

Class 1 Curriculum—Spring 2018

Phonics

The children will continue to take part in daily phonics sessions with a teacher or teaching assistant. The children in Reception will be learning new sounds at a steady rate of 2 or 3 each week and have now progressed on to the Phase 3 set of sounds from the Letters and Sounds programme. Children in Year 1 have been consolidating their knowledge of digraphs (two letters making one sound – e.g. ‘ai’ as in ‘snail’) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound – e.g. ‘igh’ as in ‘night’). We have begun focusing on split digraphs (where a digraph is split by a consonant, such as the ‘a_e’ in ‘cake’).

English

Our focus in English for the first part of the term is on Fantasy Texts. We will be reading ‘Man on the Moon’ by Simon Bartram and using the text as inspiration for some imaginative descriptive writing. Later, we will look at further texts with a fantasy theme by Bartram, including ‘Dougal’s Deep Sea Diary’. We will also be looking at non-fiction genres of texts, including instructions.

Mathematics

The children have come back after the holiday raring to go and we have already begun learning about the properties of 2 and 3D shapes. The children in Reception have been identifying shapes in the environment and are currently busy creating a quiz for visitors to our class! Watch this space! Year 1 children are really getting to grips with naming the less common 2D shapes and identifying their properties. Later in the term, we will be moving on to some place value work before looking at measures including time, length and weight before Easter. We will be working with a mastery approach in our mathematics lessons, ensuring that the children are able to use their knowledge to answer questions and calculations in a variety of formats. This method of teaching is really showing to be improving the children’s confidence around mathematical questioning.

Our **Topic** this half term is On Earth and Beyond. After half-term, we will move on to a topic called ‘Under the Sea’. The focus of both of these topics is a **History** one, where we will learn about famous explorers and the impact their discoveries had on science and technology amongst other things. We will begin by learning all about Neil Armstrong and his missions into space, before focusing on the voyages of Christopher Columbus later in the term.

In **Science**, we are learning about Space. After February half-term, we will be focusing on animals and will be learning particularly about creatures who inhabit our oceans.

Our **History** work is all about famous explorers, specifically those whose work impacted life today.

In **RE**, we are thinking about places that are special. We will begin with a focus on places that are special to us before moving on to places with religious significance. After half-term, we will be learning about books and stories that are special to Christians and Muslims.

In **PE**, our focus is Dance. Miss Natalie is coming once a week to lead our dance sessions in school. We also have an on-going skills focus, which will be led by Mark, a qualified sports coach, for our second PE session.

Our **Computing** work will be focused on how we can store and retrieve information. This focus will continue until Easter.

In **Art**, we will be looking at the work of Vincent Van Gough, with a particular focus on painting and will conclude with the children painting their own interpretations of ‘Starry Night’. After the holiday, our focus will shift to sculpture, where we will be using natural materials to create our own sculptures. We will also have an artist focus on someone from our local area.

In **Music**, the children will be exploring the lengths of notes and timbre, tempo and dynamics through learning lots of simple songs and rhymes. We are lucky to have a music specialist, Mrs Lyn Maitland, come in and work with Class 1 every other half-term.

In **PSHCE**, we will be concentrating on our goals and aiming high. We will also, as always, be encouraging children to try their best and to have high expectations of themselves. We will be looking at how this can be rewarding. We will, of course, deal with other issues as they arise and incorporate these into our PSHCE teaching as usual.