

Acorn Curricular Letter

Autumn 2 2022 – Marvellous Mossy Lea!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back everybody! I hope you managed to have a peaceful and restful half term break. I must start by saying how proud I am of the children for how they ended last half term and how they have begun this one. They have shown resilience to the changes which have occurred within school and have settled beautifully back into their newly decorated classroom (they even welcomed a sneaky lion into the classroom to help us with our literacy unit). They have already produced some excellent work across the curriculum, and I can't wait to see what they produce in the half term to come. I was really impressed by all the homework that was brought in at the end of the last half term and the homework that was posted onto Seesaw. It was clear to see how much effort had gone into producing work of such creativity and of such a high standard. Keep up the good work!

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. All the children will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year 1 and 2. Our topic this term is a Geography driver is called 'Marvellous Mossy Lea' and many of our subjects will relate to this. In order to ignite the children's interest in our local area we are also planning a visit to The Lowry gallery, to support our work in Art.

As with the start of all our topics, we 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. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to our topic, then please let us know.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily, as long as Covid restrictions allow. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly and to enjoy a shared read with adults. Reading certificates are given out on Fridays and the children are encouraged to read each book twice to build confidence.

We will continue to provide children with a piece of fruit, free of charge, each day. Toast is still available daily at 20p. If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that we are a healthy school and it should be a piece of fruit or veg.

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 support, it is very much appreciated. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children and am especially looking forward to watching them thrive and grow over what will be a truly sensational term. By continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school flourishes. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,

Mrs Karen Barclay

Class teacher

Days to Remember

Monday

New spellings issued
(on Seesaw)

Covid Catch up – Yr 2
and 3

Tuesday

PE

After school club –
Arts and Crafts

Wednesday

Mrs Harrison teaching
ICT

Thursday

After school club –
Performing Arts with
Miss Fenton

Friday

Spelling test
PE
Music with LMS
After school club –
Gymnastics with
Chorley SSP

TOPIC

This half term our topic is 'Marvellous Mossy Lea!'. The children will be emerged in realising their local area. In Geography we will be investigating 'What does a bird see when it flies over our school?' They will talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They will use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of the school and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment. They will discover how to use aerial images and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic physical features in Wrightington.

In Science we will be enquiring 'Should I eat chocolate every day?' We will be looking at the bigger picture of being healthy. We will investigate the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food and hygiene.

As with the start of all our topics, we will discuss it with the children to find out what they already know about it 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.

MATHS

All children should continue to practise their number work on Numbots and play games set on seesaw.

Year 1 will begin the half term by completing the unit on **Addition and Subtraction** – discovering different strategies to calculate subtraction. They will then move onto a short unit on **Shape** - Recognise, naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes. They will complete the half term with a unit on **Place Value (within 20)** - Compare groups of objects, compare and order numbers.

Year 2/3 will begin the half term by completing the unit on **Addition and Subtraction** – Mixed addition and subtraction, Bonds to 100 (tens and ones) and Add three 1-digit numbers. They will then move onto a unit on **Money** – counting, selecting and comparing, Finding the total, difference and giving change. They will complete the half term with a unit on **Multiplication and Division** - Making and adding equal groups and making arrays.

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).

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.

LITERACY

Writing

In English, we will begin with a fiction unit–*How to hide a Lion at school* . The unit takes the children on an adventure with Iris and her lion. The children will innovate the story and take their characters on an adventure based at Mossy Lea.

We will then be asking 'Would you like to join our school? With a focus on persuasive writing, we will aim to celebrate and persuade other children to join our school.

We will continue to look at year group appropriate spelling patterns and rules and I will upload the weekly spelling patterns on Seesaw, using the 'Spelling Shed' resources.

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, 13th December

