



**Culworth C.E. Primary Academy**  
**The Burrow Newsletter**  
**Autumn 2015**

## **Dear Parents**

Welcome returning and new pupils and parents to The Burrow! We hope you had a fantastic summer and look forward to having a wonderful year working together.

As always, our aim is for each and every child to feel secure and happy, and be suitably challenged in order for them to achieve their potential. We have a busy and exciting term's work planned, which we hope your children will enjoy.

Mrs Parmiter will teach on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs Carpenter on Thursday and Fridays.

As last year, 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 are delighted to welcome Mrs Carvosso, who now works with us on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

We are very happy to welcome parent (and grandparent) helpers in The Burrow. Your help in hearing children read, playing maths games, etc. is invaluable. 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 Marshall (in the office) has the information regarding the necessary paperwork for any new volunteers.

Please remember that the most important way you can support your child is by reading with them as often as possible. It is essential that you listen to them read aloud and also that you read to them. Please try and write in your child's reading diary to keep us informed of their reading at home.

We are happy for parents to change books within the same colour band, but 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.

Your child may bring home a kite word sheet with high frequency words to practise too. Please tick the relevant section each time the word is read correctly. When your child has read a word correctly on three separate days, they colour in that section. The completed kite sheet needs to be placed in the "kite word" plastic box which you will find on the wall just inside the classroom. We will then issue your child with the next sheet.

Those children who have completed the reading of high frequency words move on to spelling elephants. These need

to be checked at home and sections coloured in when the word has been spelt correctly three times. Please put completed elephant sheets in the same box as the reading kites.

Thank you for your support with the "Where my wellies take me" task during the summer holidays. It has been most entertaining to hear about these adventures!

This term our **topic** is called "**Where my wellies take me**". The main focus is on farming and what better way to introduce this than the mobile farm visit to school. It was a huge success and both animals and children were extremely well behaved!

The children wrote recounts about the visit and facts about the animals. They have labelled particular features on animal pictures. In **Literacy** we will be learning more about the features of non-fiction texts, making notes as we research, reading and writing poetry and writing stories. We have some great fiction and non-fiction texts connected to farming, which will be used as models for the children to work from.

We will be thinking about the meaning of Harvest. Why do we celebrate Harvest? What does Harvest mean for farmers? These are some of the questions which we will consider.

In **History** we will be comparing and contrasting modern day farming with farming in the past. If you have any farming memorabilia (horse brasses, butter churns, milking stools, tools, photos of farming in the past) which you are happy for us to borrow, please let us know.

For **Science**, the Year 2 children will be taught by Mrs Carpenter, while the Year 1 children will be taught by Mrs Wharton. The children will be classifying animals, learning about basic needs, simple food chains, habitats and how animals' bodies are adapted for their own particular lifestyle. They will learn about life cycles and the names of animal babies.

In **Art** the children will be using careful observational skills to draw farm animals. They will be learning about different tones of colour and experimenting with different ways of using a paint brush to create texture. They will learn about colour mixing and hot and cold palettes. Collage and mixed media pictures of the countryside will be made. We will be looking at the work of Monet and attempting to emulate his style.

During this term we will be using computers to improve and develop keyboard skills when word processing. The children will be taught Internet safety before using Google to search for images and information about our topic. They will be using Beebots to develop their knowledge of programming and control.

In **RE** we will be learning more about Jesus through Bible stories. We will be learning about the meaning of "inspiration" and thinking of how Jesus inspired people in the past and in present days. We will also learn about St Francis.

As you can see our work is very much cross- curricular when possible. However, we ensure that basic skills are taught in Numeracy and Literacy lessons.

Children will continue to improve reading and spelling skills in smaller groups, during Read, Write, Inc lessons.

In addition, the class are taught a new spelling rule each week, which is linked to handwriting practice. This work is differentiated to suit the individual needs of children. When children are able to form all letters correctly, they will be taught to join letters. Please note that mastering this skill can be tricky and your child's handwriting may become a little more untidy during the transition stage.

#### **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 reciting and writing the letters of the alphabet - lower and upper case.
  - 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

This term we have introduced a new element to the Numeracy teaching - Big Maths. This focuses on basic core knowledge, and facts (LearnIts), which need to be learnt off by heart.

Each week the class has a timed Beat That challenge where the recall of LearnIt facts is tested. The children try to improve on their previous score. The emphasis is very much on doing your personal best (not on being "the" best) and the children enjoy this very much.

We will also be using some new equipment called Numicon in our Maths lessons to help improve teaching and learning.

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. Please speak to us if you have any questions or need advice on how to help your child.

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, 5s or 10s where appropriate

- Identify 1 more/less (10 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, (1000) recognise the place value of each digit (tens, ones or hundreds, tens and 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

The children will also work on Activelearn Maths or Mathletics to help consolidate and reinforce basic concepts in a variety of contexts. We will be sending home log-in details with your child very soon. The bank of laptops will be available to our class on Wednesdays. The children will have access to the class laptops to support their learning at other times during the week.

The Burrow's **Games** and **P.E.** lessons are on Tuesday mornings and Monday 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. As you will appreciate, 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:**

- Any farming artefacts from the past which we could look at or borrow would be most welcome.
- Toy farm animals, farm set.
- Books about farming and farm animals

These will be treated with care, and returned.

