



## Hazel Class

### Terms 3 and 4 Newsletter

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to the new school term.

Outlined in this leaflet are some of the activities planned for this term and next term. As far as possible, children will be learning about the different subjects through our topics of 'Animals including humans' and 'Famous Explorers'.

If there is anything you wish to discuss please come and see me - I am available most days after school.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Catherine Carpenter



## English and Phonics

Phonics is taught daily. During these sessions children learn different letter sounds, practise sounding out words for reading and spelling, and practise tricky words. Our Literacy topics are recounts, fantasy world stories, dictionaries and poetry linked to animals. We will base most of our Literacy around the story of 'Whatever Next'. We will also read lots of stories about space and planets. We will be making up stories based on those heard in class and creating our own story set in space. We will look at the structure and layout of a dictionary, and children will begin to understand how to use a dictionary. For our poetry unit we will be thinking about the seasons, and will explore how our school garden and the school grounds are changing as we move from Winter to Spring.



## Maths

We will begin with a recap on practising counting, reading and writing numbers to and beyond 20. We will also look at simple multiplication and division. At Year 1 this involves grouping and sharing objects, doubling and halving and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Following this we will look at patterns and shapes, in particular, 3D shapes. Children will also be introduced to the concept of halves and quarters of numbers as well as shapes.



## Science

Each term we will complete a mini topic looking at Seasonal Changes around our school garden and grounds. We will look at changes in the weather and explore how the length of the day varies each season. This will link with our Poetry unit in English. Our main Science topic is Animals including Humans. During this topic, the children learn about human and animal bodies and consider similarities and differences between them. Children will engage in a variety of activities including drawing and labelling the body, using their senses to conduct an investigation, describing animal bodies and sorting animals into groups. For one of our Science lessons I would appreciate some helpers to run a little investigation table for different groups of children. **I have scheduled this**

**in for the afternoon of Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Please let me know if you are able to help out on this afternoon.**

## History

Our topic is Great Explorers. The children will learn about the experiences of Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong and Robert Falcon Scott. The children will discuss the criteria for what makes a person significant and will consolidate their understanding of chronology by comparing the historical periods in which these great explorers lived.

## Computing

In this unit about programming toys, children will be introduced to the principles of programming through unplugged tasks and the use of Bee-Bots. They will be introduced to algorithms as a set of step-by-step instructions given to a device, will learn how to debug simple algorithms and how to use logical reasoning to predict how a program will behave.

## Religious Education

In this topic we will be thinking about people we admire and who inspire us. We will reflect on what makes us a good friend and recall and talk about stories of Jesus as a friend to others



## P.E.

P.E. is on Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings. Miss Matthews will teach Handball on Tuesday and our PE teacher Mrs Bambridge will teach the children on Fridays. Could I ask that the children come to school in their P.E. kit just on **Friday mornings**, and bring their uniform to change into afterwards. **Please, please make sure all items of P.E. kit and uniform are named!**

## Art and Design Technology

Over the next two terms we will be looking at the work of various artists



including Mondrian, Klee, Rothko and Pollock. We will be using a variety of techniques to emulate their work.

## Other important information!

### Reading books

Your child will read to an adult a minimum of twice a week. Reading books will be changed on Mondays and your child will be given two books for the week. Children can also read books at home and from the library. You can really help your child progress by hearing them read at home too with our Little Owl Reading Success Scheme. They earn stickers for reading 3 times a week at home which leads to Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates, and ultimately a Book Voucher. If you need any advice on reading with your child please come and see me.

### Homework

Children are set homework (Phonics and Maths) on a weekly basis. It is given out on a Friday and collected in on the following Friday. For Phonics, please help your children to learn to firstly read the words, and then spell them. Children will be tested on these spellings on Fridays. Children will be given Maths homework on alternate weeks linked to the learning in Maths that's week. On the weeks that Maths homework isn't sent out, please work on the targets in your child's Maths passport. Again, please come and see me if you need any advice.

### Golden Time

We have Golden Time every Friday afternoon. This is a special treat time where the children can choose different activities to do such as icing biscuits, giant drawing, bubbles, chalking and bringing in a toy from home. On Thursdays children will choose which activity they would like to do. The number of children that can do each activity is limited so that there are not too many children at one activity. If your child chooses to bring in a toy from home they

will bring a letter home informing you of this so that you can decide together which toy to bring in (nothing that needs batteries or needs to be plugged in please!) Children should not bring toys into school at any other time.

## Library Visits

From Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, Hazel Class will be visiting the library in Netheravon each week. Please see the attached letter for further information.

