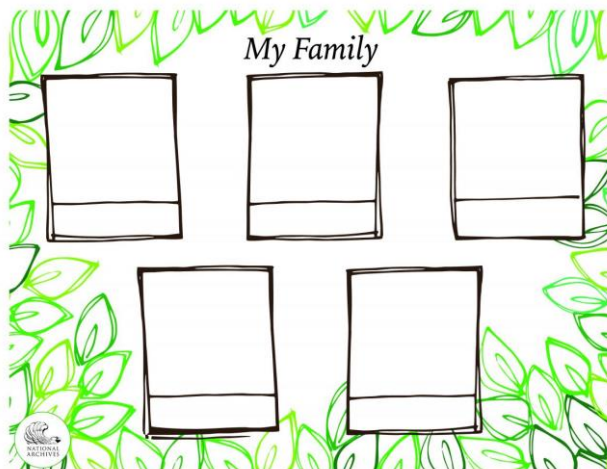




Curriculum Newsletter

Merlins

Autumn 2023



Our Theme:

My Family Tree

Our Christian Values:

Caring Commitment to Achieve Co-operation Fairness
Honesty Respect

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for an exciting year ahead ☺ The children have all settled in so well and look very smart in their school uniforms. We are looking forward to working with you all and having a great year together. We are all very excited to get going with our curriculum and developing our skills and knowledge this year. This is beginning with our Autumn term unit focusing on History; "My Family Tree". As before, we began with a WOW day to enthuse the children and we will be doing an exit day to celebrate all of the fantastic learning, which has taken place over the term. Here is what you need to know about the curriculum, along with specific information for our class. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Autumn Term 2021
Our theme is 'My family Tree'
On our WOW day we shared family photos and began to explore our family tree.
As part of our Exit day, we shall be having a tea party to celebrate our work.

English Writing

During the Autumn Term, we will be linking our English closely with our History topic and exploring and describing our family. This will allow us to write narratives about our personal experiences and those of others. We will begin by practicing some key skills, such as using capital letters for names and expanded noun phrases to enhance descriptions of both ourselves and family members. We will explore a range of traditional and modern text types such as 'The Family Book' and the 'The Ugly Duckling'. As a result, we will be able to develop our formal writing styles, writing reports about our families.

In each of our writing purposes, we will build resilience in our learning by firstly planning aloud what we wish to write about, before writing down key ideas while exploring new vocabulary. We will begin to evaluate our writing, both with our peers and teacher and learn how to re-read our work to check for sense.

Reading

We will continue to have daily reading sessions in separate groups. Around half of the class will be working on reading practice sessions. These sessions involve decoding, prosody and comprehension across the week. This is strongly linked to our Phonics scheme. The other children will participate in guided reading sessions where reading skills such as comprehension and fluency are developed through the week.

The Phonics scheme we follow is 'Little Wandle Letter and Sounds Revised'. We will be introducing a range of new graphemes and the Year 1 pupils will participate in daily sessions. Reading is so important within our school and your support at home is invaluable. We will soon be distributing some support materials for parents to help their child with Phonics and reading.

Maths

In Maths this term, we will begin by exploring the place value of numbers. This will include counting, reading and writing numbers forwards and backwards. We will learn how to represent numbers, using key strategies such as the part-whole model and a place value chart to begin to assist us in adding tens and ones. We will progress to comparing numbers and objects, using a range of language and comparison symbols (<, > and =). Finally, in our place value topic, we will order objects and numbers, using number lines to assist us.

Later in the term, we will begin addition and subtraction. We will learn to recognise and count money, recognising coins and notes. We shall use our number bonds and fact families to find patterns in number sequences and use this knowledge to develop addition and subtraction bonds. We will use a range of strategies to add numbers.

Science

Within Science, we will be developing our knowledge of the similarities and differences between animals, including humans. We will learn about our bodies and senses. We use our Science skills by grouping animals by their main characteristics. Finally, we will develop knowledge of food chains by learning about what animals eat and their preferred diets. Our Science work will have cross-curricular links to Maths through the use of measuring skills and PSHE via learning about showing respect for animals, as well as other humans.

<p style="text-align: center;">R.E</p> <p>Our topic in RE this term is <i>Being Human</i>, with a focus on the religion of Islam. We will consider what the Qur'an says about how Muslims should treat others and live their lives and use our RE skills to compare this to the Bible's teachings about Christian's compassion. We will consider our individual and school values and discuss why we choose to live by these. We shall also gain knowledge of how Muslim faith and beliefs can be seen in the actions of inspirational Muslims.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Computing</p> <p>A specific Computing unit will not be taught during the Autumn term. However, we will continue teaching the children about the importance of E-Safety.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PSHE</p> <p>This year we will be continuing to develop our skills and knowledge with the Jigsaw scheme. In term 1 we will begin with 'Being Me In My World' and after half term the unit will be 'Celebrating Differences'.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Art</p> <p>In Art throughout the Autumn Term, we will explore and experiment with a range of media via creating portraits of ourselves. We shall develop our Art skills so that we can draw lines and make marks from observations, using a range of materials. We will develop our skills further by working on a number of different surfaces, adapting both textures and colours within our artwork to the environment we're working in. We will gain knowledge of some fantastic artists such as Van Gogh, Picasso and Brianna McCarthy.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">History</p> <p>Our unit of 'My Family Tree' will explore our own childhoods and backgrounds, as well as those of other family members. We are very excited to develop our historical skills, where we will explore and compare history within the living memory of ourselves and our families. We will develop knowledge about chronology in the context of clothing, toys and technology through recent history.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Music</p> <p>In Music, we shall develop our skills and knowledge with the topics 'Introducing Beat' and 'Ho Ho Ho,'.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cooking in the Curriculum</p> <p>We are going to learn a range of cooking skills, such as how to stir, spread, cut and shape a range of food and ingredients. We will also begin to learn how to work safely and hygienically within a kitchen environment.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">P.E</p> <p>In P.E the children the children will have swimming lessons on a Tuesday morning and PE sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. The children will be doing a multiskills topic in PE which I am sure they will enjoy developing their skills in.</p>

Important Information

Our weekly homework will continue to be **set on Friday** and **returned on Thursday**. Children get house points for each piece of homework they complete to a good standard and we often award merits for super effort, so please encourage your child to complete their homework on time.

We set homework that links to our current learning in class, and should mostly be able to be completed independently without the need for lots of adult support (other than reading the task to them). Please ensure your child completes their homework and hands it in on time.

Our P.E days this term are **Tuesday mornings (swimming)** and **Wednesday afternoons (PE)**.

Reading

*In Key Stage One, we endeavour to change your child's reading book twice a week. Please can we ask that you aim to read your child's scheme books with them at least **three** times to support with retention, particularly with Phonics. Research suggests that this also strongly improves fluency.*

Your child's books will be linked with the children's Phonics teaching for you to practise at home.

When reading a book three times with your child, please use the following structure:

Read 1: Read to your child

Read 2: Your child reads to you

Read 3: Ask questions about the text

Your child will also bring home a reading for pleasure book that you can enjoy together.

Key Reminders

Children need a named water bottle in school every day.

Please label any jumpers, coats, gloves and hats.

Please bring coats during the Autumn term.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to approach me.

Kind Regards,

Caroline Matthews