

# Year 1 Summer Term Newsletter

## 'From Gardens to Jungles'

I can't believe that it is the summer term! Fingers crossed for sunny (or at least dry!) weather so that we can take our learning outside.

The children have all been superstars and I am so impressed with all that they have been learning.

I can't wait to see what they amaze me with this term!

### English: Writing

There are opportunities for writing in every area of our classroom. We have been doing lots of work on taking stories that we know and changing parts to make new ones. The children have lots of fantastic ideas and now need to work on writing more sentences to retell their stories. Through our topic work, the children will also be writing their own non-fiction and plants and animals and the world around us.

We are continuing to work on writing in sentences, with capital letters and full stops, leaving spaces between words. We are going to be improving our sentences by using the word 'and' so that we can add further information. We will also be looking at starting to use exclamation marks and question marks to make our writing even better.

### English: Reading

We will continue using phonics and our knowledge of tricky and high frequency words to read sentences books, information and poems. Lots of practise is important as this will help the children read more fluently and confidently as they remember more and more words. It is very important that the children understand what they read and what is read to them, so we will have lots of discussion time. The children will also be developing their prediction skills and will look for clues to help them think about what might happen.

### Science

The children will continue to learn about living things and what they need to survive. We will continue to look for living things in our local area and will investigate whether this changes as the weather does. We will learn the names of common birds, some British wildlife and minibeasts. The children will also learn how we can do our part in protecting these.

The children enjoyed looking at how the trees and plants were changing at forest school as we moved into spring. We will continue to look at this and will find out more about how plants grow. The children will learn about the parts of a plant and will investigate what happens when plants are grown in different conditions.

### Maths

We will continue to build on the work done this year, with the children developing their understanding of numbers to 100. We will also learn more about fact families and the relationship between addition and subtraction. We will relate counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to multiplying and making equal sets. The children will begin to learn about fractions and equal parts. We will also complete work on time, money and measuring and activities related to this will be set up as part of the children's play.

## History

As we learn about different places around the world, we will continue to find out about explorers and transport and how this was similar or different to the transport of today. We will also find out about people who made important discoveries about our world in the past such as Mary Anning and about how plants are linked with Royalty.

## Geography

As we learn about the world and the living things found in different places, we will continue to look at maps and atlases. We will also use different scales of maps to look at the local area and plan routes of journeys that we have been on. Linked to Science, we will find out about the Amazon rainforest and make comparisons with our local area.

## Homework

I cannot stress enough; how important reading is. Please, please try to read every day together and talk about what you have read. The children need to read their school book to an adult and also hear stories read to them. Please sign the reading record each time you do this. Reading records are checked daily.

Spellings will continue to be given out on Mondays and tested the following Monday. A few minutes of practise every day is the best way to learn these.

## Computing

Safety when using technology will continue to be part of our learning. We will learn more about staying safe online and that not everything on the internet is true. The children will have more access to laptops and tablets for their own research and to support their learning. We will also learn more about coding, programming robots and giving instructions to make things work.

## PE

We will have PE twice a week and will be outside for this as much as possible. Please make sure that your child has PE shoes that are suitable for wearing outdoors. We will be doing various athletics activities based on running, jumping and throwing. The children will also complete basic outdoor adventure tasks and will continue with learning skills for team games.

## Art and DT

The children will continue to have daily access to our creative workshop area and our construction area and are expected to plan what they are going to do before they start.

We will also focus in more detail on different printing techniques and will look at artists that use printing. In DT, our focus will be food preparation and making a healthy snack.

## Phonics

We follow a phonics programme called 'Letters and Sounds'. In Phases 2 and 3, the children learn one way of making every sound in the English language. This means that they can write anything that they want to, although it may not be spelled correctly. We have now moved on to Phase 5 which teaches that there are alternative ways to spell the sounds.

## Team Up and the Brainy Bunch

I am sure that you will have heard the children talking about the Brainy Bunch. These are a set of characters to help the children understand the workings of the brain. We have been learning that chemicals in our brain can effect our moods, behaviour, sleep, ability to learn and so on. We have been finding out about ways to control these so that we feel happier and calmer.

Finally...Please can you make sure that all of your child's clothes are named. Please can you also make sure that your child brings their book bag, reading book, reading record and sound and word cards to school every day.

I am sure that you will agree that the children have really done us proud, and I know that they will continue to do so this term. Please come and see me if there is ever anything you want to ask or chat about. Thank you.