Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a restful week off for half term and are looking forward to another busy and exciting new term. This term we will be preparing for the end of term Nativity performance in amongst all sorts of other learning opportunities. In the first two weeks alone we will take part in a glass poppy workshop in time for this year’s very important Remembrance Service on Sunday 11th November in the church, some martial arts and a whole class Forest School on the 7th November.

As part of our broad curriculum the children in Years 1 and 2 will be covering the following topics :

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| English | We will be focusing upon writing narratives based on fairy tales as well as information writing about Florence Nightingale. Towards the end of the term we will focus upon writing instructions and using alliteration in poetry. |
| Maths Year 1 | We will be focusing on addition and subtraction using larger 2 digit numbers as well as taking a look at 2D and 3D shapes and patterns towards the end of this term. |
| Maths Year 2 | We will be focusing on multiplication and division this term based on the 2, 5, 10 times tables. Later on we will be looking at money, finding totals and finding change. We will also take a look at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, rotations and patterns. |
| Science | We will be focusing our attention upon seasonal changes to begin with and then shift our attention to looking at how we keep our bodies healthy. We will be looking at how exercise affects our bodies and how the food we eat affects our bodies.  |
| RE | Our topic will be focused on learning about the Good News Jesus brings and the children will also look at the Christmas story as part of their preparations for this year’s Nativity production. |
| Topic | We will be looking at the work of the famous Victorian, Florence Nightingale. We will also look at the work of Mary Seacole. |
| Art/Design | In art we will be learning how to make secondary colours for a colour wheel. We will also look at the repeating patterns and colours used in the work by William Morris. The children will experiment by making their own nature themed wallpaper prints.We are lucky to be able to offer a glass poppy making workshop this term. The poppies made by the children will be hung in the windows as part of our contribution to a very special Remembrance Service. |
| Music | We will be focusing upon rhythm this term as well as practising our singing for the Nativity production. Children in Acorns class will also be performing songs for the Remembrance Service. |
| French | We will continue to teach basic vocabulary through games and multi-sensory activities. |
| IT | We will be using Espresso Coding to help us learn some coding language this term. |
| PE | We will continue to build on our fundamental skills through multi-skill games and games that require teamwork. |
| PSHE | We will be focusing on keeping ourselves safe, both for Bonfire Night but also with regard to road safety with the shortening of daylight hours. |

Homework

Reading :

Please continue the wonderful efforts you are making to hear your child read every day. It is having a huge, positive effect on those children who are able to be heard daily. Please continue to encourage your child to change their books once they have completed these. We are happy to help if they ask, but they are now given more independence to choose their own book from the appropriately coloured boxes.

Maths :

Maths homework will continue to be set where it is of benefit to the children for extra practise with key skills. If you require further maths homework, please use the Mathletics website for which you have passwords in the front cover of your yellow reading books.

Please continue to practise skills from your child’s Maths Passports, many children have moved up but there are some who are finding it hard to move on due to lack of practice.

Spelling :

Spellings will continue to be sent home weekly to practise key writing and spelling skills. Most children are now remembering to hand these in on time each Monday.

EYFS Curriculum

Our children in EYFS have settled well into school and are now in a good position to continue their excellent progress this term. They will be fully involved in our activities including the whole class forest school session, glass poppy making, martial arts, Remembrance Sunday and of course our Nativity performance.

Their curriculum this term will cover the following :

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| Personal, social and emotional development | Being able to describe themselves positively, noticing similarities and differences, choosing their own resources and resolving conflicts sensibly. |
| Communications and Language  | We will be looking at rhyming and rhythmic activities to help them with writing their first words. We will be encouraging them to explain things clearly, expanding their vocabulary to make themselves clear to an audience. |
| Physical Development | We will continue with our physical play outside as well as our Forest School sessions to build the core muscles and arm/finger muscles necessary for good posture, co-ordination and general physical development.We will focus this term on pencil grip, ensuring all children are able to use the tri-pod grip necessary to write effectively. |
| Maths  | We will be looking at numbers to 20 this term, we will be counting forwards and backwards, finding one more and one less, adding and subtracting as well as learning about 2D shape and patterns. |
| Reading | We will be helping the children learn to blend 3 sounds together to read CVC words such as cat, hit, sip etcOnce this is secured, your child can bring home a reading book to practice their reading skills. Each child is different however and some may take longer to acquire these skills and may need to focus on practising single words until this skill is embedded.All our children will hear lots of stories daily and we spend a lot of time talking about them, predicting what will happen next etc. |
| Writing  | Once a child begins to blend sounds together to read simple words they can then start to make labels and eventually short sentences. We will be guided by each child’s needs this term.  |
| Understanding the World/ People and communities | We will focus upon noticing seasonal changes this term and we will look at how the process of decay happens in the forest. We will be asking the children to compare environments such as Cirencester with Forest School so that they can notice differences in the environment.We will also be looking at how we join in different customs such as the traditions associated with Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday and of course Christmas. |
| Expressive Arts and Design | We will use the glass poppy workshop to make new discoveries about materials we have not worked with before. We will also join the rest of the class experimenting with mixing colours and making natural patterns. The children will join the rest of the class performing and singing in the Nativity performance. |

Homework

Whilst we do not set homework for children in EYFS, the following activities are useful for their good development.

* Once they have a reading book, please help them read for a few minutes each day. Please indicate what you have done in their yellow reading book. We will help each child change their book when they have finished.
* **Continue to read and share books with your child** – we have more story bags for you to borrow once the first ones are returned.
* **Talk with your child**, ask them to say one thing they did today ( it might be centred around what they had for lunch but that is fine – talking builds communication skills vital for early development) . If they do not say sounds accurately just repeat the word clearly for them to hear.
* **Count forwards and backwards as you climb/descend the stairs**
* Play simple boardgames with dice that encourage accurate counting as they move a counter along the board eg snakes and ladders
* Encourage them to play with toys that use their hands – this really helps with finger strength necessary for early writing. Activities such as jigsaws, playdough, tweezer games, water pistols, threading activities

If you have any questions about any of the preceding information, please pop in and see me after school.

Many thanks

Mrs Sally Spring