

29th October 2018

Year One Topic Letter - Autumn 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely holiday and are looking forward to another busy half-term, especially in the run up to Christmas! This half-term our topic is 'Toytastic!'

Week 1 ~ Toys Today

This week we will be introducing our topic all about toys by exploring toys from today. The children will be thinking of as many toys as they can, describing them and asking and answering questions about them. The children will be asked to bring a favourite toy in on **Wednesday 31st October**. Please ensure that the toy is named, that it is not an electronic device and is one they are happy for other children to touch.

Week 2 ~ Family Favourites



During this week we will be looking at toys which may have been popular with parents and grandparents. We will be having a special afternoon where we would like to invite you, grandparents or other family members to bring in a special toy from the past to share with the children. This will be on **Wednesday 7th November at 1.30 pm**. Please let your child's class teacher know if you would like to bring in a toy to share with us as soon as possible.

Week 3 ~ Early 20th Century Toys

In week 3 we will be looking at popular toys from the early 20th century and make comparisons to similar toys from different periods in time in order to understand and explain how toys have changed and evolved over time. We will also discuss the fact that children still play with similar toys today and explore what this tells us about the toys and the people who designed them.



Week 4 ~ Victorian Toys



During this week we will be exploring Victorian toys and games, how they were played with and what they were made from. We will look at a toy timeline to identify what the Victorian period was like in relation to themselves and today. The children will learn that there were differences between the toys of rich and poor children. As before, we will explore similarities and differences between Victorian toys and modern toys.

Week 5 and 6 ~ Santa's Little Helpers

During these two weeks we will be designing and making a moving toy from reclaimed materials. Can you please bring in any clean odd socks that you would be willing to donate! The children will then be showing their work to you in '**Santa's Workshop**' (date to be confirmed later).



We would also like your child to dress up for this day as an elf! This does not have to mean an expensive outfit, some bright, stripy clothes in 'elf' colours e.g. green and red/stripy socks/Christmas hats etc would be perfect!

To make our topic really come alive, we shall also be visiting **Portsmouth City Museum on Wednesday 5th December**. This will involve the children taking part in a '**Toys, Games and Pastimes**' workshop which will be delivered by museum staff. More details to follow nearer the time.

Week 7 and 8 ~ Christmas!



These last two weeks are particularly busy in school and the children will be making Christmas decorations and cards and getting ready for their Christmas production.

Other ways to share learning!

- Visit the library to borrow books about the topic, e.g. toys, puppets, teddy bears etc.
- Research toys on the internet together.
- Visit museums which are appropriate to the topic.
- Ask your child about displays in the classroom and discuss what they have been learning about.

We hope this information is both useful and interesting to you as parents.

Thank you for your continuing support!

The Year One Team

