



# 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 inverse operations. There will be an increased focus on using and applying number skills for problem solving and many 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** 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.

In **RE** we will be completing a unit of work focussed on Methodism within Christianity. This is an important topic in our school, as we are a Methodist school, and the work will consider who Methodists are and what they believe in. The children will learn about John and Charles Wesley and about how Methodism began, and they will consider the core values at the heart of Methodism, exploring how they apply to our own lives.

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 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 sunset 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 djembe drums using pens, pencils, crayons and paints.

**PE** this term will take place on Monday and Friday afternoons. Our indoor PE will be dance and our outdoor sessions will continue to be hockey, following on from last term, along with some sessions on Outdoor Adventure Activities (OAA) with Mrs Fulton. 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 and tested the following Tuesday. The children will also be given maths homework each week, and this term, this will take the form of short mental arithmetic 'tests' to help them practise the types of questions that they may see in their SATs tests. Please do not treat these as tests at home, but just as a good form of practice to build the children's confidence at tackling these types of questions. 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.

### 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. 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.

#### **Important dates for your diary:**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April: Class photographs

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> & Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Parents Consultations

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: End of Term 5

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Staff Inset Day

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Mrs Richardson & Miss Brincat