

Dear Parents

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It is heart-warming to see the children back in school again, ready for action.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you about some of the routines regarding spellings and homework and also what we intend to cover in class in the first half term.

### **Literacy**

In Literacy we will be learning about capital letters and full stops and I will be encouraging the children to feel confident in themselves to attempt writing sentences independently, sounding out words that they cannot spell. The children are focussing on procedural writing which is writing and following instructions. We will be revising Stages 1-3 of Linguistic Phonics. We will also work on handwriting skills, knowledge and understanding of verbs and command sentences and using a connective (and, but) to make a sentence longer.

### **Numeracy**

In Numeracy we will start by working with number to 20 in order to increase confidence and skills, but will build up to number to 50 by Hallowe'en. We will be counting, sequencing, playing missing number, learning before, after and between. We will be adding and subtracting and going back over some number bonds. Our other Numeracy topic will be revision of telling the time, both o'clock and half past and the days of the week. We will also carry out different problem solving activities.

### **World Around Us**

Our topic is All Around Us. This will last until Hallowe'en. The children will be learning about natural and man-made materials. We will sort these and look at their properties. We will be looking at buildings in the local area especially the school and how it has changed over time. We hope to plant seeds and observe and experiment with what plants need to grow. We will create simple maps and plans.

### **The Arts**

In connection with our topic we will use LS Lowry to inspire some art, as well as our artist for P3, Vincent van Gogh, focusing on Sunflowers. We will have weekly music lessons using the Charanga online scheme.

### **R.E.**

The children will be exploring the theme of belonging and learning about the life of Jesus and the rosary.

### **P.D.M.U.**

The children will be exploring rules, growing plants, belonging and family.

### **P.E.**

Our P.E. days are Tuesday and Wednesday. Children come to school in their P.E. gear. We are currently working on Travel and Balance.

### **P.T.O.**

### **Some ideas for you to carry out at home:**

Go on a walk and talk about natural and man-made things you see

Research RS Lowry and Van Gogh and try to do paintings in their styles

Make a 3D model of your house or other building near you

Plants seeds, bulbs, vegetables

Make flowers and plants using different media (paint, draw, play doh, clay etc.)

### **Some useful websites:**

[www.teachingtime.co.uk](http://www.teachingtime.co.uk)

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/countingCaterpillar/index.html>

<https://uk.ixl.com/>

<https://www.roythezebra.com/reading-games.html>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Key-Stage-1.html>

<http://www.snappymaths.com/other/measuring/time/interactive/halfhours/oclockhpimm/oclockhpimm.htm>

### **Homework**

Homework this year will be put into a project folder to be sent home on a Monday. There will be a mixture of Literacy, Numeracy and Grow in Love. These need to be completed and returned on a Friday. A different project folder will go home the second week with that week's work. Therefore, the project folders will run on a 2-week cycle (red one week, blue the next). I do not plan to stipulate what day is for what homework to allow you to fit in around your family / work life in the way that suits you.

Spellings and number bonds are beginning this week. I am sending home a sheet with 4 weeks of these. Please take this sheet out to be kept at home in case it gets lost in the folder changeover. I would suggest that on a Monday you begin by doing corrections of any spellings spelt incorrectly the previous week and reading the new words for that week. On a Tuesday, use little pieces of paper to jumble up the letters and rebuild each word while sounding out the word. On a Wednesday, encourage your child to put each word into a sentence, at least orally, but I would hope they could write a few sentences using their spellings. Perhaps use a little notebook to do this in every week. On a Thursday try using the "Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check" method to practise the words. The test is on a Friday. Explore other ideas such as using rainbow writing to write them or bubble writing, wobbly writing etc. The number bonds should be rehearsed daily, these must be learnt off by heart, not using counters or fingers. These will be tested on a Friday too. I have also suggested online activities to support your child's learning and encourage you to make some time for these each week.

Thank you for your co-operation and support. I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Cathy Gibson