

JOHN PAUL CLASS
Summer Curriculum Letter



Friday 21st April 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break!

During this summer term, we will be learning about the following topics: 'Homes and Habitats' and 'Patterns & Life Cycles'. We will be planning fun and engaging activities linked to these topics and more. Read on to find out about the exciting learning opportunities we have ahead...

RE

Our next three RE units are as follows:



- Good News – we will learn that everyone has good news to share and that Pentecost is the celebration of the Good News of Jesus.
- Friends – we will continue to make new friends in class and across the school and learn how to be good friends to each other as well as learning that Jesus had good friends also.
- Our World– we will learn that God gave us our wonderful world and we will discuss what we love and wonder about it.
- We will also continue to learn about other world faiths such as Hinduism and Sikhism.

Literacy

We will continue to concentrate on 2-3 different sounds a week, increasingly looking at digraphs and trigraphs (2 or 3 letters that make one sound e.g. 'ow' as in 'cow' or 'ure' in 'sure'.) Thank you for your continued support in providing objects for our 'Sounds of the Week' table - the children find using this learning resource very enjoyable!

The children have been working hard to apply their phonic knowledge in reading; blending sounds to read real and pseudo (made up) words and they have applied their phonic knowledge when writing too; by segmenting sounds to write words in sentences. We have been encouraging the children to say words aloud so they can listen for the sounds in the words they are writing and to use their knowledge of key words and class dictionaries also.



The children will continue to practise their handwriting skills to ensure that their letters are correctly formed and orientated. Our aim is that writing letters becomes natural and fluent for all children this summer term so they can begin to concentrate on other aspects when writing, e.g. including adjectives and alliteration.

During this term, we will be exploring a range of stories linked to our topics, e.g. Find Me a Tiger by Lynley Dodd, Town Mouse and Country Mouse (there are many versions of this story), The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and many more! We will engage with the stories through role-play and drama activities to encourage creative thoughts which will lead to some creative writing. We will also continue to enjoy poems and non-fiction texts too!



The children will continue to bring home two reading books each week. As you already know the second reading book has been chosen by your child from our class reading corner. This book is for you to read with your child and is additional provision to the reading activities we do in class. Please continue to ensure your child brings their reading folder to school each day.

Your child has now received all 100 Reception keywords. They are expected to recognise and read all 100 words by the end of July 2017. Please continue to practise reading the keyword flashcards your child has been given – without regular review your child is likely to forget these words! Thank you for your continued support with this as your input is making a significant difference with your child's reading and writing.

Your child will continue to receive a story sack on a rota basis. These are given out on Wednesdays and should be returned the following Tuesday. When your child receives a story sack, please spend time enjoying the contents with him/her and remember to return the sack on the following Tuesday with all the pieces.



Mathematics

In maths we will continue to focus on counting on and back in steps of ones, twos, fives and tens from different starting points. The children love our counting activities and rhymes – so please practise these with the children when you are out and about travelling to places. We will consolidate the addition and subtraction strategies we have learnt (please refer to the maths calculation booklet you were given in the autumn term). We will apply our addition and subtraction strategies to different, practical problem solving activities and number stories. We will also introduce the concepts of sharing and repeated addition as an introduction to division and multiplication.



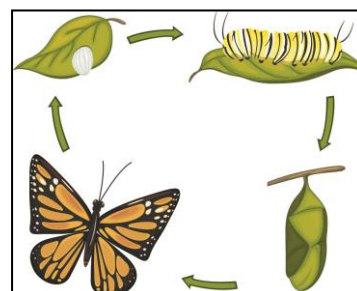
The children will also be developing an understanding of concepts such as doubling, halving, symmetry, different measures, money and recognising the characteristics of 3D shapes and their names e.g. a cube has 12 edges, 6 faces and 8 corners.

Understanding of the World

Our topic this half term is 'Homes & Habitats'. The children will look at a variety of homes from their local area and around the world and become familiar with terms such as 'bungalow', 'detached', 'caravan', 'igloo' etc. We will look closely at our homes and how they differ to others and from those in the past.

The children will learn the meaning of the term 'habitat' and the animals that are associated with different environments. We will also take a trip to London Zoo! This will allow us to observe first hand a variety of animals, their behaviour, features of their natural habitats and how they are suited to these – more details to follow!

In our 'Patterns & Life Cycles' topic, we will look at the life cycles of different animals and insects such as a chicken, a caterpillar and humans. The children will also have the opportunity to observe live caterpillars and watch them change into beautiful butterflies! We will also look at weather patterns around the world and design our very own patterned t-shirts looking at animal patterns and patterns from other cultures for inspiration!



In computing the children will use Bee-Bots (programmable floor robots) learning how to operate the Bee-Bot and set a sequence of instructions for it to perform a specific outcome, e.g. travel a path to the treasure. They will also create their own simple PowerPoint presentations based on their favourite animal. The children will also engage with some simple programming software!

Expressive Arts & Design

To support our learning in 'Understanding of the World' the children will design a habitat for an imaginary creatures or fantastical beast. Will your beast fly if it has wings? Will your creature swim if it has fins? We will recycle donated shoe boxes to create our habitats and make choices about suitable materials for these. Once completed the children will evaluate their work and discuss any changes they would like to make; the things they found difficult and what they enjoyed the most about making their habitats.



We will continue to enjoy weekly music lesson with Mr Dixon, our part-time music teacher, on Wednesdays; singing songs and exploring musical instruments.

The children will also engage in imaginative play linked to our texts and to themes of deforestation – beginning to think carefully about what happens when an animal's natural home is destroyed.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will be focusing on:

- Taking care of and respecting God's creatures
- The different ways in which we can care for our community and animal habitats
- Homes around the world and how they differ to homes in our local area
- What makes a happy home?
- Having a good sporting attitude for our upcoming sports day (Wed. 14th June)
- Life cycles
- School Council meeting minutes
- Green Team meeting minutes
- Sun safety
- Our transition to Year 1



PE

In outdoor PE, we will be developing our athletic skills focusing on skipping, running and hurdling in preparation for our annual sports day. We will also take part in some 'striking' activities in the latter part of the term, trying our hand at tennis!



In dance, we will be performing movement phrases to create a simple dance sequences related to the theme of 'turning' and incorporating some yoga balances. In the second half of the term, we will have fun using our indoor climbing frame to perform hanging, climbing and swinging actions with control and coordination.

Reminders

Please continue to read with your child every evening, discussing what has been read to ensure full understanding of the text. Twenty minutes is a recommended duration.

As in the previous term, Indoor PE will take place on Tuesdays and outdoor PE on Thursdays. The children's PE kits can be left in school for the duration of the week (**please ensure that their PE kits and the rest of their uniform is clearly marked with their name**).

The full PE kit consists of a school tracksuit, black shorts, a t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers (preferably without laces) all kept together in a PE bag. All items of clothing are available from the school office. We can still expect cold weather throughout the summer months so please continue to provide your child with a track suit for outdoor PE.

Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £1.50. Please remind your child to bring his/her water bottle each day to build a routine and to allow your child to regularly hydrate his/her brain ready for learning.

Homework will continue to be given on a Friday and collected the following Monday. Please ensure the children complete their homework to the best of their ability.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, either at the end of the day or by appointment through the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Allen

(Class teacher)

