



Summer 1
Half Term Information for Parents
Year 1

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start the summer term we're hoping for much improved weather and the chance to be outdoors in some of our topic lessons and in PE. Below you will find details of the new topic and learning opportunities we will be providing for your children.

Themes: Summer 1 – Plants and Growing

Cross curricular links:

English: Alongside our Read Write Inc sessions, children will be provided with a variety of reading and writing opportunities linked to our topic, including creative writing linked to Enid Blyton's *The Magic Faraway Tree* and instructional writing on how to plant a seed. There will be an increased focus on handwriting/letter formation and consistent use of capital letters, spaces and full stops as an expected standard.

Maths: In addition to our focus maths objectives, following White Rose Maths Hub, we will look at measures in the context of tracking the growth (hopefully!) of our seedlings, comparing heights using appropriate vocabulary (tall, taller, tallest, short, shorter, shortest).

Science: We will start our topic with a trip to Azure Garden Centre where children will plant seeds to bring back to school to nurture, measure their growth and learn about what plants need to grow well. They will look at common wild plants such as daisies and dandelions and investigate which wild plants are the most common in our school grounds. After looking at common garden plants they will design a small garden. Children will learn how to identify common trees in the local area from their leaves and sort trees into deciduous and ever green. They will make and label plant pictures, including trees.

Geography: We will make links to where different plants grow and how this links to where our food comes from. We will learn about different types of weather in the UK and build on prior knowledge of the four seasons. The children will be introduced to hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator as well as the impact of weather types. Children will have opportunities to observe and record the weather using weather symbols.

Computing: This half term computing will be linked to our DT sessions. Children will create a page for a cookbook using photographs they will take on the tablets to show the stages of a recipe, including safe cutting techniques.

Design Technology: Children will learn key information about healthy eating and where their food comes from (is it grown or caught?). There will be taster sessions, therefore please inform us of any food allergies if you have not done so already. Children will gain some practical ideas about ingredients that can be combined to make interesting and healthy salads/fruit salads. They will learn to use a bridge grip and a claw grip for cutting safely with supervision, teaching children to be safe in the kitchen environment. Children will design and make a fruit salad towards the end of the term.

Music: We are lucky enough to have a visiting singing teacher this half term. Flora will teach the children some new songs linked to plants, growing and the seasons.

Subjects being taught separately this half term:

Maths: Using WRMH sequences of lessons children will be given lots of opportunities for mathematical talk, reasoning and problem solving. Children will use concrete apparatus such as cubes or counters, pictorial representations, moving on to abstract representation using numerals and symbols. We will begin with work on measurement (length and height/weight and volume) Children will be asked to compare, describe and solve practical problems using mathematical vocabulary (long/short, longer/shorter, tall/short, double/half

heavy/light, heavier than, lighter than, full/empty, more than, less than, half, half full, quarter full)

We will then continue our number work with a focus on multiplication and division to count in multiples of twos, fives and tens, as well as to solve one step problems by calculating the answer using concrete objects, pictorial representations and arrays with the support.

PE: In PE this half term Children will be taught to master basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching

participate in team games. Through a variety of activities children will learn about moving at different speeds (walk, jog, run, sprint), travelling using different pathways (straight, curved, diagonal, zigzag, jumping with control and landing safely (jumping for height, distance, in different ways e.g. hopscotch)

RE: Miss Pickering will continue to teach RE this half term with a focus on 'communities'. Children will talk about the different groups they belong to in school, at home and within their local community.

PSHCE: Also taught by Miss Pickering, PSHCE links with the RE theme and has a focus on 'relationships'. Children will begin to understand the different feelings, which are connected to the relationships we have with different people in our lives.

How can you help?

- Ensure your child is in school on time and ready to learn. This includes having all the equipment they need for the day, such as PE kit, reading book and reading record.
- As the weather improves children should have sun cream applied and have sun caps/hats available in school for playtimes and outdoor learning opportunities.
- Practise core vocabulary words. Can your child read and spell them?
- Complete homework activities with your child.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, discussing characters, events and opinions. This is best done often and in short bursts.
- Practise mental maths including counting in 2, 5 and 10, and mental addition and subtraction (What is 16-7?); discuss money, time and measures with real examples. Using watches to tell the time on a weekend will also help. Recognising odd and even numbers.
- Encourage your child to tell you what they have been learning about at school and where possible, extend their learning at home, through books, outings, discussions and the internet.
- Please check your child's book bag frequently for letters and other information.
- If you have any interesting topic related artefacts that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school.

Homework

The homework we set is not compulsory; however, it will be related to our topic and/or phonics and will benefit the children in their learning journey. The homework will be discussed in class and will be aimed at complementing the work completed and giving children a sense of pride in their efforts. Some activities will be research based; others will focus on completing posters, small pieces of writing or simply free choice tasks relating to the plants and growing.

Class Reminders

Reading books and records must be in school every day. Books will continue to be changed weekly.

PE: Mondays and Tuesdays

Please ensure PE kits are in school on all school days to ensure it is available for any extra PE sessions. Children must always have sandshoes. Please check that current sandshoes still fit and fasten securely as we will be outdoors for some of our sessions this half term. There are labelled boxes under the Y1 coat pegs for PE bags. If your child wears glasses – where possible could you ensure that the glasses for PE have a neck support to prevent the glasses from falling off and potentially being broken.