



Spring 2 2024- Fire, Fire!

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely half term break for you all. The homework that was brought in at the end of the last half term was very impressive so thank you for all your efforts at home – it was great to see lots of work uploaded to Seesaw too. Acorn Class have quickly settled back into their routines and have applied themselves superbly during our first week back. It has been a brilliant start to the half term with, well done kids! We have a very busy rest of the half term filled with other exciting activities to enhance our curriculum.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children in Acorn Class will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 1 and Year 2. Our topic is called 'Fire, Fire!' and many of our activities will relate to this.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice or flavoured water and school policy is water, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can be cleaned easily.

All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,
Mrs Barclay
Teacher

Monday

New spellings issued.
*After school club-
No Cook Cookery*

Tuesday

PE

Year 6 booster.
*After school club-
(paid wrap around
care is available)*

Wednesday

Thursday

*After school club –
Performing Arts with
Miss Fenton*

Friday

PE
Spelling test

*After school club –
Target games*

TOPIC

This half term our topic is 'Fire, fire!!'. The children will be emerged in everything London themed, from English texts to History and Science activities and everything in between.

In History, the children will learn about the key events of the Great Fire of London and help them to develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past. The children will have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by learning about what London was like in the 17th century. They compare life in the 17th century to the present day and consider how some problems, such as the lack of an organised fire brigade and the type of buildings, caused the fire to spread. Children then focus on how and why some things changed as a result of the fire, in order to be safer. They begin to learn how historical sources can tell us about what happened in the past and how some sources are more useful than others.

In Science, children will be identifying the parts of the body that the five senses use. They then explain what we use each sense for and how they keep us safe. They will investigate which part of the body is associated with each sense through a range of different investigations.

In DT the children will focus on utilising software tools to design products with a clear purpose and retell the Great Fire of London. Through hands on activities and interactive experiences, children will engage with technology to unleash their creativity, problem solving skills and storytelling abilities.

As with the start of all our topics, we will discuss it with the children to find out what they already know and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests.

Please take some time to talk to your children about the topics, read books and stories, watch programmes and think of some questions they can explore in class.

MATHS

All children should continue to practise their number work on Numbots.

Year 1 will begin the half term completing **Addition and Subtraction** unit, then **Place value** (within 50) **Length and Height** – measuring and comparing lengths. They will then move onto unit on **Mass and Volume** - measuring and comparing mass and capacity.

Year 2 will begin the half term completing **Multiplication and Division** unit, moving on to **Length and height**, They will complete the half term beginning a unit on , **Mass , Capacity and Temperature**.

LITERACY

Writing

In this literacy topic inspired by 'Katie in London', children will embark on an enchanting journey through the streets of London alongside the adventures Katie. Through exploration, they will delve into new vocabulary, predict events and hone their skills in oral planning and reasoning. By immersing themselves in the vivid illustrations and engaging storyline, students will develop deeper understanding of the text while also exercising their creativity and critical thinking skills.

In grammar we will be learning about how to vary conjunctions to join ideas

They will also be asking 'Can I write a newspaper report to help Class 3 with their History topic?'

The children will apply their knowledge about the Great Fire of London to write a recount to send to their friends at St Georges.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules which will be sent home weekly using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

LITERACY

Reading

The children in Acorn Class will take part in Guided Reading three times a week. In Guided Reading in Year 2, children have the same text as their group which they read independently and to the adult. We then discuss the text and work on a reading objective – VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Summary). Focus being on the features of fiction texts. This term we will be reading Flat Stanley.

In Year 1, the books are closely linked to their phonics learning.

As well as Guided Reading sessions, the children have opportunity to read their home reader to an adult. Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands, as well as a phonics book.

Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. From Year 2, they should focus on reading for meaning, as well as decoding – predicting what will happen in the story and why and also thinking about the character's feelings. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills.

Please could you continue to sign and comment in the reading journal – it really helps! Please make sure your child has their reading journal in school every day.

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out half termly - each half term you will receive a home learning menu. As explained on the menu, you must complete the maths, reading and writing activities but can choose any two options from the other choices from across the curriculum. The homework menu will allow you to be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce. The hand in date for the activities this half term will be:

Monday, 24th March

Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes'! There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home.

