

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Summer Term and to 'Life in the Ocean'.

As I was counting the weeks to work out snack money, I came to the frightening realisation that in 14 weeks, my lovely, happy, 'well trained', co operative, intelligent class will be moving into Year 1 and Year 2. How can this be possible? Surely it was only just a few weeks ago that I was with you on a home visit!

Enough reminiscing. Down to business.

This term, the geographical aspect of our topic will take us from the seas around Great Britain to the oceans of the world. The children will learn that the sea has different features just as dry land. They will look at the world map and work out which seas are warm and which are cold. They will watch DVDs to learn about marine life and use the internet and books to create their own fact files. We will 'dive' down to explore the sea bed and 'swim' up the side of an underwater mountain, coming to rest on the golden shores of our own fantasy island.

The children will also learn about Grace Darling and Jacques Cousteau and their importance as influential characters in history.

The children have enjoyed our Thursday afternoon science sessions. Mrs Carpenter will continue to teach Year 1 together and I will cover similar objectives as part of Reception's 'Understanding the World'. We will all look at the changing seasons, as we move from Spring into Summer. Reception will learn about the basic structure of a plant, while Year 1 moves onto classifying a variety of common and wild garden plants and trees and carrying out investigations into how a plant feeds. Reception will look at life cycles and Year 1 will describe and compare the structure of a variety of fish and amphibians, birds and mammals that you find in and near the water. They will identify and classify sea animals, consolidate their knowledge of a food chain and construct their own sea food chain.

In Numeracy, Year 1 will find halves and quarters of shapes and amounts. They will add and subtract 10 to and from a 2 digit number and then progress to bridging ten as they add and subtract with 11/12. They will compare capacities and present data using pictograms and block graphs. They will count in 2s, 5s and 10s (beginning multiplication) and begin to divide by working out how many sets in a total. We will continue to work

on doubling and halving numbers, on 3D shapes and their properties and begin to look at $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ turns. Using coins, we will find totals and give change by finding the difference.

Reception children will learn to count confidently in 10s to 100 and beyond and in 2s to 20. They will read and write numbers to 20 and begin to recognise numbers on a 100 square. They will begin to be able to fill in missing numbers. They will say 1 more than a number up to 20 and add and subtract 2 and 3 by counting on and back. They will find different ways of partitioning 10 and learn to write the matching additions independently. They will learn number bonds to 5 then 6 and 7 moving on to 10. They will learn to compare the capacity of containers and name and describe 3D shapes.

After that, everyone will be exhausted!

Read, Write, Inc continues in small ability groups, but Literacy in whole class will reflect our topic. The children have already composed an acrostic poem based on a 'seaside' word. They will have opportunity to make notes and create their own non fiction booklet. They will write factually about an historical character and create posters warning of seaside dangers. Our topic will culminate in work on a fantasy island and story writing.

In Art this term, we are looking at the work of a modern artist, Maggie Hamblin. Emulating her style, the children will be creating their own textured waves. They will also use chalk pastels to make observational drawings of shells, and use appliqué and layering to add a further dimension to another wonderful class batik picture. Finally, we will create pictures using stones and pebbles and the children will learn to photograph and print their own work.

PE continues to be taught by Miss Richardson on a Tuesday and alternate Mondays. Maypole and country dancing will be taught by team Wharton and Carpenter.

Please could I ask you for a £6 donation towards snack. Hermione will be leading the cookery classes this term, as I have promised her she can choose something from her very own box of cookery cards.

I am delighted to say that Inez and Finley have already been given a 'silver scale' from Rainbow Fish. If your child hasn't yet brought in a fish

for our display, please would you encourage them to make one, so that they too can get a 'silver scale' when they do something kind.

Friday adventure will continue with Year 1 this Friday, 1st May. The children do still need waterproof, protective trousers and wellies, so that they can rummage in the hedgerows and under the trees. If it is easier for you, these items of clothing can stay on their pegs at school. Please could you provide a sun hat and suncream as the weather gets hotter.

Finally, (thank goodness, I hear you say), if you are throwing out any old bakeware bits and pieces, jelly moulds, ice cube trays, utensils, wire baskets, flavourless herbs and spices etc please would you let me have first refusal for the mud kitchen?

I hope this little note has given you a flavour of what promises to be a very busy and fun term. I hope to end our time together as we have done for the past 2 years, with a picnic lunch and 'pool party' in the garden - date to be arranged.

Thank you for all the help given over the past two terms. If anyone can spare a few hours to listen to readers any time, any day, you would be very welcome - a huge, huge thank you to Rosie for being there every Friday.

Many thanks

Sally Wharton