

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS...

Autumn term (B) 2013

Hello everyone! We hope that you have had a fabulous half term holiday and really enjoyed the break! Now, we are looking forward to the rest of the Autumn term, during which your child will be enjoying all sorts of exciting learning experiences. We hope this newsletter will give you an idea of some of these, but please look at some other sources of information.

Check your child's PSP regularly as teachers and children record lots of video clips and photos throughout the school day and this is a great way to keep in touch. Also, look at our school website (www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)!

Foundation

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to a new and exciting half-term from the Foundation Team. We are looking forward to lots of interesting discoveries and learning points.

This half term we are focusing on 'Materials and colour' and will be asking for lots of family pictures and video clips to share our daily routines. We will be exploring different types of materials (rough/smooth/ soft/hard etc), colours and patterns. It would be lovely for parents to use every opportunity to talk to and allow their child to notice and experience different colours, textures and materials in the wider community. It would be lovely to see your child noticing these things on their PSP's. We love to watch and share them with the other children.

Trips

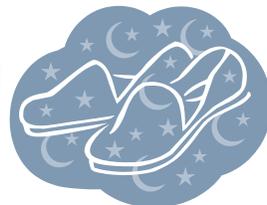
We will be taking a walk up to the local high street to find out about the shoe and card shops, looking at the different materials and colours they use.

There have been slight changes to our timetable.

P.E will now be on Thursday - P.E kits to be kept in school with your child's name on please. Our focus will be hockey and football skills. Our soft play session at Victoria school will be every Monday morning.

Stories

We will be looking at several stories to support our materials and colour theme. Three little pigs, The Elves and the Shoemaker, Winnie the Witch and Anna's Amazing Glasses are some of them. We are going to come to school in our favorite slippers and try to decorate slippers of our own.



Year 2

The topic for this half term will be 'Fire and Light'. We will begin by looking at Guy Fawkes and Bonfire night in History. We will also look at the Great Fire of London. In Geography we will look at London; how it has changed and how it differs from the places where we live.

Our art work will continue to focus on producing portraits with increased artistic skills. In Science we will continue to look at living things with a focus on their habitats, we will be working towards an investigation at the end of term.

In RE we will be looking at creativity with focuses on a number of religious celebrations this half term; Diwali, and Christmas. We will be dancing and drumming every Friday!

We are continuing to work hard in Numeracy and hope to develop our skills and knowledge of a range on number facts, and money this half term. Using mathematics at home will help to support mathematical understanding and secure number skills.

In Literacy we will be writing in lots of different styles and for different purposes. The inspiration for our Literacy work will be the stories of Winnie the Witch; a Witch who gets into lots of mischief with her cat Wilbur! Daily phonics sessions will also continue.

Please continue completing home learning tasks weekly, they will reflect what we have been doing in class.



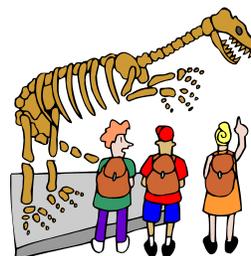
Year 3

This half term, Year 3 will be learning about Tudor Kings and Queens. This will begin with a study of Guy Fawkes and then looking back to the Tudors. This work will link to art and design, providing opportunities to look at costumes and portraiture, perhaps reproducing the pictures of long ago with collage and sketching. We can, also, link to literacy through a look at the life and works of William Shakespeare.

In Science, we are studying the skeleton and healthy eating. This will involve looking at healthy eating today and different food groups. There will be some opportunity to compare diets today with Tudor times. Our work with the skeleton will link to the functions of body parts and how they help us to keep healthy.

In RE, we will return to some previous work. This was based around the story "Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish", which links well to the Creativity theme for this half term. We can look at a number of Creation stories as well as think about how people appreciate beautiful things, for example our world, and how they look after them. This will culminate in a visit to a church in December to follow through the Nativity story.

Throughout the term, we will be remembering our rules and develop skills to ensure we are more effective learners. This should be a very exciting half term.



Year 4

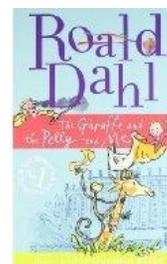
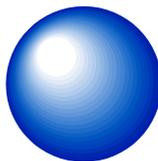
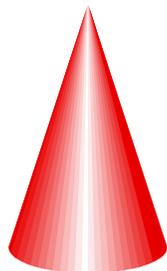
Year 4's theme this half term is the Ancient Egyptians



In this half term we are going to be learning about the Ancient Egyptians - looking at how they lived, learned and worked. We will learn about their beliefs and customs including the building of the pyramids.

In literacy we are going to continue reading our story 'The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me' by Roald Dahl. We are going to develop our grammar and writing skills by writing our own version. Our literacy work will also extend into our themed work where we will write a fact book about Ancient Egypt.

In maths this half term we are going to focus on time, subtraction, 3D shape work and our times tables. Christmas activities will include learning about the Christian Christmas story.



Year 5

Hello and welcome back! In year 5 this term we will be learning about World War 2 and how this affected the lives of ordinary people. We will use maps to see which countries were involved in the war and we will learn about rationing, evacuation and The Blitz! We will even have a go at making our own air raid shelters from newspaper- so if you have any old papers at home please send them in!

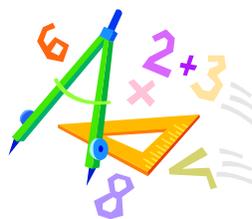
In Literacy the children will be learning about how to use information books. We will look at key features such as contents pages, the index and how to use a glossary. Then the children will write their own piece of information about the war. We will also read the story 'Goodnight Mister Tom' and write our own stories we can share with each other.

In maths we will be learning about the names and properties of 2D shapes and their lines of symmetry. We will then look at measuring and comparing lengths and how to record measurements correctly. The children will also be looking at addition, subtraction and simple multiplication facts. All the children will continue to have mental maths practise time in Snappy Maths and have access to Mathletics at home!

In PE the children will take part in dance, swimming and PE on a Monday, where they will be developing their games skills. The children will also have the fantastic opportunity to visit the Deloitte Games where they will be coached by Olympic athletes!

If you would like to support your child at home you can use the following website:

www.mathletics.co.uk



Thank you for all the help and support you give your child and the school!

YEAR 6

What's on in Year 6.

Welcome back! This half term the children will be learning about the Victorians and how life in Britain changed because of the industrial revolution. They will also learn about the British Empire and how explorers found 'new' worlds and the children will learn to find them on a world map today. To link with this, in Science the children will be learning about electricity and circuits and what components of a circuit need to be in place for a light bulb to work. They will also be looking at Victorian art portraits and use these to inform their own work.

In Literacy, the children will be focusing on learning about Victorian stories. We will focus mainly on Charles Dickens' story 'A Christmas Carol'. They will look for clues of how it is set in the past and will help them to create their own moral message within a story. The children will also make information books about the Victorians and will look at features such as a contents page. The children will continue to have grammar and news sessions every week. We will begin to work with Zeon to create a news flash.

In Maths the children will complete their learning on shape. They will learn about different angles in shapes and even begin measuring them. They will also begin to learn more about fractions and relate them to decimals. They will continue to have mental maths practise time in Snappy Maths and have access to Mathletics to practise at home!

In PE, the children will be partaking in dance sessions, swimming and PE sessions. Their PE sessions will take place on a Monday afternoon where they will be practising their games skills. This half term they will be visiting the Deloitte games where they will be coached by Olympians in different sports.

The children will also be continuing with their French lessons where they will learn about French language and culture.

If you would like to support your child more at home, please use the following websites:

www.mathletics.co.uk

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/victorian_britain/

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/>

