



*Finches Class Newsletter*

*Our new topic is*

**Zhongguo 中国**

*(which means China)*



**How to help your child at home this term:**

- Find China on a globe, in an atlas or on the computer and plan a journey there—how would you get there? What would you need to pack? What places would you visit?
- Try some Chinese food.
- Have a look at toys and clothes labels - were any of them made in China.
- Encourage your child to read for pleasure.
- Learn how to tell the time using analogue and digital clocks.

*Spring Term 1 – January/February 2021*

*Mrs. Katie Palmer*

## English

We will be doing Talk 4 Writing work in class looking at the story of Sayeeda, the Pirate Princess and looking at new vocabulary, learning about diary entries, instructions, riddles and story writing.

If you are at home, have a go at activities in the Talk4Writing booklets. Each booklet should last approximately 2 weeks (although some children may complete it more quickly and others may spend longer on different parts).

Ideas to help your child at home whether they are home learning or coming to school:

- Keep on practising reading using the home reading books every day when possible, but if your child fancies a change have a look at: <https://phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/comics.html> where there are different levelled short 'comics' to read.
- As well as home readers, it is important to practise phonics and tricky words at home - Phonics Play are offering a free subscription again <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> and they have lots of different levels which follow the same learning sequence we use in school (if you're not sure which 'phase'/level your child is please ask - it should match the 'phase' on the label on their reading books).
- The Alphablocks have some lovely activities for helping children who are just beginning to read on the CBeebies website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks> and there are lots of shows on the CBeebies iPlayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b01cz0b1/alphablocks>.

## Mathematics

This term, Year 1 will be learning about addition and subtraction (within 20) and beginning to learn about place value in numbers up to 50.

Year 2 will be continuing to learn about multiplication and division (2s, 5s and 10s) and begin learning about statistics (tally charts, pictograms and block diagrams).

**Home learners, please continue to follow White Rose maths** <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>  
This follows the same sequence of maths teaching we do in school.

**Plus for some extra maths fun:**

- Measure ingredients
- Weigh parcels
- Draw treasure maps and plot coordinates
- Make a role play shop or post office and practise using money and giving change.

This is a great website with a Chinese New Year related maths game:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/chinese-dragon-ordering>

## Computing

We will use Google Earth and online maps to find out about China.  
Learning about how computers work.

We will learn how to search for information safely on the internet and finds out facts about China using [www.kiddle.co](http://www.kiddle.co) (a safe visual search engine for children).

## PE



- Traditional Chinese Games e.g. Catch the Dragon's Tail, Cat & Mouse, Hawk Catching Chicken, Moon Cake ([Activity Village](#) has lots of suggestions).
- Movement for Dragon Dance.
- Learn a dance routine with DanceSPARKS - follow this [link](#).

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## Science

### Wild Weather

As scientists we will be:

- Asking what do we know about weather?
- Wondering about the weather and looking at weather forecasts and making our own weather predictions.
- Looking at shadows - how they are made and how they change depending on the time of day.
- Measuring rainfall.
- Learning about wind direction and the points on the compass.
- Measuring temperature and learning how temperature can change depending on the time of day or the season.

## Art & DT

As artists and designers we will be:

- Using cutting and paper skills to make a Chinese lantern and weave a mat.
- Finding out about paper.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011snmr>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMoAe8pXSjI>

- Looking at Chinese characters and painting them onto good luck banners.
- Trying and evaluating Chinese food and trying to eat with chopsticks.
- Making lucky red envelopes with lucky gifts (in China this is usually money).
- Making our own clay terracotta army soldier.
- Creating our own willow pattern plates.



## Geography/History

As geographers we will be:

- Using maps and atlases to find China.
- Asking what is China like?  
Looking at the landscape - villages, towns, cities and countryside.
- Learning about Chinese families, culture and language.
- Finding out about the Chinese New Year

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/chinesenewyear/chinesenewyear.aspx>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/chinese-new-year>

- Finding out about emperors and the Terracotta Army

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HK-mhT4jsA>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4c\\_ADqshdSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4c_ADqshdSA)



## Music

Listening to traditional Chinese music and instruments.

## PSHE/RE



The children will:

- Learn about Chinese New Year and new year celebrations around the world.
- Identify and name feelings.
- Talk about what makes them happy or unhappy.
- Understand the importance of sharing our thoughts and feelings.

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