

Newsletter

The Eyrie - Autumn 2015

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school after what, we trust, was a restful summer break. They have already settled well into school and classroom routines and have slotted easily and happily back into friendship groups.

This term our theme is “Hard times”. We will be looking at how life was hard during the Victorian era. We will be using ‘Street Child’ by Berlie Doherty, extracts from Dickens novels and a range of non-fiction texts as our stimulus and adopting a creative approach across all areas of the curriculum.

Literacy

Through these texts children will learn

- to empathise with characters
- to accurately use dialogue in writing
- to describe characters settings and atmosphere
- to identify key events in a text
- to write letters
- to write a non-chronological report
- to appreciate a range of historical texts

Drama will be used whenever possible as a stimulus for writing.

Reading

There will be a quiet reading time in the classroom between 8.45 and 9.00am every day when children will be expected to settle quickly with their reading books. We continue to encourage children to read to an adult at home throughout the week and also ask if you could sign in your child’s creative learning log that you have heard them read at least once a week.

Grammar

There will be time allocated each week to increase children’s grammatical awareness. This term they will learn the difference between formal and informal language, how to use expanded noun phrases, where and how to add adverbial phrases and how to use relative clauses.

Spelling Children will be given weekly spellings to learn which follow particular spelling rules and patterns. These will be tested every week.

Numeracy

This term we will be -

- reading, writing, ordering and comparing whole numbers to at least 1,000,000.
- using the language of both decimals and common fractions and appreciating their equivalence
- using negative numbers in a variety of everyday contexts
- multiplying and dividing by 10,100 and 1000 and understanding the effect
- exploring linear sequences and number patterns
- converting between different metric units
- solving problems by written and mental calculations, using all 4 number operations
- calculating area and perimeter
- ordering and comparing equivalent fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions and converting between them
- understanding fraction, decimal and percentage equivalence
- adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator
- finding multiples, factors and prime numbers

Science: The topics to be covered are:-

Micro-organisms

In this unit of work children will learn that there are many very small micro-organisms which feed, grow and re-produce and which may be harmful or beneficial. This unit will offer children the opportunity to use scientific ideas to explain some cause of illness and decay and to relate science to their personal health.

Teeth and Eating

This unit will re-inforce and develop children's knowledge of their personal health and how it relates to their diet

Art and D + T

The children will look at the work of a Victorian artist, William Morris. They will understand what a 'motif' is, how a motif can create a pattern and create a half drop pattern using their own motif. They will explore two of William Morris's method of creating a pattern.

R.E./P.S.H.E

Children will consider what a home is. They will gain an understanding of what Dr Barnardo did for the plight of Victorian children and how this charity is still relevant to-day.

ICT

This term we will be reminding the children of how to stay safe on the internet.

Support you can give:

Below are some suggested activities that you can do, that will support the learning in the classroom.

Literacy – encourage your child to read across a range of genre and provide opportunities to discuss texts.

Numeracy – discuss time (e.g. television programmes), practise measuring (e.g. cooking, reading scales) and times tables facts

Topic- Show children examples of Victorian buildings, visit a museum with Victorian artefacts (There are some current local Victorian events taking place in canons Ashby and Sulgrave Manor)

P.E – Practise throwing and catching ball skills.

Geography/History

The children will place the Victorian era into a historic timeline. They will understand what life was like for a child in Victorian Britain. They will gain an understanding of what workhouses were and contrast this with life of the wealthy. They will understand the impact of the Victorians in terms of industry and architecture and will explore some of the Victorian inventions.

P.E.:

Children will develop ball skills e.g. throwing and catching leading up to team games. There will be a focus on agility, games skills and team building.

On a Thursday afternoon KS2 children from Culworth and Boddington will build upon their knowledge of games such as cricket/football/netball etc with the view to participate in future school team events.

PE will be outdoors. Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit is in school at all times and that this includes trainers, a sweatshirt and a lightweight waterproof.

Homework:

Children will continue to use their Creative Learning logs for homework tasks. These will be sent home on Friday and collected the following Wednesday. Please encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability. As part of their ongoing homework, your child will need to continue to practise reading at home to an adult and to learn set spellings and times tables. Please sign creative learning logs when you hear your child read.

And finally:

We hope that you have found this newsletter useful in providing information on your child's first term. Please do not hesitate to see us at the end of the school day should you have any queries or concerns. We are looking forward to making our programme as creative as possible and providing many opportunities for independent learning.

Yours faithfully,

