

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Summer term - Year 1 and Year 2 are there on the horizon and I can't believe that May is just around the corner. For those of you who are wondering why we have moved the 'Maypole' to June again this year: we felt that we would have more time to practise and enjoy the dancing, if the dreaded SATs were behind us and, more importantly of course, the sun will be shining and there will be no mad dash back to the class rooms to escape the rain.

The topic this term is 'Along the River Bank' and will start off with a geographical focus. As I love all things ancient (including my TA's), I am going to progress from the River Thames and the River Avon and travel across the continents to the River Nile, stepping back in time to the Ancient Egyptians.

The children will locate rivers on a map, use correct geographical language looking for the 'source' and the 'river mouth'. They will understand the importance of a river as a food source and think about the plants and creatures that form a part of the river's eco system.

Once in Burundi, the 'source' of the Nile, we will head up the river in our papyrus boats towards the Mediterranean Sea, stopping off to visit the Pyramids and join in an archaeological dig to find out about the Ancient Egyptians and their lives.

RE this term is very much linked with Egypt. The children are learning about Moses and Joseph and will be taking part in our summer production of 'Joseph and the amazing technicolour dream coat'. We will be continuing to read Bible stories during our Key Stage 1 assemblies and will be learning about 'The Torah' during lesson time.

Art will, as always, be led most ably by Mrs Nichols and will start off looking at the use of perspective in drawings and paintings. The children will be making their own instruments to use during music sessions and possibly, the production. They will also design and create their own jewellery and headdresses. They will be making their own paper and forming it into a 'cartouche', on which they will write their name in hieroglyphics. They will create a 3D pyramid structure using spaghetti and marshmallows and work collaboratively on a class mural in the style of the contemporary Egyptian artist, Alaa Awad.

PE will continue to be taught by Mr Canning and will be outside as much as possible. I have the 'pleasure' of teaching Year 1 the 'Barber's Pole' and to help

choreograph a KS1 dance for our country dancing extravaganza later in the term
- oh joy!

Science for Year 1 will consist of further work to do with the seasons, work on the classification of animals and a unit on plants.

Read, Write, Inc and phonic work will continue to be taught in small groups extending the children's knowledge of new vowel sounds, diagraphs and trigraphs. Year 1 will continue to have their separate spelling and grammar sessions with me and Miss Sibson looking at different word endings, counting the syllables in words and editing, extending and improving their sentences. There will be opportunities for different genres of writing within our Literacy sessions.

Numeracy tasks will continue to be set at your child's own level. This term, Year 1 will be working on writing and reading numbers in words, simple multiplication and division, capacity, coin recognition, addition and subtraction problems using coins and beginning to learn how to give change.

Reception will continue to recognise and order numbers. They will add and subtract two single digit numbers and count on and back along a number line to find the answer. They will solve simple problems involving doubling, halving and sharing and will identify and name 2D and 3D shapes.

Friday adventure will continue on until we finish for the Summer holidays. As the weather gets warmer, please remember that it is still important that the children have protective clothing for their legs during this session.

Please may I ask you for a further donation of £6 snack money towards this first half term.

I am in the process of checking reading levels and word recognition sheets, so please bear with me. I know that you haven't seen your child's word house and spelling kite for several weeks - there just aren't enough hours in a day - but they are on their way and in a new format! Many thanks, to those of you, who have been in to listen to children reading, last term. It is a great help and I hope you will have time to carry on this term.

As always, if you have any worries, please come and see me or ring me.

Sally Wharton

