

Curriculum Newsletter

Merlins

Autumn 2020



Our Geography 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 and that the children are ready to return to learning and developing their skills and knowledge.

During this Autumn Term, we will be learning about a range of exciting things. We endeavour to capture the children's interest and develop the children's subject knowledge as well as their wellbeing.

English

In English, we will have daily reading sessions. These aim to develop each child's ability to understand and discuss the language as well as what is happening in the text. The children will work in smaller groups focusing on key skills across a range of texts and exciting books. As a class, we will be reading *Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs*, which links with our 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 all of which are developed and built on through the weeks in a curriculum design to help the children develop in their learning from their starting point.

Our written work will continue to focus on 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. We require the children to bring their reading record back to school every day so that we can continue to change books and check on their reading development. The children will be supplied with a phonics book and a reading book. We encourage the reading book to be read together and the phonics book to be read by the children to an adult. If this is done regularly, it is proven to have a very beneficial impact on learning.

Phonics continues to have great importance. The children will learn a range of tricky words and graphemes through the weeks and will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to their written work.

Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, we will begin by exploring the place value of numbers. This will involve a range of equipment to help the children grasp a full understanding of number that will then be applied to their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division learning.

A new addition to the school timetable, this year, to assist the children in core concepts is a programme called *Fluent in 5*. The Year 2 children will complete this programme 3 times a week to help aid in development of core areas of Maths. The Year 1 children, three times a week in the afternoons, will have additional Maths in a form similar to EYFS to help bridge the gap between EYFS and Y1 as well as developing their Maths skills.

The Year 2 children will soon have access to *Times Table Rockstars* which can be used at home to help with multiplication.

Geography

In our Geography topic, we will focus on identifying 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 exploring daily weather patterns in the UK.

Also, we will also be using a range of books to describe the weather and understand the daily weather patterns of the UK and understand the dangers of weather too.

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 with a Chance of Meatballs*' as well as other fiction and non-fiction weather books.

R.E

Our topic in RE this term is called *Creation and God*. This involves learning about the creation story of the Bible and starts by exploring man-made and natural materials.

PSHE/Wellbeing

The wellbeing of the children is extremely important and as a class we will be learning from a carefully planned out wellbeing programme that has been enhanced to allow the children a smooth transition back to school. This year, the children will be having additional PSHE and Wellbeing lessons and will be doing daily wellbeing sessions to assist the children with settling back in.

Y1 Provision

To help bridge the gap between Reception and Y1; for this year, the Year 1 pupils will be doing some of their afternoon learning via outdoor learning in a way similar to 'choosing' from EYFS. This will be outdoors so please pack a coat for unexpected weather.

This will be three times a week and carefully planned to develop any learning from early Y1 as well as learning from the EYFS curriculum. We are sure that the children will enjoy this and learn.

DT

As part of our broad and balance curriculum, we will be designing and creating our own animal shelters. We are sure that the children will be very creative and be engaged by this.

P.E

Our PE topics this term will be multi-skills and multi-games.

Important Information

From the week beginning 21st September, homework will be set on **Thursday** and returned on **Monday**.

Our P.E days are: **Tuesday and Friday**

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 KS1 the children have a phonics and a stage reading book that travel between school and home daily.

Please ensure that your children have a drinks bottle in school.

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

Kind regards,

Emily Bates