

Year 1 Topaz Spring term Newsletter

Welcome back! I hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and the children are rested and ready to learn! We have an exciting and busy term ahead with lots of different subjects and new topics to look forward to. This newsletter will provide you with a few reminders and an insight into some of the learning happening in our classroom this term.

Our Class Motto

At Knollmead, we have a big focus on resilience and always trying our best even when we find it hard. We have come up with a class motto of "I can't do it yet but I will keep practising." This reminds children that some things are hard but with practice they will be successful.

Maths

In maths this half term the children will be consolidating their numbers to 20 by learning about tens and ones. They will learn and practise using different strategies for adding and subtracting using numbers to 20. Recalling number bond facts to 10 and 20 will be a particular focus this half term and the children are eager to earn their 144 club badges. Any extra practice of these at home will be greatly beneficial to their fluency in maths.

Next half term the children will be using their knowledge of tens and ones to support their understanding of numbers to 50. We will be starting to count in 2, 5 and 10's and beginning to multiply and divide using objects.

Literacy and Phonics

We will be working on the book 'Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson to identify rhyming words, write from the perspective of a character and develop our inference skills. We will continue to use adjectives and extend our sentences using conjunctions. Some of the vocabulary we will be going over will be verbs such as shimmering, zooming, slithering and nouns such as lightning, icebergs, island. Over this term we will be covering the traditional tales 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' to support our story telling, ordering and story structure.

As always, phonics is an important part of our day in year 1. Any support at home (including reading) will greatly benefit the children and support their learning in the classroom.

Science

In science this half term the children will be looking at seasons and how the weather changes throughout the year. Next half term, children will look at animals, including animal kingdoms, body parts and diets.

Cornerstones

Our topic this half term is 'Rio de Vida' where we will be learning about the 7 continents and 5 oceans in the world and comparing Brazil and London. We will finish this topic by holding our own carnival, using our own instruments to create carnival music. You are welcome to come into the classroom so the children can show you their learning after school on Tuesday 12th January.

Next half term we will be looking dinosaurs. The children will explore the history of when dinosaurs lived, theories why they became extinct and create our very own dinosaur eggs.

PSHE and RE

This term in PSHE children will be focusing on dreams and goals where they will identify their own successes and achievements and 'healthy me', where children will understand the difference between being healthy and unhealthy and making good choices to stay healthy.

We will be learning about Judaism this term, exploring what it means to be Jewish and how Jews live.

PE

Year 1 have PE on a Monday and Friday. Please make sure that your child has a named PE kit for these days. This includes a coloured t-shirt for their house group, shorts and trousers, trainers or plimsolls (as we hope to get outside before the rain comes!). This term we will be practicing hockey skills and dance.

Homework

Every other week a topic based piece of homework will be set which the children can choose from the topic homework grid. More information for this will be noted on the sheet. In the alternate weeks, Athletics and Spellodrome homework will be set and their logs for these can be found in the back of their diaries. It would be very beneficial to their learning if you could practice these with them at home.

Contact books

The children will continue to bring home contact books each day. These will contain information about their reading books and the reading they have done in school. They will be signed each week in school which would be appreciated if you could do the same.

Reading books

Reading books will be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday for children to read at home. It is highly recommended that you read with your child frequently throughout the week to support your child's fluency in reading and also help with their phonics. Please indicate when your child has read so we can change the books quickly.. Please feel free to let us know how they are getting on at home with their reading and if there are any words or sounds they are finding particularly difficult so we can support further in school.

Library

On a Tuesday children will have an opportunity to choose a book from the library to take home. These need to be returned by each Tuesday in order to check out a new book.

I look forward to an exciting term!

Miss Richards