

Culworth C.E. Primary Academy
The Burrow Newsletter
Autumn 2014

Dear Parents

Although we are only a little way into the school year, we have been delighted how well the children have settled and we very much look forward to working with them, and yourselves, during the coming year.

This term your child will continue to learn, practise and develop a range of new skills in each area of the curriculum. We differentiate the tasks, so that each child is appropriately challenged and working on the next step to ensure progression in their learning. Our aim is for each and every child to feel secure and be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential. There is an ongoing conversation between the two teachers sharing the class who spend time together planning the content and outcomes of each lesson. We also work closely with Miss White and Mrs Wharton. We have a busy and exciting term's work planned, which we hope your children will enjoy.

Mrs Limb and Mrs Taylor work with us in the Burrow during the mornings. Mrs Limb works every morning and Mrs Taylor is with us on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

We very much appreciate offers of help in the classroom. Thank you to those of you who have already "signed up" Please let us know if you would like to help in school. An extra pair of hands is always welcome. Mrs Watson has the information regarding the necessary paperwork for any new volunteers.



Look how shops have changed in the last 100 years!

As ever your support in all things is vital and valued, particularly in reading. When listening to your child read, please remember to sign and date the reading record book, making a note if relevant. Your child may bring separate words home to practise too. We are happy for parents to change books within the same colour band, and ask for you to write the date and the new titles in your child's reading record.

Those children who travel to school on the bus, or whose parents are pushed for time in the mornings, are invited to put their finished reading books inside their reading record book into the "changing reading book" box. This is by the entrance door to the classroom. We will endeavour to change your child's books during the school day. Of course, if your child has struggled with words in a book, please read it more than once and always remember to sign and date the reading record book, making a note if relevant.

Thank you for your support with your child's calico bags during the summer. They are amazing! Every day we have shared some of these, and it has been a wonderful opportunity for every child to speak in front of the whole class, as well as a way of us getting to know each child better. What a talented group of children we have.

Our topic is entitled "**A Basketful of Memories**".

The class have been thinking about their own memories and considering how they have already changed in their short life time. There are many opportunities here for cross curricular work as we think back as far as one hundred

years ago. We will be comparing and contrasting various aspects of life long ago with the present day - clothing, food, homes, schooling, daily life and touching very briefly and sensitively on the First World War. The children will be making time lines of their own life. We will also be making simple family trees. If any grandparents are willing to share a game/toy/skill which they remember from their childhood days, we would love to hear from you.

In **Science**, the children will be learning about the importance of our senses. We will also be finding out about the uses and availability of different materials as we compare old and new toys and artefacts.

We will be learning songs and listening to music which date back one hundred years.

The children will be drawing self-portraits and portraits of older people. They will be using careful observational skills to draw artefacts. Multimedia picture frames are to be made and "memory bottles" are going to be elaborately decorated before special memories are stored inside. A wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space will be covered.

We have chosen some wonderful texts to study during Literacy lessons, all based on the topic. Using these as a starting point, the children will be writing in lots of different styles - letters, poems, lists, instructions, recounts and information texts.

Children will continue to follow the Read Write Inc programme where they improve reading and spelling skills in smaller groups.

In addition, we will be selecting one digraph (one sound written as two letters) each week and linking this to handwriting practice. We shall teach the class how to join these two letters. There will be differentiated work to accommodate all stages of learning during the week to consolidate the reading and spelling of the sound.

Your child will soon bring home relevant high frequency words to practice reading or spelling at home. A letter explaining this will accompany the words.

Suggested home activities:

- Read with, and to, your child whenever possible.
- Discuss the content at various points and make predictions about what might happen next.
- Practise and secure alphabet.
 - Practise handwriting, ensuring that all single letters and numerals are written correctly. Encourage your child to sit **f, g, j, p, q,** and **y** on the line and **b, d, h, k, l, t** stand on the line
- Nurture a love of language, by using more unusual words and encouraging your child to be descriptive
- Make up stories with your child to help promote their imagination

Numeracy

Below is a list of objectives to be covered this term. As in all classes, there is a wide ability range and therefore the range of numbers shown is to cater for all abilities. Obviously, your child needs to be secure in their understanding using the lower numbers before progressing to the next.

This term's maths work will include the following:

Number and Place Value

- Count to 20/50/100 and beyond, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1 , or from any given number
- Count objects accurately, grouping them in 2s, 5ss or 10s where appropriate
- Identify 1 more/less of numbers up to 20/50/100 and beyond
- Use the language - equal to, more than, less than, most, least
- Read and write numbers to 10/20/100 in words and figures
- For those working with numbers to 100, recognise the place value of each digit (tens, ones)

Addition and Subtraction

- Solve + and - problems to 10/20/50/100 and beyond
Children will need to use concrete objects at the early stages, followed by the use of a number line or a 100 square
- Know by heart all the pairs of numbers which total 10/20/ and multiples of 10/100 which make 100/1000
- Apply this knowledge by solving problems involving measures

Money:

- Recognise and handle coins
- Make amounts in different ways

Shape:

- Describe features of 2D and 3D shapes.

Measures:

- Investigate length and apply knowledge through non-standard measurements.
- Use standard units of measures where appropriate (metres, centimetres)

Time:

- Learn the vocabulary of time (e.g. days of the week, months and birthday, today, yesterday, tomorrow etc).
- Learn to tell the time; analogue and digital time

Suggested home activities:

- Involve your child in handling coins and carrying out simple transactions when shopping.
- Practise rapid recall of number pairs to 10, 20, 50, 100 (addition and subtraction)
- Count out objects to 20, 30, 50, 100
- Practising number formation and number names to 20, 50, and 100 or over. (at your child's level)
- Counting aloud forwards and backwards from any number in 1s, 10s, then 2s and 5s
- Play number and counting games.
- Look for shapes in the environment and discuss their properties
- Learn the days of the week and associated routines
- Learn to tell the time

This term the children will have opportunities to use a camera and some children will learn how to download their photographs on to the computer. The children will be making simple films by downloading photos and adding sound. We will be endeavouring to teach how to save and retrieve work in their individual folders on our school system. The children will also work on RM Maths or Athletics to help consolidate and reinforce basic concepts in a variety of contexts. The bank of laptops will be available to our class on Wednesdays. The children will, of course, be using the fixed classroom PCs to support their learning at other times during the week.

The Burrow's **Games** and **P.E.** lessons are on Tuesday mornings and alternate Monday and Friday afternoons. Please ensure your child has their PE kit, with all items named, in school at all times. As we get into the colder weather, make sure that there are jogger bottoms and a sweat shirt, as well as shorts in their bag.

Mrs Limb teaches Music on Tuesday mornings. The class will be learning new songs and there will be lots of opportunity to accompany songs with a variety of percussion instruments. This will help children to listen to each other and work as part of a team.

Occasionally, we shall ask all the class to find out about a certain topic or to bring in something to help our learning. However, the Year 2s will have a set piece of homework each week to complete in their Learning Log. This will be explained to them on a Friday and will need to be returned to school by the following Wednesday. Wherever possible your child should try to complete this work on their own. Should they need your support, we would very much appreciate a brief comment indicating the particular difficulty and the nature of the support given.

We look forward to a happy and successful term, but please contact us should you have any concerns at any time. First thing in the morning is not always convenient, as welcoming your children has to be our first concern at that particular

time. One of us will be available after school most days. Please send a note or phone school to arrange if necessary.

Mrs K. Parmiter

Mrs J Carpenter

Wanted: Our role play area is a mock -up of a house as it would appear one hundred years ago. Any artefacts from the past (toys, books, clothes, household items) which we could look at or borrow would be most welcome. These will be treated with care, and returned.

Wanted: small soldier figures to use in small world activities