

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS... Spring term (B) 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

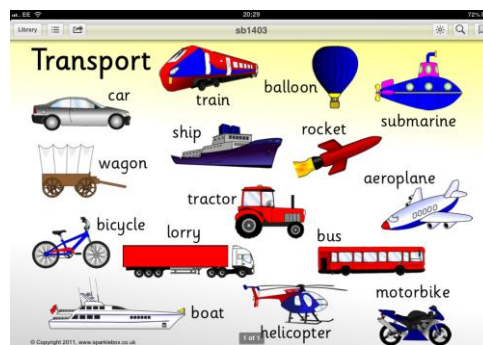
Please encourage your children to use your computers at home for learning. They can use the following educational websites:

- Home.espresso.co.uk
- www.mathsletics.co.uk (ask teachers for your child's password).
- www.signedstories.com (lots of lovely stories in BSL)
- <http://www.mybslbooks.com> (Signed stories. You must register - but it's free).

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

Welcome back to a new short half term that will focus on Transport. We start the first week looking at road transport types from cars to buses, emergency vehicles, bikes and motorbikes. We will be sorting vehicles, counting wheels and doing a traffic survey according to colour and type of vehicle. We are also hoping to encourage lots of construction and imagination play using Lego, wooden tracks, Happyland toys etc. We have a huge cardboard box that we hope to transform into a bus to use in our roleplay area. The second week links to a re-arranged visit to Mount Pleasant farm (morning of Thursday 7th March). We will therefore look at tractors, size of wheels and do lots of junk modelling. In the third week we will focus on sea and water transport such as ships, ferries, rowing boats and speed boats. As you can imagine it will involve a lot of water play and possibly looking at some cruise ship holiday brochures. Our fourth week will focus on trains and we will compare the speed of modern and steam trains. We hope to plan a trip using the bus to Selly Oak train station where we can see trains and observe passengers buying and using tickets. Finally we will look at air as a form of travel and compare aeroplanes, to helicopters, rockets and hot air balloons. As you can see there is a lot of scope for the use of imagination and linking to the children's existing knowledge. So if you travel on any kind of public transport with your child please send in tickets or photos and videos using the PSP. Equally pictures of your cars and bikes at home would be great. Even photos of favourite transport related toys or books will give us a starting point for discussion in class. In addition, we will continue to have PE each Monday (tri golf focus), 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. So as you can see, even though it will be a short half term ... It will be a busy one!



Year 1

After finishing off our pushes and pulls work, Year One will begin to look at the various aspects of the "Very Hungry Caterpillar" story. We will write our own diaries for Monday to Friday, explaining what we have been doing each day, reading back one day before writing the next. In science, we will be thinking about where caterpillars live and what they need to survive, perhaps taking a stroll around the school grounds to look for potential sites. This will lead onto how caterpillars change into butterflies, and the group looking after their own caterpillars, watching for changes before releasing the butterflies.

In art, we will be painting butterflies and caterpillars, for example showing them on their favoured habitats. This work will lead onto using other resources such as pastels or pencil drawings. Repeating patterns will be reviewed in numeracy, although our main focus will be subtraction and playing with the different numbers.

In PE, we will be improving our gymnastic skills with Year Two, before challenging Years Three and Four to a basketball game at the end of term. Then, we will think about the Easter story and look forward to our holidays. It should be a full and fun half term!

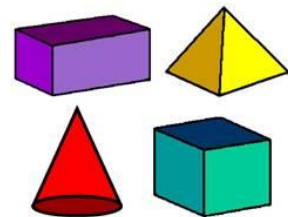


Year 2

This half term we will be continuing to learn about 'the world around us'. We will begin with some Geography; learning about Mrs Cooper's trip to Gambia, and comparing Gambia with England. We will also look at sustainability and recycling. This will inspire our art work where we will be creating sculptures, and 'land art' projects. We will use our time in the forest to further explore this, as well as looking at natural and man-made materials. This leads into our Science work where we will look firstly at man-made material; we will then move on to investigate changing materials.

Our topic for RE this half term is compassion. We will look in depth at Holy Week, and the Easter story.

In Literacy we will be looking at fiction and non-fiction texts. We will focus on books about nocturnal animals; comparing story, and information texts. Finally, in Numeracy we will be working on 3D shapes, and continuing our number work.



Year 3

In Literacy we will be learning about and writing information books. Year 3 will be able to label diagrams and create information texts about animals. We will learn what is a contents page, glossary and index page. We will also explore the mythical story of Romulus and Remus. Our Maths focus for this half term will be number calculations. Counting and understanding number as well as knowing and using number facts. In History they will be learning about Roman life. We will be making our own mosaics and tiles in art to link with this topic. During Science Year 3 will learn all plants and what plants need to grow well. The children will become botanists in order to learn the names of different parts of flowering plants and what jobs the different parts of a plant have. In Geography we will be using the new Orienteering course and practising using a compass and reading maps. We will begin to learn a new language, French. The children will learn where in the world France is and how to say a variety of colours and foods in French. Year 3 will use the story of the Hungry Caterpillar to help us remember these words in a new language. Year 3 will continue to be fit and active in P.E lessons, we will learn the skills and rules of playing football. We will learn how to dribble a ball, keep possession and score some fantastic goals! During R.E through role play and stories we will learn about compassion, being merciful and forgiving. Year 3 will read stories from a variety of religions and discover how the different religions encourage compassion. We will also explore the Christian story of Easter.



Year 4

This next half term we are going to continue learning about ancient Greek culture and comparing it to life today. We will be visiting a Greek Orthodox Church and sampling some authentic Greek food.

In maths this half term we are going to focus on 3D shape and time and in literacy we are going to focus upon the story of Helen and the Trojan Horse which will be the theme of our assembly on 7th March.



Year 5

Welcome back! Year 5 will be starting a new Learning Journey based on Space. This will build on what the children have learnt in the past about the world around them. The children will recap on where they live - which street, city, country, continent and planet in order to understand how they live within Space. The children will learn all about the Earth, Sun and the Moon and how we have night and day, months, seasons and years. They will also be looking at the planets and how they differ from our own. The children will also be researching into the history of space travel and thinking about why men went into space and landed on the moon. This will provide lots of opportunities to 'be' Neil Armstrong and write letters and newspaper reports about how he must have felt!

In Literacy we start to learn about concrete (shape) poetry. The children will use their knowledge of Space to create poems based on a particular rocket, astronaut, star or planet. They will be focussing on high level adjectives and how to use these in their writing. Towards the end of the half term the children will also be creating information books about space that they can share with younger children at Longwill.

In Maths the children will be learning lots of different things! Snappy Maths will continue in the afternoons and so the children will be developing their mental maths skills. In class they will be learning about money - what each coin means and how coins can be added together to make a total. They will also be learning about giving change. It would be fantastic if you could take your children shopping with you and letting them pay (under close supervision of course!!). The children will also be learning about simple fractions as well as how to create pictograms. For PE this half term the children will be continuing with swimming and dance. They will also be starting to learn French again.

If you would like to help your child with their home learning please use the following websites:

www.mathletics.co.uk



Size
From
This is a shape
poem. It is about a
house. As a shape
poem, it forms the
shape of a house. This
is a little house so it
would be a little
poem. If it
were a poem
But its
not be-
cause a poet I'm not!

www.bbc.co.uk (space)

Year 6

This half-term is a very short one but will be very explosive for Year 6 pupils. We will be investigating volcanoes and what they do, where they are found and how they are formed etc.

This term in P.E we will be focussing on learning and improving our netball skills. Some of the children will be getting ready for their SAT's tests so it would be advisable to keep a regular practise of things such as – times tables and sentence and grammar writing.

As part of the homework reward scheme, we will be visiting: Sycamore Adventure. Pupils will be joining children from the unit at Hargate and from Ashwood School for a deaf curriculum day. We all appreciate the importance of children making new friends and especially deaf friends.

