



Year R Spring Term Newsletter 2022



Happy New Year to all of the children and their families – we hope you had a lovely Christmas. Thank you so much for all of your kind Christmas cards and gifts, Mr Eddington and I were really touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity – thank you!

This half term the children's learning will be on the topic 'People Who Help Us' including firefighters, police and medics. After the half term break, the children will be learning a different topic entitled 'Around the World'!



Literacy

'People Who Help Us'

We shall be using a variety of short stories and non-fiction texts to help us explore this topic. The children will be developing their skills in sounding out words using their phonic knowledge to be able to write simple sentences. We shall be creating story maps to enable the children to understand the key moments in a story placing them in the correct order. They will also be developing their understanding of how people help us through drama and role play.

'Around the World'

We shall be using the stories 'Ducks Overboard', 'The Giant Turnip' and 'The Sweet Talking Potato' to explore this topic. The children will now start to learn how to 'recycle a story' taking its narrative structure but changing some of its key elements, for example its setting or character types. This process will help the children to become independent story tellers and writers.

Maths

During the first half term the children will be introduced to different types of measure including weight, capacity, length and time. They will also start to learn how to add and subtract within 10.

In the second half of the term, the children will re-visit 2D shapes and how to use them to create repeated patterns, added to this they will be learning how to sort shapes according to their properties. We shall be introducing the children to the different values of money along with how to double and half numbers. Finally, we will be teaching the children how to count and order numbers to 15.

With all of our maths teaching we use concrete resources to give the children a 'hands on' experience. For example, with measure they will use balance scales, sand and digital timers, jugs of water, tape measures, rulers and metre sticks thus making the learning far more 'real' for them.

Phonics

Throughout the term we will be continuing to recap phase 2 and 3 phonics on a daily basis and how to apply them to our reading and writing. Please encourage your children to consolidate their understanding of these by using this knowledge while reading books. The children have done brilliantly in learning their phase 2 tricky words (words that cannot be decoded phonetically e.g. 'the') and so we shall now be moving onto teaching them the phase 3 tricky words as listed below.

Phase 3 Tricky Words

he	she	we	me
be	you	all	are
her	was	they	my

RE

Our focus this half term is 'Creation - Who Cares for This Special World and Why?' We will be learning that Christians believe God created the world and that we are 'borrowing' the world from God and that we are all responsible for caring for our world and everything in it. After half term, we will be learning about the Easter story through the mediums of storytelling, art and drama, helping the children to gain an understanding and appreciation of this central aspect of the Christian faith. This term's Christian value is wisdom and after half term it will be hope.



PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

This half term the children's PSED sessions will be supporting our topic 'People Who Help Us' by learning all about safety including: how to keep safe in the classroom, how to cross a road safely and how to stay safe when out in the sun or near water. After half term the children will be learning about healthy living thinking about what is a balanced diet? What do I need to do to look after my teeth? They will also be developing their independence in self-care, for example getting themselves dressed and undressed.



Understanding the World

Using the topic 'People Who Help Us' during the first half term the children will learn about the fire service, police and medical practitioners; what their jobs are, how they help us and how they keep us safe. We shall be doing this through group discussions, watching informative short films, role playing, looking at non-fiction texts and exploring the uniforms worn and equipment used by each of these professions. After half term, to complement our topic, 'Around the World' we shall be learning about the life cycles of certain animals and plants, where they can be found in the world and the type of environments they need in order to thrive. We shall then be planting sunflower seeds and once the seedlings are strong enough, the children will be able to bring them home to plant in their own gardens to watch them grow throughout the summer months.



Expressive Arts and Design

This half term the children will make collage paintings of a fire engine, role play doctors and become police detectives! After half term the children will create information posters about life cycles, design a pot for their sunflower seedling and use natural objects such as petals, grass and seeds to make collages.

As ever, the children will have free access to our 'Arts and Crafts' room during their daily 'Plan, Do, Review' session to create whatever they wish using the large selection of resources available to them.



Physical Development

The children will continue to have their P.E sessions on a Thursday in the school hall. Please could your child bring in their kit each week, however, they don't need trainers at the moment as we will remain indoors until the summer term. The children will be learning how to control their body movements and how to use PE equipment appropriately and safely. After half term, they will be learning throwing and catching techniques as well as ball skills.



Uniform

Please adhere to the school's uniform policy which can be found on the website and ensure that all items are clearly named. We will play and learn in our outside area in all weather so please ensure your child brings a named coat, hat, scarf and gloves daily when the weather is colder.

PPA

My non-contact planning time alternates between a Wednesday and Thursday morning each week. During this time, the children are taught by Mrs Brooks and Mr Eddington, following the usual routine and teaching sessions.

Homework

Homework books will continue to be sent home on Fridays containing the weekly homework letter which gives you a brief overview of our learning throughout the week. Please hand the homework books back in by the following Wednesday. There will now also be a voluntary activity for the children to do to reinforce their learning.

Reading

Please continue to read regularly at home with your child as this is very important for the development of their reading and writing skills. Please keep updating your reading record book and ensure they are signed regularly. The reading books are changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays once it has been recorded in your child's reading record book that they have completed the book they were sent home with. Your child is read with on a 1:1 basis each week and engages in reading activities on a daily basis during their phonics and literacy sessions. Each Thursday we visit the school library when the children have the opportunity to choose a book they would like to take home for a grown up to read to them. Please continue to return the library books the following Thursday.

Dates to remember:

PTFA Cinema Night -
Tuesday 25th January 2022 3.15pm - 5.30pm

Half Term

Monday 14th February - 18th February 2022

St. David's Day - children in St. David's team can wear yellow tops.
Tuesday 1st March 2022

Please always feel able to contact me if you have any queries or concerns and we can get together to talk it through; you can write me a note in the home contact book or email me through the school office, alternatively you can catch me on the school playground before and after school. Mr Eddington and I are greatly looking forward to another term of fun, learning and adventures with your amazing children!

