

Supporting your child's work at home - Autumn 2015

In Upper Key Stage 2 - Poplars, Larches and Maples - we follow a syllabus broadly based on the new National Curriculum, carefully adapted to the needs of the children.

Literacy - We follow a skills based Literacy curriculum which concentrates on speaking and listening, writing skills and reading - incorporating both whole-word and phonic skills.

- Support your child with their weekly spellings
- Hear your child read their home reader every week
- Enjoy sharing your child's library book with them and encourage them to recall key information
- Tell us about their weekend and holiday activities so we can talk and write about their 'News' in school
- Encourage your child to complete activities with clear steps which may be recalled (e.g. wrapping a present, getting ready for bed, making a sandwich, etc.)
- Visit www.topmarks.co.uk (select 'Learning Games' and then 'English')

Numeracy - We focus on the following key areas of mathematics, which include number skills, shape space and measure, data handling and problem solving using mathematical knowledge.

- Practice recognising, counting, and ordering numbers regularly and explore number patterns such as counting in 2s, 5s and 10s
- Support your child with telling the time
- Provide real-life experiences of handling money
- Be 'shape detectives' around your home and the surrounding area
- Join 'The Great British Bake Off' and enable your child to experience measuring out ingredients for a real purpose
- Visit www.topmarks.co.uk (select 'Learning Games' and then 'Maths')

Science - We will be looking at the classification of plants and animals

- Collect pictures of plants and animals from magazines and practice sorting the pictures into different groups (e.g. plants and animals/wings or not/number of legs/birds, mammals, fish, insects, arachnids/vertebrates and invertebrates/etc.)
- Be nature detectives in your own garden or local park - spotting, naming and photographing plants/animals
- Visit Edgbaston Nature Centre
- Visit a local zoo (such as Twycross) or safari park (West Midlands)
- Visit <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/gamesactivities.html>

Topic - We will be looking at the city of Birmingham and how industry has changed over time

- Go to the library and look for books, especially picture books, on the Victorian people and industrial change (children/school life/machines/transport)
- Visit the Birmingham back-to-backs
- Visit Birmingham council house
- Visit Birmingham's Thinktank
- Visit Sudbury Hall's museum of childhood
- Visit Shugborough Hall
- Visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/victorian_britain/introduction/

D.T. - We will be exploring different types of bridges and their purposes

- Take your child bridge spotting in the area local to your home and photograph those you find
- Put your recycling to creative use with some bridge junk modelling
- Explore building bridges from construction toys such as 'lego'
- Visit Iron Bridge