

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS... Spring term (A) 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you all had a good festive break. Here's my chance to let you know what's in store for Foundation over the next half term. We have an animal focus that will be kick starting with a mini-beast focus in particular worms and spiders. It will involve a lot of messy play using spaghetti and we hope to be digging for worms in the garden and checking out the bug hotel in the Forest Schools area. The second week will look at foxes, badgers and hedgehogs. In particular we will be trying to describe how they look and investigate where they sleep and what they like to eat.

Our third week coincides with a morning trip to Mount Pleasant farm on Jan 21st where we will be creating environmental art. This week will focus on various farm animals and encourage sequencing of the trip events. The fourth week brings us to 'bird week' so we will be taking opportunities to spot birds around school and create bird feeders to encourage more birds to visit our outside area. The fifth week we will have a 'pet' focus where we will encourage the children and staff to talk about the pets they have and bring in photos. We will look at how we care for pets and consider the responsibility needed. In the final week for the half term we will round up the animal focus with a look at vets and their role for animals. We will set up a roleplay area and look at the uniforms and medicines used.

I hope you can see that we have a lot of interesting work ahead and if you can support the learning in any way at home please do. Our weekly English and BSL stories will link to the weekly focus. Also there will still be weekly PE sessions in the hall each Monday (please make sure your child has a bag of PE clothes such as shorts, t-shirt and pumps). Each Tuesday afternoon the children will be involved in Forest School sessions led by Dawn Kendle. The children wear full waterproof clothing but willies are needed so ensure your child has the correct sized willies in school please.

We would like to welcome Uzma a new girl who will be joining us in Foundation from January. She will start part-time and we hope that she settles in well and makes lots of new friends!



Year 1

Our theme for this half term is transport. This will provide an opportunity for us to explore different modes of transport, for example car, bus, train, plane and helicopter. We will work on a Design/Technology project to make one of these and find some new stories, for example "Room On a Broom". The new stories will be used to help develop imaginative skills and extend vocabulary.

In ICT and numeracy, we can look at data handling with surveys of the car park (car colours) or a traffic survey. Our theme in science is push and pull, which we will talk about in relation to testing and do some experiments, for example pushing a car along a variety of surfaces to see which is the best.

We continue to settle into our Lower School life and our next step is to have a new timetable. This is the same timetable for the other groups in school, so literacy and numeracy will happen every day instead of the literacy and numeracy focus mornings.

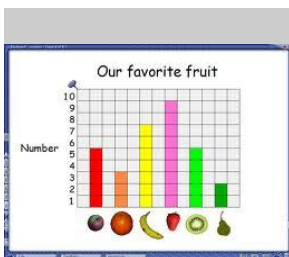
This should be a fun half term.



Year 2

This half term Mrs Cooper is going to work in a different school (for teaching practice) so year 2 will be working with Miss Lodge. In numeracy we will be learning lots of new things about shape and measure; right angles, graphs and weight. Our literacy focus will be report writing and newspapers. We will be writing about our school for Miss Lodge. In Science we will be thinking about the environment; we will be writing reports about the minibeasts we find.

There may be a prehistoric visitor later in the term...who will inspire our newspaper reports; this will relate to our History work where we will be creating a giant timeline. Finally in Design and Technology we will be designing a new playground.



Year 3

In Literacy we will be learning about and writing fantasy stories using 'Mike the Knight and the film Wall-E as inspiration. The children will go on imaginary journeys to other worlds, space and medieval times! At Victoria School the children will be using the drama facilities and will be able to venture into Space! We will be creating robots, aliens and dragons to go on exciting adventures in our stories. In Maths the children will be learning about Shape and Measure and Time. In Design Technology they will be designing a vehicle for their teddy as during Science Year 3 will learn all about forces and magnets. We will enjoy learning what a fair test is when we investigate different forces and the effects forces have. We continue to learn a new language, Mandarin. Year 3 will explore Chinese festivals and customs including the Chinese New Year. We will be able to name a variety of animals using mandarin. Year 3 will continue to be fit and active in P.E lessons, we will learn the skills and rules of playing Badminton. During R.E through role play and poems we will learn about our community and our friend's communities. Year 3 will read stories from a variety of religions and discover how the different religions encourage identity and belonging.

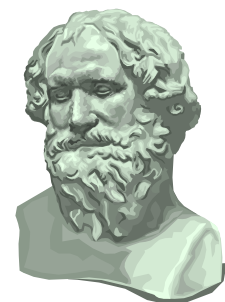
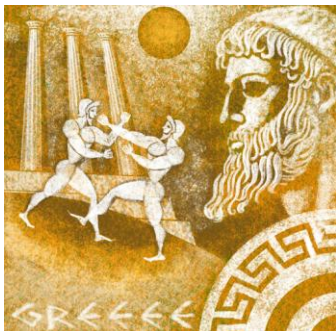


Year 4

This term we are going to be learning about ancient Greek culture and comparing it to life today.

In maths we are going to focus on multiplication, shape, space, measures and data handling skills looking at answering hypothetical questions as well as improving our mental maths.

In literacy we are going to look at stories and have a go at writing our own version.



Year 5

This half term we continue with WW2 as our topic theme. We will finish learning about the Blitz by making our own propaganda posters. We will then move onto how the war affected the lives of children. We will look at children in Britain by studying Goodnight Mister Tom in Literacy and we will also look at children in different countries such as Anne Frank. Science will continue to look at forces and friction.

As already mentioned in Literacy we shall be focussing on Goodnight Mister Tom. We will be looking at the features of stories set in different times as well as looking at writing newspapers and persuasive letters. The children are hoping to make a pop up book at the end of the half term about a story relating to Goodnight Mister Tom. Children will continue to practise their English sentence writing and will be developing their descriptive writing more. We will be using Spellodrome (via Mathletics) for the children to learn their spellings.

In Maths the children will continue learn about telling the time and using this to solve problems - please help them by asking what time it is when they are at home! They will also be learning about bar charts - how to collect information and present it accurately using ICT. They will continue their snappy maths after lunch to improve their mental maths skills.

The children will continue with dance and swimming and PE will be focusing on orienteering.

www.mathletics.co.uk (for Mathletics and Spellodrome)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/ (for WW2)

Year 6

Welcome back to the Spring Term. Last term we looked at the journey of chocolate to England and the part the Cadbury brothers played in our love for chocolate. This half-term we will be travelling further along in our learning journey to develop an understanding of the Victorian era. History: We will be looking at the monarchy, the changes of the industrial revolution, the change in health and medicine.

Geography: We will be exploring countries of the British Empire.

R.E: We will investigate John Cadbury and the Quaker religion.

ICT: We will continue to do add to our weekly 'Longwill Newsflash' blog and also investigate famous Victorian biographies.

ART/ DT We will look at the changes in art and craft by William Morris. Investigating and creating our own tapestry.

Lit: Our class novel will be Oliver Twist.

Music/ Dance: We will be investigating musical instruments of the time as well as songs sang by the Victorians. We will be learning a famous 19th Century dance.

