



Autumn 2

Half Term Information for Parents

Year 1

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Aspirations' remains the overarching theme for Autumn 2 and as such we will continue to build on the cross curricular links as to the importance of having aspirations and the necessary growth mind set in order to achieve all we set our minds to. We will be introducing the children to some mini mantras across school to help promote a growth mind set. These are:

- When we learn we grow
- Imagine, Believe, Achieve
- Mistakes are proof that you're trying
- Everything is difficult before it is easy

The following information is intended to give you some insight to the work the children will be doing this half term. I hope you find it useful.

English:

Alongside Read Write Inc sessions, in which children are grouped according to their stage of phonic knowledge, children will be provided with a variety of reading and writing opportunities, many of which will be cross curricular and link back to our overarching theme.

Following on from the bonfire safety work covered in the first week back, including creating a safety rules poster, we will read Charlie the Fire Fighter. Charlie is a female fire fighter (please don't give this away as it would change the discussion opportunities in class!) and we will discuss the perceived profile of women in the emergency services. It is intended that this will develop into an opportunity to write about thoughts and opinions using the provocative title 'Should girls be fire fighters?'

Another key text from which much of our written work will evolve is the traditional tale; The Elves and the Shoemaker. Children will become familiar with a simple version of the text, retelling it orally with linked sentence level work before using story maps to enable them to tweak the events of the old tale and create their own versions using the familiar structure. It is intended that children will be able to make links from this text to our science work on materials too. Other cross curricular writing opportunities will include: describing properties of materials; recording findings following science investigation; composing questions to ask our focus famous people in history; fact files – on the Metrocentre and/or the Angel of the North/Little Mix/Sir John Hall. Then of course as the term comes to a close it is likely that we will be writing letters and/or lists for Santa too!

Maths:

Using White Rose Maths Hub as a spine to our learning we complete our work on Addition and Subtraction before moving on to a unit of work on 'Shape'. In this unit children will learn to recognise and name common 2D and 3D shapes in a variety of activities. Our final unit for the Autumn term will focus on Place Value to 20. All sessions follow an aspirational, mastery approach to learning with mistake making and problem solving an integral part of the learning. Children will work in mixed ability groups to develop their skills and understanding through a variety of activities using real objects (concrete), images (pictorial) and symbols (abstract).

Science:

Materials Our science work this half term is focused on materials and their properties, helping children to further develop their scientific vocabulary to describe a variety of every day materials. We will carry out an investigation to find the most waterproof material (for Santa and his helpers on the sleigh!) and record our findings in a simple table. Children will be encouraged to answer questions based on their findings.

Computing:

E-safety is always important and features on our curriculum throughout the year. This half term we will make links to our work on Little Mix to discuss online behaviours and cyber bullying.

Illustrating/creating an e-book – We will use the iPad app Draw & Tell to create simple illustrations with an on screen pencil/paint brush, insert 'stickers', resize and arrange 'stickers' as well as recording a simple narrative to create a short digital story with corresponding images.

History:

Following on from our work on Florence Nightingale last half term, we will add to a timeline any significant dates and events that we learn about this year. This half term we will find out about Sir John Hall, where and when he was born, grew up and lives today; about his humble beginnings to his successful businesses, companies, fame and wealth. We will consider the personal qualities and character someone might need to aspire to and achieve this kind of success. We will read articles about him and compose our own questions that we would like to ask him, if we were given the opportunity to meet him.

We will also find out about Little Mix. We will learn about how and when the band was formed. We will find out about the backgrounds/family life of the girls, including where they were born, grew up and the jobs/careers their parents had/have. We will discuss at an appropriate level the reality and experience of aspiring to be famous, the pros and the cons of touring and becoming so famous at a young age as well as the responsibility to be role models for others. This will include a brief look at the online bullying suffered by band member Jade and again, we will consider the personal qualities needed to aspire to and become successful in the entertainment industry.

Geography:

We will continue to build on our work from last half term about the UK and its capital cities and surrounding seas.

We will discuss reasons why people move/relocate, making links to aspirations (work/quality of life) and mark on a class map places the children or their families have moved from/to. I will be requesting you help with this!

Children will learn what is meant by physical and human features in geography. We will look at aerial photographs of New Hartley and the north east coast line to identify key physical and human features including places that they are familiar with such as NHFS, Seaton Delaval Hall, Arrighi's ice cream shop, using appropriate directional and positional vocabulary.

Art:

Textiles – Through a variety of Christmas crafts, children will develop their skills in joining materials using glue and use weaving to create patterns. We hope to be able to send some of these home to decorate your own trees.

Sculpture & Drawing – Using rolled up paper, straws and card as materials children will be challenged to create a bridge structure, taking inspiration from the bridges that span the Tyne in Newcastle and Gateshead. In addition to this, we will be finding out about Anthony Gormley's Angel of the North. We will learn about the materials, structure and dimensions of the Angel as well as begin to explore how art work can be emotive such as the very different opinions that were voiced at the time of the erection of the Angel of the North. Children will be asked to sketch images of the sculpture as well as work in groups to attempt to recreate a small model of the enormous structure. They will be encouraged to think about the scale of wing span to height and consider the materials they could use, drawing on their growing knowledge from work in science.

PE:

Commando Joe's sessions will continue to be led by Jess from NUFC Foundation this half term. Multi-skills sessions will further develop the ethos of the RESPECT acronym (Resilience. Empathy. Self-awareness. Passion. Excellence.

Communication.) Children will continue to master basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching, as well as developing balance, agility and co-ordination, and begin to apply these in a range of activities.

PSHE:

Much of the PSHE will be covered through discussion from the work we do on Jade/Little Mix, Remembrance Day and Children in Need. However, other incidental opportunities will arise through the nature of getting on and falling out in

Y1, at home as well as at school and the story books shared in class. Some aspects will be covered alongside our geography work – looking at our school/village and how we can ensure it continues to be a safe and happy place to live for all of us, including local wildlife.

Music

Music sessions this half term will continue to be taught on Thursday afternoons by Flora Smith. Children will learn to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. Our songs will of course include some seasonal favourites!

RE

RE will again be taught by Mr Benefield this half term will follow the SACRE syllabus looking at the Hindu festival of Diwali 14.11.2020); Christianity: God and Jesus; Christianity: Festivals (Advent 1.12.20 – 24.12.20, Christmas 25.12.20); Judaism: Festivals (Hanukkah 10.12.20 – 18.12.20)

Homework: In KS1 children will have regular reading books and will on occasion, where appropriate be given activities or tasks to enhance their understanding of a concept or to develop skills taught in English or Maths. In addition to this children will be asked to consider questions or to find out about topic related content. This topic based homework can be completed in a child's preferred format. This could include pictures, writing, artwork or use of ICT and can be completed with adult support. Whilst these activities are not compulsory, they will certainly enhance your child's understanding of the topic being covered and will be sent home with your child once the topic is up and running.

How can you help?

- Ensure your child is in school on time and ready to learn. This includes having reading books and reading records every day.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, discussing characters, events and opinions, using the question prompts on in the back of the book too. This is best done often and in short bursts. Please record a simple signature and page number should your child read to you at home. As mentioned above, books and records should be available in school every day.
- Read at home regularly. Little and often is usually best. School reading books should be read at least three times each week but as they are a limited and controlled vocabulary in line with your child's phonic knowledge it is hugely beneficial if children are read to regularly, sharing a variety of picture books and short stories for pleasure. Books will be available to loan from school early in the Spring Term.
- Practising common exception words at home will greatly consolidate your child's learning and understanding. Can your child read and spell the words for Year 1? Copies of these will be sent home this half term for your reference.
- Practise mental maths including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and number bonds to 10. Discuss money, time and measures with real examples whenever the opportunity arises.
- Encourage your child to tell you what they have been learning about at school and where possible, extend their learning at home, through books, outings, discussions and the internet – reinforcing the importance of online safety at home as well as at school. Ask your child about 'Zip it – Block it – Flag it'.
- Please check your child's book bag frequently for letters and other information. Any reply slips should be returned to the class teacher who will send these to the office via the class register.

If you have any queries please remember even though we cannot operate our usual open-door policy due to COVID restrictions, I am always available via email or on the school app and will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner.

Your children are all doing so well and have settled straight back into school after their half term break. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Mrs Banks