



Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new Term.

Thank you so much for all of your lovely Christmas cards and presents. We hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

As usual, we have lots of learning opportunities for your child to enjoy over the term. Please get in touch if you have any queries regarding your child's learning. Leaving a message in the yellow home reading book is an easy way to contact us as these are checked each morning.

Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley  
Class Teachers

## Literacy

Our story this term is an 'Overcoming the Monster' story, *Three by the Sea* by Mini Grey. The story is about three friends who live together in the same home but live very separate lives without expressing their own needs effectively. The gap in their communication is exploited by a visitor, 'The Stranger', who stirs things up between them and causes them to argue, but then ultimately bond as friends.



We will be focussing on developing settings and then applying this skill into innovated settings from the story which artist and illustrator, Martin Young will create on his visit during the second week of term.

The character study will be that of a gatekeeper so the children will investigate how the lack of communication between the three main characters made them vulnerable to interference from the outside.

We will start the Talk for Writing process by introducing the story orally as a whole school and in mixed age groups. Following this, we will create a story map with the children to help embed the story. Further deepening activities will include stepping the story out, role-play between characters in various contexts and creating actions.

The children will then undertake the familiar Talk for Writing processes of *imitation*, *innovation* and *independent application* to create their pieces of writing, describing the settings in detail for effect. During this work, we will develop a settings writing toolkit and decide on picture icons to allow the format of the writing to be memorised by the children. This method will also be used to teach persuasion techniques in writing and will then be used in topic lessons to allow for practice of persuasive writing in other contexts.

The children will also identify the features of persuasion and settings in model texts and construct them in a class group during shared writing sessions, often working alongside their Talking Partner.

## Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)

### Grammar & Punctuation

This term, Years 1 and 2 will work on the following areas of grammar following last term's assessment.

- Contractions, eg: *do not* becomes *don't*
- Suffixes
- Prefixes
- Commas
- Possessive apostrophe, eg: *The cat's pyjamas!*

These areas can be practised on IXL English at home using your IXL log in.

## Spelling

Year 1 children will continue to work through our Phonics sound programme. In the summer term all Year 1 children will take the National Phonics Screening Test to ensure that they have retained the phonic sounds that they have been taught.

Children in Year 2 will continue to work through the National Curriculum spelling rules in place of their daily phonics lessons. These will be further supported in their word builder books, which will be sent home each week.

The spelling rules covered this term will be:

The 'or' sound spelt 'a' before l and ll, eg: <i>ball</i>
The 'u' sound spelt 'o' as in <i>other</i> and <i>brother</i>
The 'ee' sound spelt 'ey' as in <i>donkey</i>
The 'o' sound spelt 'a' after a 'w' and 'qu' as in <i>watch</i> and <i>squash</i>
The 'ur' sound spelt 'or' as in <i>word</i> and <i>worm</i>
The 'or' sound spelt 'ar' as in <i>warm</i> and <i>war</i>

## Reading

Guided reading sessions will continue with Year 1 children sounding out correctly and talking about their comprehension of the ideas in the texts they are studying. We will continue to focus on word class knowledge during these sessions to consolidate our grammar knowledge.

Year 2 will continue to look at reading comprehension papers to work on their ability to answer questions about a text. They will be working on how to access the more difficult paper, which contains inferred questions rather than simple fact retrieval.

## Handwriting

Year 2 children will continue to focus on joins through the use of the Nelson handwriting scheme. They will learn correct joining techniques and where each letter should sit in relation to one another. Year 1 will work on

presentation of their writing, focussing on correct letter formation, sizing and position. They have an opportunity to practise this independently during twice weekly, dedicated handwriting sessions. Spelling and grammar rules will also be a focus during these sessions.

## Homework

Homework is given out on a Friday and needs to be handed in by the following Thursday at the latest. The Word Building Books are to be completed weekly and we generally ask children to write a short list of words using the phoneme or spelling rule that they have been learning all week in class.

Please continue to listen to your child read each day. This practice alongside our daily guided reading sessions will increase the fluency and comprehension of their reading. Try to work on their understanding of the text alongside simple decoding by asking them to predict what they think might happen or asking why they think a character has behaved in a certain way. Grammar skills can also be focussed on; try asking your child to find a noun, verb, adjective or adverb in a sentence along with the word class action. This will help to consolidate their continuing understanding of grammar.

## Maths

These lessons will be taught in a fun and practical way to engage your child's interest.

## Year 2

This term the children will use Numicon apparatus and our maths toolkits to work on their maths learning along with reflecting in their maths journals.

The areas children will study which have been identified are:

## Number – addition and subtraction

Solve problems with addition and subtraction:

- Using concrete objects and pictorial representations
- Apply their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods

## Number – multiplication and division

- Use known facts of 2, 5 & 10 times tables (including odd and even)
- Understand that multiplication is commutative
- Use division facts for 2, 5 and 10 times tables
- Show that division cannot be done in any order
- Solve problems involving multiplication and division using materials, arrays, mental methods and known facts (toolkits and bar models)

## Number - fractions

- Find  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{2}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a shape, length set of objects or quantity
- Apply division facts to finding a fraction of a number

## Shape, space and measure

- Measuring length and height accurately in cm (rolling cars down various ramps and measuring the distance travelled)
- Lines of symmetry in a vertical line (on giant 2d shapes on the playground using jumbo chalk)
- Use mathematical vocabulary to describe position, direction and movement, including movement in a straight line and distinguishing between rotation as a turn and in terms of right angles for quarter, half and three quarter turns (clockwise and anticlockwise)
- Revisit telling the time accurately
- Record, interpret and organise information (for example, using 1:1 pictograms with simple ratios, 2,5,3,10)

## Times tables

Please continue to use the Interactive Recourses website to help with times table practice at home. The IR login is *Maidwell* and the password is *swimming*. This site is particularly useful as it allows you to choose the times table you wish to focus on. Year 2 should focus on the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.

## Year 1

### Number and place value

- Compare and order numbers using the < > and = signs and the language of equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most, least
- Count to and across 100 forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1 from any given number
- Given a number identify one more and one less
- Read and write the numbers from 1-20 in numbers and words

### Number – addition and subtraction

- Represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20
- Solve one step problems that involve subtraction using concrete objects and pictorial representations – including missing number problems such as  $7 = ? - 9$
- Subtract one digit and two digit numbers to 20 including zero

### Shape, Space, Statistics and Measure

This term your child will engage in lessons where they are taught to:

- Describe position, direction and movement, including whole, half, quarter and three quarter turns
- Recognise and name 3D shapes eg: cuboids, pyramids and spheres
- Measure and record mass/weight
- Tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and draw hands on a clock face to show these times
- Measure and record lengths and heights using standard measures

### Science

We will begin our new topic *Uses of Everyday Materials* this term. We will start by thinking about the meaning of key vocabulary associated with this topic. We will move on to investigate a range of materials and think about how to group them. We will investigate materials found

outdoors and consider where these originate from. We will use the information we learn to write an explanation text explaining where a material comes from.

- Targets:
- Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses
  - Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching

## History

This term we will continue our history topic *Changes within Living Memory*. We will start by considering what the term 'within Living memory' means. We will focus on changes in the home, particularly domestic life and how technology has impacted on this area. We will use a history story about the impact of computers to write an information text on this area. We will also look at how seaside holidays have changed and write a persuasive advert for a 1950's holiday.

- Targets:
- To use a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms
  - To understand where events fit on a chronological framework
  - To understand the different ways we can find out about the past
  - To identify differences and similarities between ways of life in different periods.

## Computing

As usual, we will start the computing unit this term with an online safety lesson. The name of this lesson is *We are responsible internet and device users* and remembering to take time out from technology will be the main lesson message. Children will be given the opportunity to consider how much time they spend using devices and come up with ideas for other activities that they may do instead. Children will also be taught what to do if they see or hear something online that upsets them.

The computing unit this term is called *We are Photographers*. In this unit children review photos online, practise using a digital camera,

take photos to fit the theme *Winter*, edit their photos, and then select their best images to include in a shared portfolio.

## Music

This term children will be learning times tables and number bond songs in music, ready for next term where they will record themselves reciting them onto CDs to take home and practise in the car!

## RE

This term the children will finish off their unit about *Special places in Christianity* and then move onto a new unit on Buddhism where children will:

- Explore Buddhist tales, traditions and customs
- Receive a visit from both a lay and ordained practitioner from Nagarjuna Buddhist Centre where the children will have the opportunity to learn about the Buddhist way of life, how to meditate and some of the symbolism and rituals practised by Buddhists
- Children will make Buddha statues out of clay and learn what each part represents

This unit will be taught through role-play, discussion, story-telling and art.

## ART

Our Art will link to our Science topic *Materials*. We will use materials, a range of different textures to make collages following the Talk for Writing format of imitation, innovation and independent application.

## DT

Unfortunately as last term was so busy, we ran out of time to make our vegetable soup. We will start the term by creating our own recipe for a healthy soup and then cook and taste it.

We will also work on making a collage from a range of materials to link with our new Science topic.

## PE

This term children will be enjoying their usual swimming lessons with Mrs Ogden and weekly PE lessons with Mr Gordon.

Please note that PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday and remain until Friday in case of an alteration to the timetable or an extra PE lesson. Please ensure your child has kit for indoor and outdoor PE including outdoor trainers.

The focus for this half term's unit of work is **Cognitive Skills**, with a physical focus on *Dynamic Balance* for the first three lessons and on *Static Balance: Small Base* for the remaining three lessons. The class learning goals are:

- I can understand and follow simple rules
- I can name some things I am good at
- I can begin to order instructions, movements and skills
- With help I can recognise similarities and differences in performance and explain why someone is working or performing well

## PSHE

This term we will return to our focus of building growth mindsets in all of the children. We will look together at ways in which we can get out of a black hole for learning, before creating WANTED posters for positive learning and finally creating visual effort meters which will be displayed around the school.

## Belongings and Toys from Home

As previously advised, we do encourage children not to bring toys in from home as experience has shown that they can get lost or damaged at school and can sometimes be a distraction to the children during the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

