



Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Merlins

Autumn 2024



Our Theme:

Wonderful Weather

Our Christian Values:

Caring Commitment to Achieve Co-operation
Fairness Honesty Respect



Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you have enjoyed the Summer holiday. The children have returned with a fantastic attitude towards their learning and we are excited about developing their skills and knowledge across the curriculum.

During this Autumn Term, we will be learning about a range of exciting things. This commenced with our fun filled WOW day with some amazing bright outfits. The children certainly brought the sunshine to a dreary day.

Across the weeks, we endeavour to capture the children's interest and develop the children's wellbeing, subject knowledge and subject skills.

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| Autumn Term 2024 |
| Our theme is 'Wonderful Weather' |
| On our WOW day we made a cloud that rains and dressed to impress with bright attire |
| As part of our Exit day, we shall be performing as weather presenters. |

Reading

Reading is vital skill for children to learn. It feeds into every curriculum area. 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. Reading at least four times a week at home will have a positive impact on the children's learning and reading ability. We will soon be distributing some support materials for parents to help their child with Phonics and reading.

Writing

As a class, we will be reading Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs which links with our exciting topic of 'Wonderful Weather'. We will be using this text as our starting point for a range of writing, particularly narrative pieces.

Our weekly English learning involves grammar, handwriting and writing.

Our written work will continue to focus on the skill of writing in clear and interesting sentences and developing our basic grammar knowledge. We aim for the children to write for longer periods and use their Phonics in their writing.

Their vocabulary, Phonics and writing skills will be helped massively by regular reading of the books supplied by school at home.

Phonics and Spelling

Phonics continues to have great importance. We are continuing with our Federation scheme 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'. The children will gain knowledge of a range of tricky words and graphemes through the weeks and will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to their written work. The children will be developing their skills of blending using known graphemes. Once the children have sound phonetical knowledge, they will move onto Spelling sessions where a new rule is taught each week. The spelling sessions also use the Little Wandle approach.

Mathematics

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.

Geography

In our Geography topic, the knowledge we aim to learn is about seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator and the North and South poles. We will also be developing our knowledge of daily weather patterns in the UK.

In addition, we will be developing our Geographical skills by using atlases to assist us to gain knowledge about understanding the daily weather patterns of the UK and understanding the dangers of weather too. We will also be developing our skills of fieldwork by using observations to spot weather patterns.

We aim to explore the freezing cold Arctic and understand what a cold area of the world is like. The majority of our Geography learning will be linked with our writing driver Cloudy and the Chance of Meatballs as well as other fiction and non-fiction weather books.

R.E

Our topic in R.E this term is called Creation and God. This involves gaining knowledge about the creation story of the Bible and starts by exploring man-made and natural materials. In RE, we will be encouraging the children to think carefully and ask thought provoking questions.

PSHE/Wellbeing

Our PSHE units start with 'Being Me' where the children will develop their skill of understanding of others and setting goals and targets for ourselves. This will be followed by the unit 'Celebrating differences' where the children will develop their knowledge of different cultures.

Design and Technology

As part of our broad and balance curriculum, we will be designing and creating our own animal shelters. This involves gaining knowledge of the different types of shelters that animals live in.

We aim to develop our skills of researching shelters, joining materials together and making a solid structure. We are sure that the children will be very creative and be engaged by this.

P.E

Our PE topics, this term, will be multiskills and multigame. The children will also be developing their swimming skills during Term 1.

Computing

In computing, we are excited to be launching a new scheme. This starts with the topic 'IT all around us' where the children will be developing their knowledge of technology. Later, we will be using our computing skills to create some animations.

Important Information

Reading

Please listen to your child read as regularly as you can. This 'reading' includes newspapers, instructions, websites and magazines; then, record this in their reading record.

In Key Stage One, we endeavour to change your child's reading book twice a week. The children are asked to read four times a week and this will have a huge benefit on all their learning.

Please can we ask that you aim to read your child's scheme books with them at least three times, before they are changed, 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 knowledge for you to practise at home.

We ask the children to read the books they have been given three times to develop their fluency.

Key Reminders

Children need a named water bottle in school every day. As part of our 'Defeat the Sweet' project we are a water only school.

Please can we ask that you write your child's name in all their belongings particularly school jumpers.

Homework will be set on **Friday** and returned on **Thursday**. Homework is important part of consolidating the week's learning.

Our P.E days are: **Tuesday and Wednesday**. The Thursday session is swimming. The children will need correct PE uniform for their PE days.

We are excited about the year ahead and all it has to offer.

Kind regards,

Emily Stones

Our class readers this term:

