

Class 1 Newsletter – Spring 2023

Happy new year to you all! We hope you enjoyed a fun and relaxing festive break. We are looking forward to us all being back together and getting stuck into all the great learning opportunities we have in store this term. This newsletter will give an overview of what we will be up to in Class 1 this term. Our topic for the first half of the term is 'Space' and during the second half we will explore dinosaurs in our 'Lost Worlds' topic. As ever, if you have any questions then don't hesitate to get in touch.



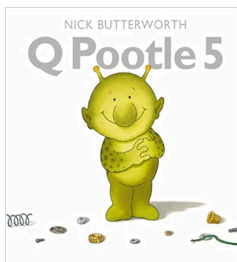
Maths

In Maths this term Year 1 will first be working on gaining a deep understanding of numbers to 20, including how to add and subtract within 20. We will then expand our knowledge to numbers to 50 before spending the last few weeks of term focusing on measurement. In Reception, we will be continuing our journey to develop a deep understanding of numbers to 10. This will involve comparing numbers to 10, understanding their composition and beginning to learn number facts such as number bonds to 5 and then 10. Please practise recalling number facts at home and having fun making up simple mathematical problems with household items.

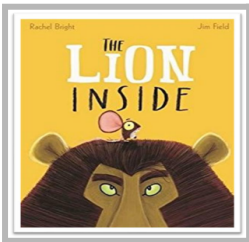


English

Daily phonics sessions will continue for all. Phonics is taught through our Active Learn "Bug Club" systematic phonics programme to help develop the children's understanding of Letters and Sounds. Reception children are encouraged to begin to use their phonics knowledge to start writing words and then building to writing simple sentences. We emphasise that children spell irregular 'tricky words' correctly, such as 'the, to, go', and for other words we expect children to be using the graphemes that have been taught correctly. We will be writing for purpose and building towards creating a class simple recipe for a space party!



We will be reading a variety of picture books that link with our topics. If you have books linked to our topics please share these with your child or bring them in to be shared at story times. Our writing will often be linked to these books - we will continue to learn to innovate stories, write recounts, instructions and explore our own poetry. Please encourage your child to practise these reading and writing skills at home.



Year 1 English sessions will mainly be cross curricular as we examine our History topics and focus on key aspects of punctuation and grammar. Tuesdays will be our poetry session most weeks and this will start with work on a piece called 'At the Zoo'. We will complete our work on this unit with our own poetry pieces. Wednesday to Friday sessions this term will be linked to the story 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field. Over the term we will build our writing skills up to writing our own fictional journey story.

Understanding the World/ Science Focus

Reception will continue to explore practical 'Science' experiences in our areas of learning, as well as investigating how materials change, such as exploring melting when making jelly rockets! In science Year 1s will become Material Scientists and investigate what materials different objects are made from and why. We will use our 'working scientifically' skills to carry out experiments to test the properties of a variety of materials as well as sorting, grouping and classifying objects based on our findings. We will learn about real life Material Scientists and find out what it takes to become one. The knowledge and skills we acquire will be put to the test in our DT lessons when we design and build a rocket. Forest schools will build further on the deep knowledge of nature and of our changing seasons.

RSE / PSHE

This area focuses on personal, social and emotional skills. This is a key part of our curriculum and is covered throughout the week in many different lessons. However, we additionally follow a scheme of bespoke lessons to assist in developing these skills further.

Topic (Geography/ History/ Understanding the World)

In the first half of the spring term we will be learning about Space! We will discuss famous astronauts from the past and present, like Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison, considering why they are significant individuals and what their achievements were. We will also create a timeline of events linked to space exploration. After half term we will then move on to learn about Dinosaurs from the past.

Expressive Arts and Design- Art/DT /Music



DT we will be designing and building Rockets (Reception) and moon buggies (year 1) from recycled materials on **Monday 10th February**. This will be linked to our science as well as our history lessons. We would appreciate it if any adults are available to help that afternoon and if your child can begin saving plastic bottles or boxes for their spaceship. If you can help please either morning or afternoon or both can you let Mrs Boast know. Thank you.

In art lessons we will continue the space theme by learning about Space 3D sculptures such as Van Gogh Starry Night and having a go at creating our own pictures in a similar style.

Computing

Mr Moss will be teaching computing fortnightly in class one. We are very lucky to have access to lots of iPads and laptops at school and children will use these in a variety of ways to build on their current skills.

RE/ Understanding the World

In RE we will think about the key questions 'What does it mean to belong to a faith community' for Muslims and 'Being special - Where do we belong?'. Towards Easter, we will focus upon the Easter story and Salvation considering its significance for Christians.

PE/ Physical Development

PE will continue to take place on a Monday (Reception / Year 1) and Wednesday (Year 1) each week. These sessions are led by our Sports Specialist Mr Cass and work to our school PE scheme. This will involve work on dance, gymnastics and games and will be a combination of indoor and outdoor work.

WORLD BOOK DAY - 7TH MARCH. CHILDREN COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED AS A CHARACTER FROM A BOOK AND DADS & GRANDDADS WILL BE INVITED IN SCHOOL TO JOIN IN THE FUN!

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME

Children have reading packs and will also sometimes have sounds/words to practise, along with their books. It makes a huge difference if children have a chance to read and share books with you at home, so any chances you have to do this would be greatly appreciated. We encourage children to read their books several times to develop fluency, expression and comprehension skills. Children should be able to read around 90% of the words in their books speedily (without decoding), this helps to foster a love of reading as well as developing the range of reading skills children need to thrive, not just the phonic element. Children will have their books changed weekly.

Please can all Reception and Year 1 practice correct letter formation. You can use your child's reading record as a place to practise this. Make sure your child uses a pencil rather than a pen. They could write something that relates to the book they have just read. To keep the cognitive level low, simply copying a sentences out from their book so they can really focus on the letter formation is a great way to practice. If you spot any mistake, demonstrate to your child how to form the letter correctly. We want to get it right from the start.

Reception parents will also be invited for a half term stay and play session. Details have been sent out about this. Thank you!

As always, please do get in touch via email or phone and I will back to you as soon as possible.

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