

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS...

Autumn term (A) 2013

Hello everyone! We hope that you have had a fabulous summer holiday and really enjoyed the break! Now, we are looking forward to a lovely half 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

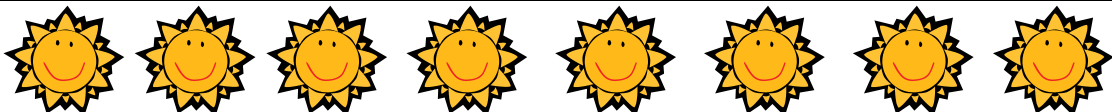
Welcome back to a new and exciting time in Foundation from Lisa, Danielle, Ola and me. We are looking forward to lots of interesting discoveries and learning points this year.

This half term we are focusing on '**All about me**' and will be asking for lots of family pictures and video clips to share our daily routines. We will explore our faces and bodies, favourite toys, food and colours, as well as, our individual families and cultures. It would be lovely for parents to come in and talk to the other children about something special in their home. If you'd like to do that please contact us via the school office. We welcome all parental involvement.

We will also be exploring the season —**Autumn**. If you go out to the park or even in the garden , we would love to see photos or video of your child exploring the outdoors. Having a photo or video clip always helps to cue them in.

This term your child will have two key workers, who will be responsible for ensuring that your child is supported in Foundation. We welcome any comments and suggestions about your child's likes and dislikes in the **home school book**. Please use the home school book to share with us any developments you notice at home.

This term, I will be trying to arrange home visits to meet each child's family along with your child's key worker. **P.E** will be on Monday- P.E kits to be kept in school with your child's name on please. Our focus will be ball skills- rolling, catching and kicking.

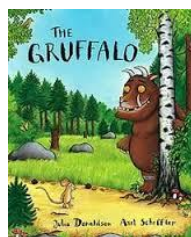


YEAR 2

To begin year 2 the children will be looking at 'Healthy Living'. They will learn about healthy foods and diet; designing and creating their own healthy picnic...and then eating it! In Science they will look at the importance of exercise and how we can keep our bodies healthy. We will be looking at the life and work of Florence Nightingale in history; this will also lead into our Geography work where we will be looking at hospitals and health care around the world. PSHE will reflect all of these aspects by looking at how we can ensure we have a healthy lifestyle. In Numeracy we will be working on securing lots of number facts and skills. Throughout the term we aim to really develop the Mathematical language we use.

Finally in Literacy we will be looking at stories and poems in different settings. We will use books by Julia Donaldson to inspire this work.

Support your child by reading with them, practicing their spellings and ensuring they complete their home learning tasks!



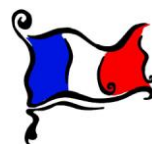
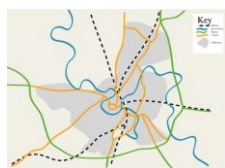
Year 3

Our theme this half term is "out and about". This work will take us in two directions. First, we will study the local environment around school, linking to habitats for our science work and land use for our geography. These aspects of our learning will lead us to map work and care for the environment.

The other direction will follow the travels of Pip the parrot. He travelled to Canada and France over the summer. The photographs he has brought back provide an opportunity to look at contrasting landscapes, for example lakes and mountains. These travels should provide inspiration for an art/DT project to design and make a decorated Pip to display. Pip`s travels enable us to think about the past tense in our literacy too.

Throughout the half term, we will begin learning French as part of our Year Three curriculum. This will be very practical and involve role play of different scenarios to provide a context for our learning. These scenarios will include shopping and a bus ride.

This should be a very exciting half term.



Year 4

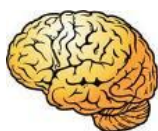
Year 4 will start the year with a 'Learning Journey'. We will explore the function of the brain and discover its role in helping us learn and play and how we use our senses every day. Our focus will be 'the eye' and we will not only learn about how our eyes work physically, but also discover the different ways we use our sight and how we can improve our visual skills for learning. Our learning journey project will centre around Art and portrait drawing.

In **Literacy** we are going to focus upon Autumnal poems and use the natural resources around us for inspiration. We will investigate how language can be used to create a visual picture for the reader before having a go at creating our own poetry.

In **Maths** this half term we are going to begin looking at dates and calendars and move on to number and calculation work, polishing our basic and mental maths skills.

In **Science** we will look at how plants seed and reproduce and different habitats. A trip to Lickey Woods is planned where we will explore with our senses, collect objects, look for seeds and habitats and practice drawing different woodland scenes.

Year 4 will continue to be fit and active in **P.E lessons**, and will learn the skills of balance and control, developing hand to eye / foot to eye coordination. Part of our PE work will be filmed as part of our Learning Journey investigation of the function of the brain in controlling movement, breathing and emotion.



Year 5

Welcome back after a fabulous summer! This term the children will join with Year 6 to begin to learn about their brains in more depth and how their diet and sleep patterns help them to concentrate better. They will be looking at how the different parts of the brain helps them to move, think, feel, and make decisions. They will learn about the 5 senses, focusing on sight. They will be learning how to improve their drawing skills to create a portrait.

In **Literacy**, the children will be learning about how to write shape poems and they may even design a shape poem about the brain. The children will also have grammar lessons where they will learn how to use verbs correctly and understand the different sentence types that can be used in English. They will also have news sessions where they will learn about local, national and international news events.

In **Maths** the children will be revising their understanding of place value, number bonds, doubles and halves. The children will also be learning about units of measurement and how to measure accurately. Finally they will begin to learn about the properties of shape such as how many sides and corners a shape has. They will continue to have mental maths practice time in Snappy Maths and have access to Mathletics to practice at home!

In **PE**, the children will be partaking in dance sessions, swimming and PE sessions on a Monday afternoon where they will be practising their ball skills. They will also begin to learn Spanish. They will learn about Spanish language and culture.

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

www.mathletics.co.uk

www.brainline.org/InteractiveBrain



YEAR 6

Welcome back after a fabulous summer! This term the children will begin to learn about their brains in more depth and how their diet and sleep patterns help them to concentrate better. They will be looking at how the different parts of the brain helps them to move, think, feel, and make decisions. The children will also be learning about some organs of the body such as how the heart and lungs work and how they link to the brain via nerves. They will then examine the 5 senses, focussing on sight. Using sight they will be learning how to improve their drawing skills through the use of lines, shading and tone to create a portrait masterpiece!

In Literacy, the children will be learning about poetry. Firstly they will be learning about rhyming sounds and how different graphemes on the end of words can actually sound the same. They will then be writing their own pieces of poetry using their knowledge of rhyming about themselves, their friends and the adults around them! After that the children will be learning about shape poetry, where they will write and design a shape poem about the brain. This will then be presented beautifully using ICT. The children will continue to have grammar and news sessions every week. This year we hope to work with Zeon to create our own News Flash!

In Maths the children will be revising their understanding of place value, number bonds, doubles and halves. They will also be given times tables to learn at home. The children will also be learning about measuring and the correct measures to use and how to use decimals. Finally they will begin to learn more complex information about shapes such as how many diagonals a shape has! 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 on a Monday afternoon where they will be practising their ball skills. They 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

www.poissonrouge.com

www.brainline.org/InteractiveBrain

