



Spring 2 Half Term Information for Parents Year 1

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed your half term holiday and look forward to welcoming back children that are refreshed and ready to learn. Our whole school theme of 'Sustainability' continues and we are ready to make further links across the curriculum to the importance of looking after our planet and its resources and how as individuals, families and communities we can make small changes that can make a big difference.

Our end of half term trip to Seaton Sluice on Friday 14th February was successful and the children really were a credit to us all. They made litter picking look like fun and seemed to really enjoy taking responsibility for a small part of our local community. This coming half term we hope to organise a trip to the Azure Garden Centre, where the children will get to see 'behind the scenes' growing in the vast computerised greenhouses! They will begin to consider the sustainable aspects of the garden centre and its products. Further information will be shared with you in the next few weeks.

This half term also includes World Book Day on Thursday the 5th of March. You should have by now received a letter about our sponsored reading event that week too. We are all really excited about this and the fact that we can come to school in our cosy PJs that day too!

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. We will read and share a variety of stories and poems linked with other aspects of the curriculum, including: Science - Oliver's Vegetables; The Growing Story; Grandpa's Garden; The Enormous Potato and Bonkers about Beetroot.

Geography - Lost and Found; Penguin Small and The Ugly Five;

DT - Beans on Toast, The story of Baked Beans and Sticky Jam, The Story of Sugar.

In addition - a variety of non-fiction texts will be shared with the children and available to the children to look at with links to plants and growing, sustainability, hot and cold places in the world, food and nutrition.

A range of writing opportunities will be developed around the books we use in class which may include:

- Lists - packing a suitcase for travel to hot or cold places
- Postcards from hot or cold places
- Posters linked to climate change/change over time
- Character descriptions using the text The Ugly Five
- Labelling names and parts of plants and trees
- Mother's Day poems
- Recipe/ Instructions to make a fruit/potato salad;
- Thank you letter to staff at Azure Garden Centre and/or a recount of the visit

Maths

Using White Rose Maths Hub as a spine to our learning we will initially focus on Number/Place Value within fifty before moving on to learning about measuring length and height, weight and volume.

All sessions follow an aspirational, mastery approach to learning with mistake making and problem solving an integral part of the learning. Children will continue to 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

Plants - Children will take a walk around the school grounds to identify and name common flowering plants and trees. We will use photographs, videos and information books to include other common varieties not necessarily found within NHFS. Using these sources as well as real plants we will observe closely the parts of plants in order to be able to draw and/or label examples. Children will begin to see the similarities and differences between flowering plants and trees. Making links across the curriculum to

geography and DT, children will be asked to sort given images into groups such as flowers/trees, evergreen/deciduous, edible/not edible, grown in the UK/not grown in the UK.

As mentioned above, we also plan to take the children to visit Azure Garden centre to see the 'behind the scenes' planting and growing. This will give them an insight to the technology that is involved with large scale production. We hope to also plant seeds or seedlings provided by Azure Garden centre to bring back to school to nurture and observe.

Geography

Hot and Cold Places - Children will learn songs and rhymes to help them name the world's seven continents and five oceans.

Using songs, video clips, interactive maps, atlases and a globe, children will identify and locate continents and oceans as well as hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

Children will sort animals according to where in the world they live (polar regions/close to the equator) and begin to consider the impact of climate change on the extremes of the earth. What could happen to animals living in the polar regions if the earth continues to warm and the icecaps continue to melt? What could happen to animals living near the equator if drought and high temperatures damage/destroy habitats? This will give an opportunity to make reference to the bush fires in Australia.

Computing

Creating digital cards - Using photographs (supplied by parents - information below!) of themselves and their mothers/female carers, clip art and text, children will use simple apps such as Pic Collage to create a digital card for Mother's Day, celebrating the important women in their lives. We will also look at websites such as Funky Pigeon and Moon Pig to see how technology is used to create cards. Discussion opportunities linked to sustainability could include: Should we send e-cards rather than print/post real cards? Children will be encouraged to consider the environmental impact of people sending cards to mark special occasions. This will also give further opportunity to talk about reusing or recycling cards in different ways including making gift tags or bookmarks.

I would really appreciate it if you could send a photograph of your child with their Mum or Grandmother to me via email. These will be used for your child's digital card work only. If you require any further information please pop in and see me.

DT

Nutrition - In school we will be planting seed potatoes to see if we can successfully grow our own. This will give the opportunity to talk about sourcing fruit and vegetables locally or growing our own at home/in allotments and the possible benefits/impact on the environment. We will read stories such as Beans on Toast - the story of baked beans and Sticky Jam - the story of sugar, to help children begin to understand where our food comes from - Farm to Fork.

Children will learn about what is meant by a healthy and varied diet, identifying healthy foods and foods higher in fats and sugars. They will also learn the basics of hand and food hygiene, safe food preparation and chopping skills when they design and prepare their own fruit or potato salads.

PE:

Multiskills - Sessions this half term will be led by NUFC foundation. Children will participate in a range of activities enabling them to develop and improve their skills, stamina and understanding of how to stay fit, active and healthy.

PSHE:

It is anticipated that much of the PSHE will be covered through discussion arising from the work we do on Nutrition and healthy lifestyles. We will make links to the overarching theme of sustainability. Other incidental opportunities will arise through the story books shared in class, which are voted for by the children themselves and therefore cannot always be planned for. In PE sessions we will make explicit links to exercise and the positive benefits to mental health and wellbeing. In addition, we will include opportunities to discuss and consider physical and emotional safety with regards to work on E-Safety too.

Music

Music sessions this half term will be taught on Tuesday afternoons by Mr Benefield. Children will continue to rehearse their (much loved!) song about recycling in preparation to perform in a whole school assembly. A range of activities using percussion instruments in school and the body as percussion may be able to be incorporated into the class performance of Recycle It.

RE

Also taught by Mr Benefield this half term will follow the SACRE syllabus looking at:

Hinduism - Festivals: Holi (9th and 10th March) Children will learn about aspects of Holi and the legend of demon king Hiranyakashyap.

Christianity – Festivals and Celebrations: Children will learn about aspects of Christian lifestyle and what makes Christian lifestyle distinctive; About some of the ways in which belief and practice shape Christian lifestyle. The focus this half term specifically will be: Holy Week; Easter; Lent; Shrove Tuesday; Ash Wednesday; Mothering Sunday; Jesus' Crucifixion; Passover; Last Supper and Resurrection.

Homework: In KSI 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 all the equipment they need for the day, such as PE kit, reading book and reading record.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, discussing characters, events and opinions. 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. **Books and records should be available in school every day.**
- 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 have been sent home and additional copies can be requested, please just ask!
- Practise Set 2 and Set 3 Speed Sounds highlighted in children's little yellow books to help them confidently identify them in words in a range of contexts. Perhaps ask them to teach you!
- Practise mental maths including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and number bonds to 20. 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'.
- If you have any interesting artefacts related to the subjects outlined in this information sheet that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school – we promise to look after them and return them!
- 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 we have an open-door policy at NHFS and I am available for appointments before or after school and as class teacher, all queries should be directed to myself in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Banks