

Culworth C.E. Primary School

The Burrow Newsletter

Summer 2014



Dear Parents

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school after the Easter break, all refreshed to face the summer term! Miss Gates will be teaching with us until 2nd July as a conclusion to her P.G.C.E. course. The children have made her feel most welcome and her placement with us is already proving most successful.

Mrs Taylor also works with us on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We have been very happy to welcome her back to school after Maternity Leave.

As always, please let us know if you would like to help in school. An extra pair of hands is always welcome and very much appreciated. Mrs Watson has the DBR forms which will need to be filled in if you haven't already done so.

May we remind you that we are happy for parents to change reading 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. 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.

This term your child will continue to learn, practise and develop a range of new skills in each area of the curriculum. We have a busy and exciting term's work planned, which we hope your children will enjoy.

Our **topic** is entitled "Buzz! Buzz!" Up until now we have been concentrating on growing things but we will move on to learning about the visitors to gardens and in particular, bees, to take us up to the end of the summer term.

There have been many areas of **Science** covered so far. The children have learnt about the parts of a seed. They have watched broad beans growing in a jar, making observations of progress in a Bean Diary. They have dissected plants and learnt the names of the different parts and their functions. Mrs Clouston has kindly taken children to help do the gardening around school and Mr Perkins has also offered his expertise.

Thank you so much for the many donations of gardening items. The children are busy growing seeds and learning more about how plants grow. We hope the paved area outside our classroom will soon boast a host of flowers and vegetables.

You can help your child by growing some seeds at home, gardening together and learning how to identify flowers and weeds.

In **Art** the class have been using textiles to create a collage showing the parts of a plant. The children have also made observational drawings of fruits and vegetables, using one of these to make a print in the style of Andy Warhol. We will also be making three-dimensional insects and there will be opportunities to paint.

Our focus in **RE** is on Bible stories about growing and the creatures in the world. To date the children have listened to the stories about the Creation, the Garden of Eden and the parable of the sower.

Our topic work gives us many opportunities to teach **Literacy** skills - reading, writing, speaking and listening.

We have written letters of forgiveness to the caterpillar who destroyed our plant and written amazing stories based on Jack and the Beanstalk. We were thrilled to see the class including powerful words, similes and alliteration in their work and valiant attempts made to include those elusive capital letters and full stops! The class will be writing instructions, lists, captions, labelling pictures, as well as writing more stories and poems. There will be opportunities for drama and role play too.

In **I.C.T.** the children will be further developing their control skills, programming the Beebots to move around a map of a garden. Word processing skills will be further developed and the class will begin to learn how to copy and paste pictures to their work.

You can help your child by playing games which involving moving to the left or to the right, going clockwise or anticlockwise and moving forward or backward a given set of paces. You could also use quarter, half and complete turns as directions too.

Wherever possible our work will be cross-curricular, linked to our topic. The children are given focussed independent tasks to complete during the week. Each child has a list of these tasks which they are expected to tick off once completed. Many children are already quite efficient at organising themselves and their time. Some are still learning!! The tasks need to be finished before the children have any free choice.

Children will continue to follow the "Read Write Inc." programme to help improve reading, spelling and writing skills in smaller groups.

Suggested home activities:

- Read with, and to, your child whenever possible.
- Discuss the characters and settings, picking out powerful words.
- Practise reciting the alphabet.
- Practice handwriting, helping your child to correct any issues with incorrect letter formation
- Write stories together, encouraging your child to use connectives - but, because, so, then, while, etc
- Emphasise any powerful words and encourage your child to explore the meaning of them and use them whenever appropriate in order to develop a wide vocabulary

Numeracy

This term's maths work will include the following:

Oral and mental mathematics:

- Consolidation of addition and subtraction number facts up to 10, and to 20, and then beyond.
- Use of doubles and near doubles and tens in calculations.
- Understand what the 'tens' digit represents in a two digit number. (To clarify eg. 14 or 40!) and to progress to understanding what the "hundreds" digit represents in a three-digit number when ready
- Carry out simple operations mentally +, -, x, ÷.
- Identify and reason about patterns in numbers.

Calculations:

- Count forwards and backwards in different sized steps. (eg. 2, 4, 6... 19, 17, 15 ...)
- Mathematical language: talking about number patterns
- Measure capacity

- Work out the 'missing number' in a simple addition or subtraction bond e.g. $5 + ? = 7$ / $? + 5 = 7$.
- Use all operation signs (+, -, x, ÷).
- Look at range of strategies to encourage efficient mental calculations.
- Know the multiplication facts of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
- Look at simple fractions

Money:

- Exchange several smaller value coins, 10/20p for the equivalent amount in larger value coins.
- Give change from 10p/20p/50/£1 and beyond by counting on

Shape:

- Revise the features of 2D and 3D shapes.

Measures:

- Investigate capacity using non-standard measurements.
- Use standard units of measures where appropriate (metres, centimetres, kilograms, grams, litres and millilitres)

Time:

- Tell the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to)

Data Handling:

- Collect data and make tally charts
- Use data to make pictograms, block graphs and bar charts
- Interpret different kinds of simple graphs

Suggested home activities:

- Practise mental calculations.
- Look at doubles and halves in the environment e.g. pairs of wheels, half a dozen eggs etc. And practise finding half and double of numbers to 10 and then to 20
- Practise exchanging small coins for larger e.g. two 5p's are the same as one 10p.
- Can you spot 3D shapes in the environment?
- Practise number facts of 2, 5 & 10 times tables.
- Any practical measuring
- Recite days of the week and months of the year
- Continue to practise telling the time

The Burrow's **Games** and **PE** lessons are on alternate Monday afternoons with Mr Canning and Mrs Parmiter, Tuesday mornings with Mr King and alternate Thursday afternoons with Mrs Williams. The children are developing coordination and balance through multi-skills work and will be improving ball and athletic skills also.

Mrs Limb teaches **Music** on Tuesday mornings. The children will be learning songs about growing and wildlife, adding percussion accompaniments where appropriate.

We hope you enjoy this term's "take away" family task connected to the topic. We thought the children would enjoy making a miniature garden and hope it proves to be a good discussion point as you share in the making of it.

Please encourage your child to log on to Mathletics regularly.

The Year 2s will continue to have a set piece of homework each week to complete in their Learning Log,

explained to them on a Friday and to be returned to school by the following Wednesday. As always, 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.

This term we would like to make the most of the outdoor area and the school garden as an extension of our classroom. Could you please make sure your child has a sun hat, sun cream and a drink of water every day so that they can take advantage of an outdoor classroom?

We look forward to a happy and successful term, but please remember to contact us should you have any queries, or issues arise.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs K. Parmiter

Mrs H Williams

Wanted:

- Any old sheets, large pieces of fabric or camouflage nets, which can be used for our role play area.
- Books about mini-beasts.
- Magnifying glasses, bug collecting pots (transparent plastic pots)
- Trowels and other hand-held garden tools