Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another academic year, here’s hoping that it will be much more normal this year. Before I begin to tell you about the learning we have planned this term, may I just say a huge thank you to you all for your support last year and your lovely cards and presents at the end of the year. They were fabulous and the chocolates were very popular at home too !

This term we will be busy settling into new routines for some and refreshing our memories about other routines. We will be conducting daily worship back in the church this year and although familiar to those in KS2, it will be something new for most of KS1 due to the covid restrictions over the past 18 months. It will be good to be able to gather together in the dry as a school again and celebrate the togetherness a small school atmosphere brings.

Below I shall outline the learning for this term :

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| English | Those in EYFS will be focusing upon listening skills, sharing and talking about books as well as learning their Phase 2 phonic sounds. We will teach EYFS how to blend sounds together to begin the reading process and your child will bring home reading books matched to their learning and progress. At the same time we will be teaching EYFS how to form letters as they learn their phonic sounds so that they can begin to start writing down the initial sounds in words before tackling CVC words such as cat, hat, big etc  In Years 1 we will be focusing upon increasing the number of sentences written each session so that they can write short passages of writing in different genres. (narrative and poetry) We will recap Phase 3 phonics and begin learning new Phase 5 phonic sounds. We will continue to ensure reading books are closely matched to children’s abilities so that the are practising the precise sounds needed to ensure good progress in reading and spelling.  In Year 2 we will be focusing on developing independent use of different sentence structures, on developing characters and settings and increasing the complexity of their writing. We will be using an Irish Myth, letters and poetry this term. Your child will continue to bring home a phonics book to read but may also bring home a book from our accelerated reader collection once they are sufficiently fluent. I will send out more information on this shortly.  Years 1 and 2 will have weekly grammar lessons as well as daily handwriting sessions. |
| EYFS Maths | We will begin with exploring the resources we use for maths in play based activities before quickly moving on to matching and sorting activities. From week 4 we will compare quantities, shapes, measures and patterns before finishing the term looking at the representations and composition of numbers 1 , 2 and 3.  Please look out for the KIRFS letter which will tell you how you can support your child’s maths development at home. |
| Year 1 Maths | We will begin with recapping 1 more than and 1 less than for numbers 1 – 10 before developing maths language ( fewer than, less than, greater than, more than in the context of numbers to 10. Later in the term we will look at ordinal numbers ( first, second etc ) , part – part whole models ( 6 + 4 = 10 ) and number bonds to 10. Please look out for the KIRFS letter which will tell you how you can support your child’s maths development at home. |
| Year 2 Maths | We will be focusing on accurate counting to 50 and then 100 this term forwards as well as backwards. We will recap counting in 2 , 5 and 10’s also as building blocks for learning our times tables.  Later in the term we will look at place value for 2 digit numbers ( 57 is made up of 5 tens and 7 ones ) and use this knowledge to begin to add 2 digit numbers together mentally and as formal written addition. At the end of the term we will develop our recall of number bonds to 100 ( 70 + 30 = 100 ) and learn how to add and subtract 10 from a 2 digit number in our heads.  Please look out for the KIRFS letter which will tell you how you can support your child’s maths development at home |
| Science  My Body and My Senses | We will be investigating our bodies this term. In particular we will be looking at the role of our skeleton, naming body parts, looking at the function of our main organs – brain, lungs, heart and stomach. Later in the term we will be exploring our five senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.  EYFS will be joining us with a specific focus on naming basic body parts and learning how to keep ourselves healthy.  Please look out for the Knowledge Organisers which will tell you what your child needs to know and what you can help them learn at home. |
| Geography  Our weather and our seasons | We will be exploring weather and seasons this term. We will begin with observing our weather and talking about the weather symbols used to describe our weather. We will talk about the role of the weather in relation to farming and how important the Harvest is.  We will then move onto to look at weather in the four countries of the UK, we will aim to be able to locate all 4 countries and name the 4 capital cities of the UK. Later in the term we will look at the four seasons and why when we have summer, Australia has winter.  I am hoping to book a day trip to the wood with the Ernest Cook Trust this term to further explore the effects of the changing seasons in Lea Wood near Fairford.  Please look out for the Knowledge Organisers which will tell you what your child needs to know and what you can help them learn at home. |
| RE | Mrs Davies will be teaching a topic called Who do Christians believe made the world. She will also complete some work on Harvest in preparation for our Harvest Festival Service in church on Sunday 3rd October at 11am. |
| Design and Technology | Mrs Russell will be looking at mechanisms this term and the children will learn about pivots, levers and sliders. |
| Computing | We will all complete a unit on e -safety to begin with this term, an increasingly important topic to teach children how to keep themselves safe on-line. This will be taught in year groups to ensure each child receives information suited to their age. Years 1 and 2 will then complete a unit on spreadsheets. |
| Music | Mrs Davies will be teaching a unit on friendship through music this term and the children will be busy singing, playing instruments to a beat and composing their own pieces. |
| PSHE | We will be looking at how we grow and change this term. We will be talking about our amazing bodies and how to look after them, how to look after a baby and how our bodies have changed since we were babies. Later in the term we will be addressing the important topics of what to do with a secret and also engaging in the NSPCC programme called Pants are Private which gives children the tools to keep themselves safe. |
| PE | Mr Peters, our sports coach, will be developing ball skills this term as well as accompanying the children to the swimming programme this term. **Children need to come to school in their PE kit every Friday this term**. Please bring goggles to swimming if your child needs them. Swimming will start on Friday September 24th. |
| P4C  Philosophy for Children | We will be introducing this skill again this year using picture books to ask questions about life, characters, emotions etc.  This helps develop children’s critical thinking and helps deepen their understanding and curiosity for learning. |

**Homework**

Every child should read to their parent **every day** and record this on the home side of the reading record book. Your child also benefits from hearing stories read to them which they can not read for themselves. Please do this in addition to hearing your child read.

Please read the KIRFS letter for maths and practise these key skills at least weekly, daily is best. Each term I also set activities to complete on Mathletics. The passwords for this are in your child’s reading record book. Children in EYFS may like to spend this term settling in as starting school is exhausting however I expect that Year 1 and Year 2 should have a go at Mathletics weekly.

Children who need help developing their handwriting. Letter formation or phonic sounds will be provided with tailored homework which I will discuss with you should it be needed.

**Contacting me**

I will be teaching Monday - Thursday this term ( Mrs Davies and Mr Peters will be teaching on Friday ). You are more than welcome to catch me at the end of the day on Mon, Tues, Thurs. You are also most welcome to contact the office by phone or by email or to arrange a meeting or catch up. Please don’t feel worried about asking for advice or help, the quicker issues are resolved the easier they are to sort out.

Apologies for the length of the newsletter, there was a lot to tell you about !

Thank you again for your continuing support,

Best wishes,

Mrs Sally Spring