

# Curriculum News

## Autumn Term

We hope that you have had a lovely summer. The key stage 1 team consisting of Mrs. Marshall, Miss Cornelius, Mrs. Pasmore, Mrs Wallbank, Mrs Russell (previously Miss Beamand) and Mrs Fincher are all very excited to be back. With a new academic year and new topics brings opportunities to 'discover, develop and maximise potential'.

Below is an outline of what your child will be learning during the first half term. Our new topic for this half term is 'Space Pirates'. More details later in the newsletter!

### English

This half term the main focus will be writing clearly demarcated sentences with correct letter formation (Capital letters and accurate use of punctuation) (Yr1) and using extended noun phrases (Yr2).

Children's learning will be based around the text 'Whatever Next', which we enjoyed sharing with the children on the two transition days. Children will begin the term by listening and responding to the text written by our focus author, Jill Murphy. Lessons will be enhanced using visual literacy, outdoor experiences, the use of ICT, drama and dance. Children will also write their own story about a bear traveling to a planet (that they will imagine/design and describe themselves) using the structure of the original text to help them.

We will continue to work very hard to ensure correct formation of all letters and support from home would be very much appreciated. Letter formation mats will be included with the first Brain Builder of the term. We will also be writing planet inspired poetry and a fact sheet about our newly discovered planets.

Keep checking the Rowan and Hazel Class webpage to stay updated on your child's learning experiences.

### Maths

We will be beginning the term with a focus on number, continuing on to measure, geometry and, in Year 2, statistics.

In order to support your child with number confidence can we please request that mental maths and reading are practised on a daily basis at home (recall of addition and subtraction facts to 20 is really important).

Year 1 children will be working hard to correctly form each of the 10 digits. There will also be a focus upon understanding the value of a number. Counting objects at home would be beneficial. Just a little each day really does make a huge difference. Please remember that board games, dominoes, cards and dice games are all good ways to practise maths at home and that every child has a password to access the web based Education-City.

We are also planning a week of '**inspirational maths**' encouraging everyone to see themselves as mathematicians. You are invite to join us on the afternoon of **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September** from 1.45pm to find out more about it and how to help your child at home with maths at a **Parents Workshop followed by Maths Café**.

Noun phrases = we will be teaching children to add description by using adjectives

Geometry formally known as shape and space. Statistics was called data handling

### Topic

With the introduction of a new academic year, comes new and exciting learning opportunities! Each topic will have a specific curriculum focus. Our topic for the first half of the autumn term is 'Space Pirates'. The curriculum focus being History, Art and Dance.

Children will learn about significant events and the explorers, Neil Armstrong and Sir Francis Drake. This will lead to art work inspired by Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'.

We will learn new techniques and practise skills. The culmination of the unit will be a whole class creation of the famous art work on canvas panels – which we would like to auction during our wow out assembly where we will also perform our space dance and songs for you. This will be at 2.15 on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

After half term our work about Sir Francis Drake will lead to comparing Queen Elizabeth I with Queen Elizabeth II. We plan on visiting Eastnor Castle and designing and building our own crowns and castles. We will be reading the great book 'The Paper Bag Princess'. We very much look forward to sharing our learning with you.

### Computing

Children in KS1 will be taught the importance of e-safety before getting practical experience of designing and writing computer programs. It sounds far more complicated than it actually is. They will have great fun learning new computing skills.

### PSHE

We will be focusing on internet safety, creating a safe and supportive learning environment (turn taking, being respectful etc.) and the school values this half term.

### PE

Our sessions will take place on a Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. We are lucky enough to be supported by Mr. Roberts, a sports coach, again this year. Please remember to bring joggers for when we are outdoors and surgical tape to cover any earring studs.

### Forest School

Year 1's will enjoy Forest School with Mrs. Dean on a Friday afternoon. Further details on separate letter.



The following donations would be gratefully received:

- Plastic milk bottle tops (any colour). The more the better!
- Wool, buttons, ribbon etc.
- **Desperately seeking 1 or 2 parents/adults to help children change their library books on a Wednesday afternoon.**
- Parent/s to hear children read regularly any day 9.00-9.30 (DBS forms available from the office)

This half term we will be exploring the question 'What do Christians believe God is like?' The children will learn about the parable of the Lost Son, and recognise a link with the concept of God as a forgiving Father. The learning will involve children being able to give at least two examples of a way in which Christians show their belief in God as loving and forgiving; for example, by saying sorry; by seeing God as welcoming them back; by forgiving others. The children will be given the opportunity to think, talk and ask questions about whether they can learn anything from the story for themselves, exploring different ideas.



### Polite Reminders

- Please ensure NAMED PE kits are in school at all times.
- Break times are important and weather can be inclement, please pack a coat/waterproof for your child's comfort – even if you travel by car!
- Ensure you send your child with a named water bottle each day, which is then kept in the classroom.
- Children can change their library books as often as they like as the library is open every morning. If you wish, your child can go into the library on their own as there is an adult supervising each morning. Encourage them to learn and remember their 3-digit PIN.
- If you do use the library before school **please DO NOT hang up coats, bags and belongings** in the cloakrooms or allow your child to enter classrooms unless you are meeting with a class teacher.
- Library books must be issued via the library computer system and returned to the blue box located in the library.
- **The curriculum emphasises that mental maths should be 'on the boil' all of the time and children should read 'ferociously' for pleasure away from school, if you need any support please feel free to catch us at your earliest convenience.**
- Spelling tests will be on a Wednesday afternoon each week. Spellings can be found on the school website.
- Homework (brain-builders) will be sent home on a Friday and need to be returned by the following Wednesday each week, to be marked and discussed. Details can be found on the school website.
- Please sign your child's home-school link book each night and record their daily reading on the reading log page.

Many thanks KS1 Team