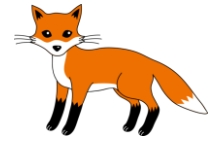


Foxes Class Newsletter



Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new term and a new class. I hope you and the children have enjoyed a restful summer holiday and that they are ready to begin an exciting new year at school. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, getting to know your children and watching them progress and succeed. I will be teaching the class on Mondays, Tuesday mornings, Wednesdays and Fridays and the remainder of the week will be taught by Mrs Whittaker and Miss Jordan, who is also our full-time TA. Additionally, Mrs Appleton and Mrs French will share their role as a 1:1 TA across the week.

With the aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Foxes Class this term.

In **literacy**, we will start the term with some non-fiction writing and then focus on stories with familiar settings and themes, such as 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and 'Dogger'. The children will listen to stories, retell them in their own words, explore narratives through drama and produce fictional writing for different purposes. Within the literacy curriculum, we will teach daily phonics to support reading, and I will hear your child read at least once a week through daily guided reading sessions. We will also practise spellings and maintain a focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting within literacy lessons.

Our **maths** this term will revolve mainly around aspects of number, including place value; partitioning; counting, reading and writing numbers; comparing and ordering numbers; addition; subtraction and calculations involving money. We will encourage the children to practise and secure their two and ten times tables, and there will be regular mental arithmetic sessions to support the children's mathematical fluency.

Our whole school approach to **science** is to cover a wide range of topics each term and revisit each area several times throughout the year, always building on previous learning. This term, we will start some work on common plants; deciduous and evergreen trees; animal groups; light and sound; and materials.

Our **geography** topic is 'Continents and Oceans of the World'. The children will use maps, atlases and globes to find out where places are in the world, and we will look in detail at some aspects of each of the seven continents. We will also make cross-curricular links with art, as the children take on the project of making their own papier-mache 3D globes.

In **art** we will make links with our work in geography by producing artwork from around the world. This topic will allow children to look at traditional artwork originating in different countries and using this as inspiration for their own. Their work will include drawing, painting and collage.

In **music** the children will be exploring traditional music from around the world. This will involve listening to music from different countries and cultures and having a go at joining in with songs, chants and playing different genres of music using percussion instruments.

In **RE** we will learn about Methodism within Christianity. We will consider who Methodists are and what they believe in, emphasising the importance of this in our Methodist school. The children will learn about John Wesley and the beginning of Methodism, and they will consider the core values at the heart of Methodism. RE lessons will give the children opportunities to ask questions, and discuss and reflect on their own beliefs.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled 'Mental health and Wellbeing' and explores ideas about different feelings and their intensity and finding strategies to manage these feelings. The unit also introduces the idea of changes and loss and helps the children to understand their reactions and behaviour in relation to things that might happen to them.

In **computing**, the children will have a go at using the iPads and Chromebooks to develop their basic skills, such as logging on, navigating around Google Classroom, and using various tools for completing tasks on the computer. These basic skills and familiarity with the different devices will be invaluable as they move through our computing units this year, and beyond. The children will also have lessons about online safety.

Our **PE** lessons this term will take place on **Wednesday and Friday afternoons**. We will be doing gym, infant agility and circuit skills, as well as outdoor PE lessons developing basic football and rugby skills. Please ensure your child has a named PE kit in school every day, with warmer clothing as the weather gets colder, and that long hair is tied back and earrings are removed for your children's safety.

Home learning

Reading: Please try to read with your child regularly each week, and if possible, make a comment in their reading record book. Some key areas they should be developing when reading to you are greater fluency when reading aloud, accurate comprehension and expression. We will change reading books on **Tuesdays and Fridays**. If your child finishes their book before the next changing day, please encourage them to read anything else at home, or alternatively have a look for books that match their colour band on the Oxford Owl e-book library, using the following link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Spellings: Your child will bring home a list of 5-10 spellings every Thursday to learn, which will be tested the following Tuesday. They can practise these spellings in whichever way works best for them, and the words should generally be familiar, as they will link to the work we have been doing in phonics. The first set of spellings will be sent home on **Thursday 17th September** and tested on **Tuesday 22nd September**.

Times Tables: The expectation for Year Two pupils is that by the end of the year, they will confidently recall the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. Working on these times tables at home will greatly support their maths in school, and if these tables become secure, feel free to try further times tables later in the year.

If your child wishes to do any additional work at home this term, they may like to explore the world map and identify the seven continents. They could research to find out about different aspects of each continent, such as countries, famous landmarks, animals, foods and festivals. Thank you in advance for your support.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 11th September: Year 2 'Meet the Teacher' 2.45pm

Wednesday 23rd September: Individual photographs

Friday 25th September: Kidenza Orchestral Concert at the Abbey School (*More details to follow*)

Monday 5th/ Tuesday 6th/ Wednesday 7th October: Year 2 Parents Consultations

Thursday 22nd October: End of Term 1

Friday 23rd October: Staff Development Day (No school for children)

Monday 2nd November: Staff development day (No school for children)

Tuesday 3rd November: Start of Term 2

I hope that this will be a happy, exciting and rewarding year for your child. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the gate or contact me via the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes