
Widening Horizons, Raising Aspirations

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Dear Parents/ Carers, Welcome back!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are looking forward to another busy and exciting term.

Reception

The children have returned to Elmer and Paddington class full of beautiful stories and tales of the fun they have had. Our topic this half term will be 'Freezing'. In this topic we will be learning all about the changes that happen at this time of year, such as snow and ice as the temperature drops. We will be thinking about colder climates and how those animals survive. We will also be thinking about how to keep ourselves warm and healthy as well as safe on the slippery streets. We will also be learning about all of the exciting celebrations that happen over the next few months such as Chinese New Year.

We begin to join the rest of the school to complete our daily mile (with the added precaution of speed walking on icier days.). The mile benefits their learning and last year we had some of the best Maths and Phonics sessions as the children return from the mile excited and ready to concentrate.

Please remember to send your child's book bag every day. We will change reading books/sheets each Friday but will be reading with your child every day so having their book bag with them is very useful. PE will be on Mondays.

As all children wear the same uniform we have had a few times when cardigans and jumpers have been switched. Please remember to clearly label all clothing. Hats, scarves and gloves are a wonderful idea for warmth and we are helping the children to store them safely.

Year 1

In our English this term we will be looking at traditional tales, focussing on the stories of Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, and the Billy Goats Gruff. Based around these stories, the children will be creating character profiles, wanted posters, as well as looking at story structure, focussing on description, to retell a story in their own words.

This term in Maths, we will be exploring both 2D and 3D shapes, classifying their properties and developing a clear understanding between the two. Later, we will be focussing on the place value of numbers within 20, using different resources to represent 10s and 1s.

In Science we will be looking at every day materials. The children will gain an understanding of different materials such as wood, plastic, glass, water and rock. We will look at how these materials are different and understand their different properties and how they are used to make different things.

In Geography, our topic will be 'Where on earth are we?'. The children will be taking part in map work, understanding where the UK is in relation to the rest of the world, before exploring our own locality and comparing this to others.

Our Computing topic will be to continue with Lego Builders before moving on to Maze explores. In RE, we be focussing on Christianity this term and looking at the key question, 'Who is a Christian and what do they believe?'. For RSHE the children will be exploring and understanding Dreams and

Goals. In Art our topic will be 'Make Your Mark', where the children will be exploring different materials to develop different mark making techniques.

For Jeffers class this term we will be taking part in Forest School sessions for the first time this year, where the children will begin to explore new outdoor learning opportunities. This will be on Tuesdays. On this day, please can children bring a change of clothes that are warm and that can get dirty. Children will also need to bring wellies or a change of suitable footwear from their school shoes. These must come to school in a named bag.

PE will continue to be on Monday and Friday and the children should come to school in their PE kit.

Year 2

In our Writing this term, we will begin with the text 'The Story of the Great Fire of London'. The children we be learning how to recount the historical event whilst also creating some descriptive writing as well as writing in the role of someone who was there. Later in the term, we will be looking at the book 'Leaf', where the children will create informal letters based on the story before creating Fact-files about the characters.

In Maths this term the children will begin by exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, building on their learning from Year 1, drawing different shapes and beginning to look at symmetry. We will also be looking at money, where children will apply their knowledge of addition and subtraction to different problems. The children will also begin our measurement topic, looking and height and length.

Under the scientific enquiry of comparative testing, in Science we will be exploring different materials and their uses. The children will be exploring both man-made and natural materials and how they are used differently in the real world, comparing their uses and effectiveness.

To finish our Geography topic from last term, the children will understand how the different seasons impact on farming as well as comparing farming to city life. Our History topic this term will link with our writing, where we will be taking a closer look at the Great fire of London and what this has taught us about safety.

In RE this term, the children will be learning about Judaism, specifically looking at different celebrations. In Computing the children will be learning about online safety before moving on to effective searching. In Music, around the theme of African Call and response in animals, the children will learn about tempo, dynamics, timbre and pitch. In DT, children will be applying their knowledge of a balanced diet to design and create a healthy wrap. In RSHE, the children will be learning about dreams and goals.

For Year 2 this term, it will also be their first chance to experience Forest school, where the children will take part in new outdoor learning experiences. This will be on Wednesdays. On this day, please can children bring a change of clothes that are warm and that can get dirty. Children will also need to bring wellies or a change of suitable footwear from their school shoes. These must come to school in a named bag.

PE will continue to be on Monday and Friday and we will continue to ensure that we have daily physical activity.

Children MUST bring Ocean Diaries and reading books in to school daily as this supports them with reading and spelling practise in school. We will be putting books outside in coming days so that you can be involved in selecting and changing your child's reading book. Mrs Wotton will be on hand to help. The expectation is now that children read to an adult at home at least 3 times per week and the diary is signed. This will then earn Reading Star's which in turn will lead to each class earning a whole class reward. Our weekly spelling words will also be sent home this week to help your children to read and spell these key words independently.

Children are expected to wear correct school uniform. Please do not allow children to bring jewellery, toys, or mobile phones to school. This causes a great distraction and can be very upsetting for a child if things get lost or broken. We would also ask children to keep hair accessories minimal and to keep long hair tied back.

Please ensure that your child has a P.E. kit, consisting of black or white shorts, white T-shirt, or purple Briary T-shirt (not a polo shirt), a pair of plimsolls or trainers. As some games takes place outside, your child may like to wear a tracksuit, particularly when the weather gets colder, however shorts are still required for indoor activities. These can be worn underneath tracksuit bottoms or joggers for the remainder of the day. With regard to earrings, please ensure they are removed for P.E. days. If this is not possible, please supply tape to cover ears.

Yours sincerely

The Infant Team