



Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. Our topic this half term is 'Frozen'. We are going to be exploring the season Winter through Geography and Science and will be writing Winter riddles and learning and re-writing familiar stories. We will be focusing on writing a series of sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces accurately. In the second half term our theme will be 'Old Macdonald'. We will be learning about food produce, the plants that we eat and what they need to grow. We will be writing recounts and using time conjunctions such as 'first', 'then' and 'next' to order our writing.

The children will continue to have two daily phonics sessions where we revisit or introduce sounds and practise the High Frequency Words. Encourage your child to find High Frequency Words in their reading books or spot some of their phonic sounds (most books have guidance on the front or back cover for this). Please may we take this opportunity to remind you that it is vital your child is reading at home, at least 5 times a week, and that this is recorded in their diary. Reading with your child should be an enjoyable activity that enables you to spend some 1:1 time together. Last Friday your child took home a bookmark with comprehension questions on. These questions can be used to discuss the text with your child and provoke deeper thinking and reasoning about what they have read.

This half term we are going to be looking at the changes during Winter time related to the length of days and rainfall. The children will be using their rain gauges to measure the rainfall and we will look at the temperature as we transition into the Spring season. Linked to our second topic, 'Old Macdonald', the children's Science lessons will focus on the structure of a plant and conducting investigations to see what plants need to grow. We will be growing our own plants which we will then be able to eat and cook in Design and Technology.

In Computing we will be looking at how we keep ourselves safe online. We will be having discussions about what we use the internet for and predominately, the use of social platform games. We will be sensitively talking to the children about how they protect themselves whilst online and what they can do if they see something that they do not like. It is important that the children are aware of all the brilliant uses of

the internet in an ever-growing technology based world, but also how to keep themselves safe. We will also make our own E-book on 2Simple Paint based on a known story. In Art we will be colour mixing and researching famous artists. We will also use 2D shapes to make pieces of work based on the artist Mondrian.

In Maths we will be developing our understanding of place value of numbers up to 50 and learning strategies to add and subtract numbers fluently within 20. Please support your child with this by getting them to count forwards and backwards from numbers 0-50, asking to find one more and one less than numbers to 50 and practising number bonds to 20 e.g. $14 + 6$, $15 + 5$. Frequent, yet short, practise of these will help the children become more confident and fluent in recalling these. We will also be naming 2D and 3D shapes and recognising them in real life. The children have already been on 3D shape hunts this term, looking for cubes and cuboids around school and understanding the properties of these shapes. Some of the children struggle to write their numbers the correct way round at this age (often 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 are reversed) and some muddle their digits (e.g. eighteen (18) becomes 81). Please help at home by encouraging your child to self-correct their work and modelling the correct formation to them.

Two of our PE units this term are 'Dance' and 'Yoga'. The children will explore responding to pieces of music from 'Frozen' and learn to sequence a selection of movements individually and as a group. Through our third unit in PE they will develop skills in dribbling, passing, attacking and defending through ball games. We will play small games against each other, using learnt skills. The children will develop skills though working as a team as well as striving for personal challenge through their own set targets. Please can I remind you that a labelled PE kit should be in school consisting of trainers or plimsoles, a t-shirt and shorts/joggers. If your child wears earrings, they either need to be able to remove them themselves, or they need to be removed prior to coming to school that day. They are unable to take an active part in PE lessons if they have earrings in due to safety reasons.

Spellings (High Frequency Words) will go home each Monday. We are still not doing a weekly spelling test and instead focus on the words throughout the school day. This way the children are practising reading and spelling them in all lessons, not just for a test. Home learning will carry on going home on a Friday and should come back in on the following Wednesday. The activities will be related to on-going work in class. If your child finishes their school reading books, they can have a read of some of the books on Bug Club or from the school or local library.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me or arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. Harris

