

Culworth C.E. Primary Academy

The Burrow Newsletter

Spring 2015

Dear Parents

Please accept our best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy year ahead. We have an exciting term's work planned for the children and look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for each and every child.

As you know, we very much appreciate support from home and offers of help in the classroom. Many thanks to our volunteers who help to hear children read. Please let us know if you would like to help in school.

Listening to your child read at home continues to be most important and needs to be done regularly. Remember that 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. Also, please remember to sign and date the reading record book after your child has read to you at home, making a note if relevant. Your child will continue to bring a word kite or Look Read Cover Write Check spelling words home to practice. They will also have a grapheme grid to revise and consolidate the learning of letter sounds. There will be some nonsense words on these grids for child to read too.

Please remember to use the box labelled "I've finished my reading book. Please may I have another?" 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.



Our **topic** this term is called "An African Safari."

We were most surprised to discover that a monkey has made his home in The Burrow classroom. As he is friendly and has promised not to make any more big messes in our classroom, we have decided to look after him for a while.

Mrs Taylor has been working hard to create an African environment in the role play area. If you have any books or artefacts from Africa which you are happy to share or loan to The Burrow, they would be most gratefully received. Likewise if you know of anyone who has spent time in Africa and would be happy to share their experience with us, please let us know.

We have started the topic with a focus on African wildlife. The children will be using books and the Internet to research facts about monkeys and will then make a monkey fact file. We will also be finding out and writing about elephants. We will be looking at the features of non-fiction texts to help us with the organisation and presentation of our work. Please read some non-fiction books at home, looking at the contents, index, glossary and reading the captions and labels too. Practise looking up a specific piece of information by using the contents and/or index pages.

In **Literacy** we will be reading poetry and then write our own poems about African animals. We will be learning about endangered species and then write persuasive letters to encourage protection of these threatened animals. We will also be designing posters on this theme. There will be traditional storytelling and drama too.

We have some fantastic texts to use as a starting point, but again, additional books which you may have at home and do not mind us borrowing would be useful. Please make sure

that they are named.

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

Suggested home activities:

Continue to read with, and to, your child whenever possible, discussing the content at various points and making predictions about what might happen next.

Alternate reading from your child's reading book with reading the word kite and/or the grapheme grid.

Practise reciting the alphabet.

A big push this term on handwriting please, to make sure 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.

Read some non-fiction books and study their features.

Read and learn some short fun poems.

Numeracy

Here 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, read and write numbers to 20/100 in numerals and words
- Count in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s/ and then in 3s
- Understand and use the words: equal to, more than, less than, fewer, most, least/ compare numbers using < and > signs
- Recognise the place value of each numeral (tens, ones and eventually hundreds, thousands)
- Recognise odd and even numbers
- Double and halve numbers to 20

Addition and Subtraction

- Solve + and - problems to 20/50/100 and beyond (Children may still need to use concrete objects or 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
- Know that addition can be done in any order.

Multiplication and Division

- Solve word problems using concrete objects or pictures
- Understand the sign \times (lots of/groups of/times/multiplied by)
- Understand the sign \div (shared between/divided into equal groups of)

Fractions:

- Recognise, find and name halves, quarters/thirds

Money:

- Recognise and handle coins
- Make amounts in different ways
- Give change from 10p,20p/50p,£1,£5 and beyond

Shape:

- Describe features of 2D and 3D shapes/identify line symmetry in a vertical line/use the words -edges, faces and vertices
- Use words describing position - next to, on top, below, left ,right

Measures:

- Compare lengths, weights, capacity and volume
- Measure accurately in metres and cms.
- Measure weight in grams
- Read the scale on a simple thermometer

Time:

- Know by heart the days of the week, months of the year
- Tell the time; analogue and digital time to the hour/half past/quarter past/quarter to and be able to draw hands on a clock to show these times
Once this achieved, tell and write the time to five minutes/know the number of minutes in an hour and the number of hours in a day

Data handling:

- Interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts/block graphs and simple tables

Suggested home activities:

- Play shops, taking turns to be the shopkeeper/customer
- Play matching games - numbers written numerals/words
- Know by heart pairs of numbers which make 10/20 (addition and subtraction)
- Count out objects to 20, 30, 50, 100 and group them in 10s and 1s Practising writing numbers 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
- Learn the days of the week and months of the year
- Continue to practise telling the time

Please talk to your child about the methods we use in school. If the method has been understood, your child will be able to explain and demonstrate it to you! Should there be any difficulties, please talk to us. Mrs Parmiter's teaching focus is predominantly on the understanding of the number system, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Mrs Carpenter's teaching focus is mainly on measures, including time, shape, position and movement, fractions and money. Obviously these areas overlap more and more as the children's skills develop.

Please also ask if you would like advice on which range of numbers your child is working within. The objectives listed in this newsletter are to cater for all levels of abilities in our group. It is vital in mathematics that your child has a secure and solid understanding of the fundamental concepts. When the foundations are secure, a child can build upon these as they progress through school.

This term **Science** teaching will be part of our cross-curricular teaching about Africa. We will be learning how to distinguish amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will be identifying and naming creatures which live in Africa and grouping them accordingly. We will learn about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores and the food chain. The children will also learn about the things which are essential for a creature's survival and compare it with what is needed for themselves to survive.

African animals will be compared with animals found locally and we will study habitats and consider how animals have adapted for their own survival. Finally, we will learn about endangered species: finding out the reasons behind this and

discovering what is being done to protect them. Throughout the year we are also looking at seasonal change. This term we will be considering how animals, birds, plants and people adapt to winter. We will be keeping an eye on the temperature and the changing landscape.

There will be many opportunities to improve mapping skills in **Geography**. The children will be using globes and world maps to locate Africa. They will be learning about the different countries which make up this continent and learning the names of the oceans and seas which surround it. The class will discover the different features of Africa's climate and landscapes - jungle, savannah and desert- and will compare temperatures with Culworth. We will also be comparing and contrasting life in an African village community with our own local community.

In **Music** the focus will be on rhythm. The children will learn some songs from Africa and, of course, will be drumming along! Mrs Limb will be leading these sessions on Tuesday mornings.

This term's **R.E.** will start with a focus on God's love for His creation. We will then learn about the meaning of baptism. Through the telling of various Bible stories, we will be thinking about jealousy, forgiveness and saying sorry. We will also consider about the importance of beauty on the inside rather than on the outside before we focus on the meaning of the Easter story. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Reeves lead these lessons and all of us (grown-us too!) learn so much from her expertise.

We shall be taking inspiration from the colourful artwork from Africa. The children have painted African animals in Tinga Tinga style and are beginning collaborative work on a class batik portraying an African scene. We will be making animal prints, tie-dye headdresses, animal masks and also designing and making a small three dimensional African hut. In our **Computer Science** lessons we will be using the Internet to research facts about Africa. The children will learn more about keeping safe when using the Internet and will also develop their skills in adding pictures to text. There will also be opportunities for the children to use RM Maths and Mathematics to consolidate maths concepts and skills. Please remember that you can access Mathematics from home. We shall be sending home a reminder of your child's log-in details. The bank of laptops will be available to our class on Mondays.

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 are into the colder weather, make sure that there are jogger bottoms and a sweat shirt, as well as shorts in their bag. The children need to be changed for PE straightaway on Tuesday mornings as before.

Occasionally, we shall ask all the class to find out about a certain topic or to bring in something to help our learning. The Year 2s will continue to 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

