

Chaffinch Class Newsletter – Spring Term

Dear Parents,

Christmas now seems like a very distant memory, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely gifts I was given and to wish you all a very Happy New Year. It was a pleasure to see all the children again; I am sure some of them have grown over the holiday! It almost seems to be a relief to get back into a routine after the excitement of plays and Christmas activities.

This term I am looking forward to lots of new topics and would appreciate any help and support that you can give the children to both encourage their enthusiasm and consolidate their understanding. Most of the children in the class have made good progress in reading. I feel this is, in part due to the support that you give to your children by listening to them read and discussing their books on a regular basis, I hope you will continue to do this.

Below is a brief outline of the topic areas we will be covering throughout the term.

English: We will be looking at traditional stories and poems by significant children's poets. Now is the time to dust off all those old fairy tales you may still have! We will also be working on alphabetical organisation devices such as glossaries, indexes and dictionaries. The children will continue to receive spellings to learn at the beginning of the week for a test on Fridays.

Mathematics: During this term I will continue to reinforce the children's understanding of number recognition up to and beyond one hundred, in both written and numerical form. I also hope to improve their understanding of place value so that they can partition numbers in to hundreds tens and units and in some cases thousands, hundreds, tens and units. In mental maths sessions I will be consolidating the children's ability to quickly recall addition and subtraction bonds up to twenty, double and halve numbers up to twenty, in addition to improving their recall of the two, five and ten times tables. The children will also work on data handling, time, money, shape and measuring. You can support your child by encouraging them to count backwards and forwards in ones and tens from different starting points up to one hundred. Many children find it very difficult to count backwards especially if they have to cross a tens barrier e.g. 62 61, 60, 59.

It is also helpful and fun for the children if they can apply the skills they learn in school to activities at home, such as telling the time, using money and measuring. Lots of children find it very difficult to read scales so looking at measuring jugs and bathroom/kitchen scales can be very helpful; especially if you explain the partitioning. Many children also need lots of practise when it comes to division; so lots of practical sharing activities will benefit them. There are also some very good websites for practising times tables.

Science: We will be finding out about plants, including the conditions which enable plants to grow well. We will also be investigating the variation among living things and the way living things are adapted to their environment. We will also be continuing to learn about different materials and their properties.

Geography: The class will be extending their understanding of the wider world by finding out about the different habitats of animals and plants. We will also be finding out about the weather; in addition to developing our mapping skills.

Art and DT: We will be looking at the work of Picasso and hopefully be inspired to produce our own artwork. We will also be looking at patterns and drawing animals.

P.E: Our sessions will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Could you please check that your child has correctly fitting trainers/plimsolls. It is amazing how quickly the feet of young children grow.

Many of you requested the list of spellings that the New National Curriculum outlines as Year Two children needing to know by the end of the year. You will recognise many of the spelling patterns from the weekly spellings the children bring home. Any extra practise that you can give your children with these spellings will benefit them greatly as there is a limited amount of time available to work on this area within the school day.

I hope that we will have a happy and productive term. We look forward to sharing our work with you at parent's evening and our class assembly later on in the term.

As always, if you have any worries or concerns about your child please feel free to pop in and discuss them with us after school.

Yours sincerely

Julia Langley

Class Teacher