

Our topic this term is: **EXCITING EXPLORERS**

**During this half term your child will learn:**

- In English we will be looking at Meerkat Mail, Tanka Tanka Skunk and Dear Zoo.
- In Maths we are focusing on place value, measurement and multiplication and division.
- In Science we are exploring seasonal changes from winter to spring.
- In Computing we are learning to use graphic design programmes to make postcards
- In Geography we are looking at Mexico.
- In Art, we are looking at Joan Miro and surrealism.
- In Music we are listening carefully for the pulse and beat of the music.
- In PE we are exploring attacking and defending. Becky will help us learn dance.
- In RE we are thinking about Islam.
- In PSHE&C we are exploring acceptance of others and how to build a healthy relationship.

**Dates for your diary:**

- Back to school **7<sup>th</sup> January**
- Class Photos **22<sup>nd</sup> January**
- Multi-Skills @ Shelley **6<sup>th</sup> February PM**
- School Closes **15<sup>th</sup> February**
- **INSET DAY - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Happy New Year!**

I hope you have all had a lovely break with lots of time spent with family and friends. The children are certainly refreshed and raring to go for the spring term.

We also have a new member of staff joining us this half term - Mrs Thackra will be working alongside myself and Mrs Brook in Year 1 across the week.

A quick plea regarding children's clothing and PE kits - **please ensure children have outdoor kit available in school and that every item of clothing is labelled with your child's name. Also, please ensure PE kit is in school EVERY DAY.**

Thank you!

**Key learning objectives for Maths:**

- Count to and across 100 from a given number (forwards and backwards)
- Read and write numerals to 100
- Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10
- Read and write number-names to 20
- Compare and order numbers to 100
- Identify 1 more and 1 less from a given number
- Know number bonds to 10 and begin to know number bonds to 20
- Find missing numbers in number sentences
- Add and subtract two-digit numbers to 20
- Use standard and non-standard measures to measure objects
- Tell the time to the hour
- Sequence key events in the day
- Recognise coins to 20p and find ways of making small amounts
- Recognise and name 2D and 3D shapes

**Key learning objectives for reading:**

- Use phonic knowledge to decode words
- Read common exception words confidently
- Read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately
- Reread books to build up fluency and confidence
- Becoming increasingly familiar with and retelling a wider range of stories, fairy stories and traditional tales
- Making inferences and predictions about the text
- Explain and discuss their understanding of texts that are read by themselves and others

**Key learning objectives for writing:**

- Matching phonemes to graphemes to spell phonically regular words
- Learning to spell common exception words and days of the week
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
- Begin to use lead ins to join handwriting
- Use spacing between words as well as full stops to mark sentences.

### **A note about homework:**

Children in Nightingale Class will be receiving a weekly Maths homework sheet and weekly spellings each Thursday. Homework is to be returned by Wednesday and spellings will be tested on a Thursday morning. If there are queries about homework tasks, please don't hesitate to contact me. Likewise, should your child be unable to complete their homework for any reason, please just let me know.

Please encourage your child to read their school reading book to you daily, and remember to sign in their reading record that you have heard them read, this will allow us to change their reading book. All reading books will be changed weekly as a minimum. **Please also make sure children's reading books are in their reading books on a daily basis as they may read on any day during the week.**

Finally, the government-recommended time for children in Year 1 to spend on homework is 10-15 minutes per day. If your child has worked well & tried their best with a task for that time, please feel free to stop them - just sign the sheet or whatever, to say they have done their allocated study time. However, if they are motivated to continue further, please feel free to let them!!

### **Topic Project:**

This half term, we are thinking about Mexico. As such, we are hoping to create our own volcanic eruptions during the last week of term to celebrate our learning. Alongside the weekly maths and spellings homework this half term, Nightingale class will have an additional homework project - to make a papier mache volcano which we can use to make an eruption in school. This can be any size or shape, please be as creative as you wish! The deadline for this project will be **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. A good website for guidance on this is: <https://www.persil.com/uk/dirt-is-good/arts-crafts/how-to-make-a-paper-mache-volcano.html>

### **English/Phonics Update:**

The children have now learned all the phonemes from phases 2 to 5 and are great at recognising these in words. Alongside this, we have also been learning to read and spell common exception words - this is a key area for children to reach the expected standard for Year 1.

We are also really focussing on our handwriting this half term. To help children learn the correct formation, we have some rhymes in school which were shared earlier in the year. They are also accessible from our class page on the website.

### **Ways to help your children include:**

- Counting and practising number formation
- Ensuring homework tasks are returned promptly
- Practising phonics and phonic activities at home
- Questioning your child about the books they are reading - making predictions about the story, retelling the story, explaining their understanding
- Learning weekly spellings (and revising ones from previous weeks)
- Practising letter formation at home to ensure this is accurate

### **And finally...**

If there is anything you would like to check or if you have any queries/concerns, please don't hesitate to pop in and chat. After school on Mondays and Thursdays are often the best times to see me due to staff meetings and sports events. Mrs Martin will dismiss the children on a Friday.

Thank you, Miss Goodall (Class Teacher)