



# Elizabeth Class Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to you all for your lovely Easter wishes - I hope you all had a lovely Easter break too! As we begin the summer term, I would like to thank you for your continued support; tell you of the topics your child will be learning about this term and remind you of some of the class routines.

This term your child will be learning the following:

## **Literacy**

Children will be continuing to develop the secure use of accurate punctuation when writing sentences including: capital letters, full stops, commas, questions marks, exclamation marks and speech marks. We will challenge them to use different sentence openers and to use a range of vocabulary, developing their creative writing through the use noun phrases e.g. the furry, grey wolf.

We will explore traditional tale story writing to develop children's creativity and compositional skills. In addition we will also write in non-fiction genres, including recounts. The children will become familiar with how these texts are structured and organised. We will continue to practise neat handwriting using the correct letter formation and begin to encourage the children to use joined handwriting.

As you are already aware, the children will be having their Phonics Check assessment next half term. We will continue to learn new phonemes and continue to blend and segment these sounds to read and write real and 'pseudo' (made up) words in our daily phonics sessions. Enclosed is a list of the phonemes we have been learning in class. Please practise these by reading and spelling different words that include these phonemes with your child at home.

Children will continue to take part in guided reading sessions with a focus on comprehension skills; summarising what they have read to ensure they have fully understood. We will ask questions which require the children to look more closely at the text to gain a deeper understanding about what is happening. Children will be asked to consider the events and character's actions and be encouraged to pass comments and give their own opinion supported by what they have read. E.g. How do you think the character is feeling? Why do you think they did that? Do you think that is a good thing to do? What might happen next?

The children will have daily opportunities to develop their speaking, listening, group discussion and interaction skills.



## Maths

In maths we will be focusing on counting on and back in steps of two, five and ten from 0 and from different starting points. This will support the children in learning their times tables.

We will be focusing on the following areas in problem solving contexts:

- Money (ways to make 20p and £1, calculating change)
- Measure (exploring length, volume, weight and building on our time work)
- Mental addition and subtraction, e.g.  $15 + 8$  (thinking of 8 as  $5 + 3$  as it is easier to add 5 to 15 and then to add on the other 3)
- Applying calculation strategies to a range of different contexts.
- Telling the time to o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past.

In addition to daily maths lessons, children will take part in Guided Maths sessions where they will work with the class teacher in small groups, completing a variety of fun maths activities and games.

## Science

This term, children will learn about different types of plants and where they grow. They will name the parts of a plant and undertake an experiment to establish the best conditions for a plant to grow. In the second half of term the children will begin to explore forces, developing their understanding of friction through pushes and pulls.

## History

In history we will be learning about castles. Children will learn the main features of castles and how these features were important to help protect the castle. They will also learn what is inside a castle and how it differs from their home. Towards the end of this topic children will have the opportunity to design and make their own castle using junk modelling.

## Geography

During the last term the children learnt about the seven continents, this term they will extend this knowledge by learning about the proximity of the continents to the equator or the poles and how this affects their climate. They will look at a number of different countries and explore their climate and land features.

## Art and DT

Linking with their work in computing, children will be designing and constructing their own photo frames. In art, we will be exploring the theme of nature. Using the modern artist Andrew Goldsworthy as inspiration, we will create a piece of art with natural objects experimenting with shape, colour and texture. We will also be looking at the designs of the artist William Morris in order to create our own nature themed wallpaper.

## PE

Indoor PE: **Mondays** – children will be exploring a range of dance moves and linking these to create their own short dance phrases. One of our themes is 'contrasts' so we will include movements that contrast in height, speed, direction and style, e.g. flowing movements contrasted with short, jerky moves. We will also perform our dances to contrasting pieces of music and explore dance from around the world, using different continents to inspire our compositions.

Outdoor PE: **Tuesdays** – we will be gearing up for our sports day by practising a range of athletic skills related directly to our sports day races while improving our fitness and stamina, in the latter part of the term we will explore different problem solving through adventure trails, which develop our communication and teamwork in a fitness environment.

## **RE**

Through our RE topics this term, we will be learning about Holy days, including the ascension of Jesus and the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We will look at the importance of saying sorry; the sacrament of reconciliation and the need for forgiveness when people make mistakes. We will learn about how God's love spreads through the whole world and the importance of being a good neighbour and sharing God's message with one another.

## **Computing**

In computing the children will become storytellers, investigating interactive books before creating audiobooks using the Bookmaker app on the iPad, linking carefully with their Literacy topic of traditional tales. In the second half of the summer term the children will continue to develop their understanding of programming using the program Scratch. This program encourages the children to solve problems using coding blocks, similar to their work at the beginning of the year. In our topic 'We are Astronauts', the children will design a space background, a spaceship and program their craft to move between planets.

## **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)**

Children will be learning about different emotions they experience and exploring how they can deal with the negative emotions in a positive manner. They will also learn about how to stay safe, including how to cross the road safely, water safety and sun safety.

## **Music**

In music the children will continue to develop their understanding of rhythm and pace through percussion and song.

## **Routines**

### **Homework**

There is no change to the homework and spelling routine. Your child will continue to receive two pieces of homework on Fridays, which will be linked to the work carried out in class. These will generally be Literacy or Maths however, occasionally, we may send home work relating to the topics we are learning about in different curriculum areas. Homework should be returned the following Monday.

### **Spellings**

Spellings are also given out on Fridays and should be learnt through the week for a spelling test on the following Friday. Children should be practising their spellings every day to ensure they have committed them to memory. Children are asked to include these words in sentences to ensure they understand the words and are able to apply the spelling when writing. As well as reminding them to use capital letters and full stops correctly; please encourage your child to make the sentences as thoughtful and exciting as possible using adjectives, good vocabulary and connectives (but, because, so).

### **Reading**

In addition to guided reading sessions carried out in class, we aim to hear your child read twice a week and change their books on a weekly basis. To facilitate this, please ensure your child's reading book and reading record are brought to school in their book bag every day. It is very important that you hear your child read out loud each day and ask questions about their book to check their understanding. Their school reading book should be read more than once to ensure they cannot only read the words but most importantly, understand what it is about. Please remember to record a comment in your child's reading record to help us see that they have been reading to an adult at home. As always, we also encourage children to read books from home and the library in addition to those sent from school.

### Uniform

We consider water bottles as part of school uniform and these are vitally important with the warm weather we hope the summer term will bring. Please send your child to school with a full water bottle every day and ensure water bottles and **all items of your child's uniform are clearly labelled with their name**, to ensure they can be easily recovered if lost and minimise the cost of replacement.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me at the end of the school day or make an appointment via the school office.

Kind regards,

Mr Coffey

Elizabeth Class Teacher