

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS...

Summer term (A) 2013

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. Especially our website:

www.longwill.bham.sch.uk

Please encourage your children to use your computers at home for learning. They can use the following educational websites:

- Home.espresso.co.uk
- www.mathletics.co.uk (ask teachers for your child's password).

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.

Foundation

It's the summer term already and our new Foundation focus is 'Growing'. Our first week we will encourage our children to look at seeds, flowers and plants. The children will plant cress and sunflower seeds and watch them grow and progress during the forthcoming weeks. The children will be looking at what plants need to survive and use Forest School with Dawn and gardening sessions with Liz Steed to develop our outside area.

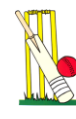
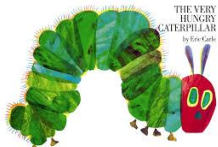
We will then progress to look at ourselves growing. Having the opportunity to look at our baby photos and seeing how the body develops and grows over time. With two pregnant members of staff we will be able to look at baby care and also consider healthy eating as part of a balanced diet. We shall take the opportunity to measure and compare heights and footprints too.

In the third week we will look at 'The Hungry Caterpillar' book and use it as inspiration to further discuss healthy eating, days of the week and growth and change. Hopefully, we will be able to purchase and set up a butterfly farm for the children to see this change first hand.

In the later weeks we will look at tadpoles and chicks to link in with a visit to Bell Heath Study centre on 16th May and a chick incubator being installed in school during the same week. Here we will get the opportunity to really look at different life cycles of animals and compare them to our own.

In addition, we will continue to have PE each Monday (cricket delivered by an outside coach), Forest Schools each Tuesday afternoon, Speech and Language therapist, Debbie, in each Wednesday morning, soft play at Victoria on a Thursday morning and Dancing with Gary each Friday. Please ensure your child has appropriate PE clothes and wellies in school.

Please continue to use the home school books and PSPs to pass on information to us about achievements you see at home. As always if there are any links you can make at home during the weekend or evenings then please do.



Year 1

Our theme for this half term is the outside environment. This will provide lots of opportunities for interesting work in science, geography and art. In science, we will use our five senses both inside and out, as well as looking at living things around the school grounds. The 'living things' work will expand into geography and PSHE as we look at the use of different areas of land around school. We will look at simple maps and follow the orienteering course around school.

Our art sessions will enable us a further opportunity to look at the environment, perhaps even making a model of the landscape.

In literacy, we will revisit diary writing as well as making a poster about some aspect of looking after the landscape. Some favourite stories, for example "The Gruffalo" will be re-read too.

Throughout the half term, Forest school sessions will link well to the project too, especially in regard of mathematical vocabulary such as prepositional language and measurement. We are really enjoying our year and all continue to work hard in class.



YEAR 2

This half term we will be learning about castles and kingdoms. Our time in the ICT suite will give us an opportunity to research different castles in the UK, and create posters and leaflets about the castles we would like to visit. Our History work will involve looking at a number of kings and queens from different periods of time. In Design and Technology we will be designing, creating and evaluating a regal costume fit for a king or queen (or even a teddy bear).

In Science we will be looking at forces and fair testing. In relation to our topic we will be looking at the forces created by catapults! The work we do in Literacy this half term will be inspired by the film Shrek and the unconventional characters from that tale. We will be creating musical pieces to reflect the characters we learn about in Literacy.

In Numeracy we will continue to extend and secure our knowledge and understanding of number facts, as well as looking at shape, particularly halves and quarters. Our focus for RE will be vision and courage, this will be reflected in our PSHE also. We will continue to swim, dance, and work in the forest, as well as learn from some gardening time and have some cricketing fun in PE.



Year 3

This term Year 3 are going to be discovering the Vikings and the Anglo Saxons. We will be learning about their clothing, beliefs, transport and their culture. In Literacy we are reading myths and legends from many cultures, some of them are linked to our Science theme. We will be investigating patterns, textures, and materials in art. We may even try some weaving. In ICT we will be looking at data bases and completing individual research. We will continue to work outside this half term and we will be learning outdoor skills in our Forest School and in our gardening project. In Science we are finding out about the Sun, Earth and Moon and how shadows are formed. Year 3 will be playing quick daily games to learn number bonds to 10, how to estimate, how to measure and comparing large and small numbers. During numeracy lessons year 3 will be investigating addition and subtraction methods, money. In PSHE we will develop skills to cope in new challenges and considering issues concerning personal development. In PE with Year 4 we are very excited to have a professional cricket coach teaching the children a range of cricket skills. In RE we will be looking at stories and traditions that inspire commitment from a range of faiths. Year 3 will be able to describe their family and pets in French.



Year 4

This half term we are going to be looking at different cultures from around the world. We will be learning about Egypt, Australia and France to name a few and the children will have a chance to explore places that they are interested in finding out about too.

In maths this half term we are going to continue focusing upon coordinates, shape and time. In literacy we are going to read the poetic story - Room on the Broom. Not only will we be learning about rhymes we'll be writing our own version of the story, creating some new character's as well as add a different ending. We hope to create a film animation of the story too.



Year 5

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Easter Break! This half term year 5 will be beginning a very exciting learning journey looking at Africa. It will take them in all directions from looking at environments and habitats for animals to creating their own masks and costumes for a dance project. As we are looking to save the environment all of our creations will be made from objects that have been recycled. The children are very excited and have already chosen some of the things they would like to learn about!

In Literacy, we are therefore using *The Lion King* as a base to explore questions about Africa to inform our writing and reading. We have some very exciting books based on life in Africa for our guided reading sessions where the children will be able to read and learn together! It is hoped that this learning, as well as other activities such as drama will help inform the children's writing. This half term we are looking at writing stories based in different cultures and this will include dilemmas, solutions as well as a touch of magic! The children will be working on improving their descriptions too. Cross-curricular writing will involve writing letters, information posters and even explanations on the life cycles and food chains of African animals. The children will continue to have their spellings every week – thank you to all parents for helping them to learn these!

Linking with our Africa topic, we will be investigating habitats in Science and comparing some of the many African habitats with our own. The children will be learning about why animals choose to live in certain environments and how these environments can protect them!

We will be using ICT to research facts about Africa, as well as designing our masks and costumes for our dance performance. We will also publish and display some of our writing to inform our school community.

In Maths we will be continuing our work on fractions and the children will be given more practise at applying their maths to real life problems. They will also learn how to collect data to create accurate pictograms on the subject of their choice. Finally the children will be learning about measures – again this will link to Africa. They can estimate and measure the height of a giraffe, estimate the weight of a lion and understand the volume of water that flows over Victoria Falls!

In PE the children will be continuing with swimming. They will also have coaching in golf and cricket this half term. In dance the children will be creating their African dance.

To help your child with their home learning, please look at:

www.mathletics.co.uk

<http://www.our-africa.org/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/static/find_out/specials/newsround_extra/africa/html/



Year 6

This half-term pupils are preparing for their end of key stage assessments. Some of them will be taking their National SATs papers in Maths, Reading as well as, the new Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test. It is very important for them to continue preparing for these assessments by completing the home learning tasks set alongside individual study tasks.

This half-term we will focus on “Superheroes” in Literacy. We will be looking at the characteristics of a super hero, creating our own success criteria of a superhero, writing autobiographies and news reports on their actions and incidents. In science we will focus on the characteristics of living things; investigating habitats and micro-organisms.



