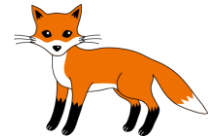


# Foxes Class Newsletter



## Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new term and a new class. I hope you and the children have enjoyed a restful summer holiday and that they are ready to begin an exciting new year at school. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, getting to know your children and watching them progress and succeed. 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 and science, as well as some phonics and spelling. Mrs Richardson and Miss Hobbs will be our full time teaching assistants in Year Two.

With the 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 the term with some non-fiction work all about foxes, giving the children the opportunity to produce some early writing to display in their new classroom. We will then focus on stories with familiar settings and themes, such as 'The Tiger who came to Tea', 'Dogger' and 'Peace at Last'. The children will listen to stories, retell them in their own words, explore narratives through role play and drama and engage in a range of fictional writing for different purposes. Within the literacy curriculum, we will teach daily phonics to support reading and I will hear your child read at least once a week through daily guided reading sessions. We will also practise spellings and maintain a focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting within literacy lessons.

Our **maths** this term will revolve mainly around aspects of number, including place value; partitioning; counting, reading and writing numbers; comparing and ordering numbers; addition; subtraction and calculations involving money. We will encourage the children to practise and secure their two and ten times tables, and we will have regular informal mental arithmetic tests to support the children's ongoing learning.

Our **science** topic is 'Everyday materials', within which we will explore the uses of materials in our everyday lives and how these materials can be changed. Our science lessons aim to take a practical approach to learning, with many opportunities for simple experiments around materials, in the classroom.

Our **history** topic this term is 'The Great Fire of London'. The children will learn about how this significant event in history began and how the fire spread, as well as finding out about Samuel Pepys and his famous diary. There will be many opportunities for cross-curricular writing, as well as making links with art and DT.

In **music** the children will learn, practise and perform simple rhymes and songs in large and small groups. We will explore elements of music such as rhythm and tempo when singing, and work together to write new verses for simple songs. We will make links with our work on the Great Fire of London by learning to play 'London's Burning' and 'London Bridge is falling down' on the glockenspiel, giving a basic introduction to playing a tuned instrument.

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 Wesley and the beginning of Methodism, and they will consider the core values at the heart of Methodism, exploring how they apply to our own lives. 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.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled 'How can we help?' and explores ideas about rules and responsibilities; respect for the rights, needs and privacy of others; and about our responsibility for caring for the environment.

Our **computing** topic is entitled 'We are Photographers'. This unit gives children the opportunity for lots of practical work using iPads to take photographs and gives the chance to experiment with selecting and editing photos. The focus of our photographs will be the project 'Photos show feelings', in which we will explore how our emotions can be captured in photographs.

In **DT** we will make links with our work in history. The children will explore vehicles and mechanisms in order to design, make and evaluate their own fire engines that could have been used at the Great Fire of London. We will also produce artwork around the same theme.

Our **PE** units this term are dance and tag rugby and will be taught on a **Tuesday afternoon** and a **Friday afternoon**. 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

With regards to home learning, it is important that your children try to read every night with an adult, to continue to develop their reading beyond that which they do at school. They will have the opportunity to change their book three times a week, **on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. This will be closely supported by an adult at the moment, but we will encourage your children to change their own books more independently in time. Please ensure that if you listen to your child read, you make a note in their reading record, to help us keep track of your children's home reading, and when they need their book changed.

Spellings will be set on a weekly basis, sent home on a Thursday in homework books, and tested the following Tuesday. The children should evidence that they are practising these spellings using the different strategies they would have been using in Year 1. I will send home a copy of these strategies with their first set of spellings to learn. As well as reading and spellings, activities to support times table practice will make up the rest of the children's weekly homework. If your child wishes to do any additional work at home, any research around our history topic 'The Great Fire of London' would also support their learning at school. Additional work of this kind will always be praised and celebrated in class.

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

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September: 'Meet the Teacher' 2.45pm

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September: McMillan Coffee Afternoon

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Individual Photographs

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October: End of Term 1

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Staff development day (No school for children)

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October: Start of Term 2

I hope that this will be a happy, exciting and rewarding year for your child. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes

Mrs Richardson & Miss Hobbs