to work on. With this in mind, the targets for Year Two Foxes this term are:

- To hand in their own reading books and spelling books on the relevant days for changing.
- To make sure they bring a water bottle to school every day and drink plenty during the day.
- To try hard to access Maths Shed at home and have a go at the assignments that are set.

**Dates for your diary:**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Class trip to Leeds Castle

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: BANK HOLIDAY

w/c 16<sup>th</sup> May: Well-being Week

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May: Class photographs

w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Outdoor Classroom Days

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May: Last day of Term 5

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June: INSET DAY (No school for children)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Start of Term 6

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