



Year 1 Newsletter.

January 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your families have had a relaxing Christmas break ready for the start of the new term.

This newsletter will give you information about some of the things that your child will be learning during this term. We hope that you find it helpful but please do not hesitate to ask throughout the year if you ever have any concerns or questions.

Religion Topic

'From Ur to the Promised Land' Our new topic speaks of journey, both physical and spiritual: the children learn about Jesus' ancestral family - the family of Abraham and Moses. This topic is taught through the Old Testament. The children will learn about the stories of Noah and of Moses (his journey to the promised land).

Key Vocabulary for this topic: Moses, Noah, covenant, Old Testament, creation.

Literacy

Phonics/Reading - The children are currently being re-assessed and re-grouped for Phonics following the Read Write Inc scheme. The children then will have 4 lessons a week with their adult following the phonics, reading and writing programme. Depending on your child's group, they will either bring home the book they are reading in class on the 3rd or 5th day of reading it with a teacher. This is to show you what they have been learning. This should be their moment to shine and be proud of their achievements.

Alongside the book they will bring home, the children will also have another phonetically decodable book to read independently. The children should not be struggling to read the words within this book. They should be able to decode using their learnt knowledge.

The children will then choose a book from the class library to bring home. This should be for you to share, reading to your child, taking it in turns, talking about the pictures and the story. This is to promote reading for pleasure. We also encourage you to read all kinds of texts, packets, signs, comics, labels etc. During a reading activity it is important to ask questions about the story, which checks your child's comprehension and deepens their understanding of the books they read. Encourage them to re tell the story and discuss the characters, start to make predictions about how the story might end? Most importantly though, show the fun that can be gained from listening to stories.

We also want to encourage the use of the School library.



In addition:

We will be touching upon the story 'Look Up!' linking to our Science topic. 'Look Up!' offers a range of styles and purposes for writing that the children can use to support their own writing. This text offers the children an engaging stimulus for creative response to text, a model for their own writing with a focus and stimulus for both fiction and non-fiction writing. The book encourages the children to think about character development and setting in narrative fiction. The characters are well drawn and themes provoke an emotional response. **Please avoid reading this story with your child at home.**

Numeracy

Place Value - Children will build upon their existing knowledge of counting forwards and backwards by introducing the numbers 11-20. Children will explore the meaning of the suffix 'teen' and what this tells us about a number.

Addition - Children will be exploring addition by counting on from a given number. They will begin to understand that addition is commutative and that it is more efficient to start from the largest number.

Science

Linking to our Power of reading book 'Look up!', the children will be learning about 'Space'. We will cover: What is Space?, the planets in our solar system, how the Earth orbits and rotates, constellations, how space was discovered and astronauts.

Geography

This half term the children will be naming and locating the United Kingdom's:

- Countries
- Capital cities
- Surrounding seas.

The children will use key geographical words when learning about the key human and physical features of these places. They will know some human and physical geography of England and Wales and their capital cities, London and Cardiff.


These include:

- Human features (famous landmarks) of these places.
- Physical features (rivers, mountains, weather patterns) of these places.

PE

Games

In this unit children develop their sending and receiving skills. They focus on sending objects such as beanbags, balls and hoops by rolling, throwing and kicking, and practise different ways of receiving by tracking, catching, stopping and controlling. They are encouraged to select



appropriate skills and suggest their own ideas when working with a partner or when playing a game in a small group.

Dance

Exploring gesture and formation: In this unit children explore basic body actions, e.g. jumping, shapes and travel, and use different parts of their body to make movements. They particularly focus on changing shape and body tension whilst they create and repeat short dances.

Design and Technology - Textiles

This term the children will be making their own puppets. They will join fabrics together using pins, staples or glue, design a puppet and use a template, join their two puppets' faces together as one and decorate a puppet to match their design.

For this topic we have the 'Little Angel Theatre' coming into school to do a whole day workshop with the children creating their puppet.

PSHE

The first few weeks of the term we will look at 'Life Online'. This helps children to understand that just like we can feel joy and feel upset in the different places we go physically, we can feel joy and feel upset in the different places we go to digitally too. Focus is given to the importance of feeling safe on the inside, especially when using the internet. Through activities and the story of Smartie the Penguin, children will learn to recognise safe and unsafe situations online, and begin to develop an understanding that not everything presented to them online is true.

The children will then move onto looking at 'Keeping Safe'. With the help of Super Susie, children will look at the difference between good and bad secrets. This unit also explores teaching on physical boundaries, incorporating the PANTS resource by the NSPCC. Through the animated expert Dr Datfa, children will also learn about the effects of harmful substances and what they should do in an emergency situation.

Music

This half term the children will be covering the topic "Taking off;pitch".

Reminders:

- Both classes will have PE on Mondays and Thursdays and therefore the children will need their kits in on both of these days. Please ensure that long hair is tied back, particularly on these days and that earrings are removed before school.

Mrs Duffy, Mrs Kells and Miss Anderson

