



Kingfishers Newsletter Autumn Term 2017

English 	This term we will be looking at a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to help us learn about different animals around the world and their habitats. Our learning in English will have a strong link to our topic learning in Geography. We'll be enjoying texts including atlases and maps. We'll be doing plenty of non-fiction and factual writing as well as attempting to write stories later on in the term, focusing particularly on basic story structure. There'll be focused grammar and spelling sessions – it's vital that children can spell high-frequency words by rote and grammar sessions will include learning about tenses, sentence punctuation and different types of words. Reading is a key part of our learning so in addition to reading a wide variety of texts at home, there'll be regular guided reading sessions in the classroom and a huge variety of reading opportunities throughout the school day.
Maths 	Maths lessons take place every day and we also have regular, 'short and snappy' mental maths sessions (e.g. from 8.40, before lunch, etc. for 10-15 minutes). During the first half term we'll be focusing on key mathematical skills within place value and number work, moving on to addition and subtraction towards the end of the half term. We'll be learning our times tables, beginning with the 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables.
Science 	Our Science work this term will link in with our topic so we'll be learning about animals and their habitats. We'll be thinking about why animals are suited to the habitat in which they live and what the habitat can offer them. We've already started thinking about the visual clues and will be thinking about food chains as we move through our topic.
Computing 	We'll be learning about the huge variety of technology available to us, both at school and at home; linked in with this is, of course, internet safety. Digital maps and resources are widely used today so we'll be looking at aerial maps and satellite images using popular browsers such as Google.
Geography & History 	Our topic this term is Geography based – we'll be learning about the continents and oceans of the world. We've already started looking at Europe and familiarising ourselves with the different countries. We'll travel around the world visiting each of the continents, finally ending up at the Poles in time for Winter and Christmas. We'll also compare different places, thinking about the differences between a village, town and city. Weather patterns in different parts of the world will also play a part... why not have a look at a world weather forecast at home? We'll also be thinking about some of the great explorers including Scott, Columbus, Shackleton and Amundsen.
Art 	Our topic 'Amazing Animals' will inspire our art work this term. We will be looking closely at different animals that use camouflage to keep themselves safe and take inspiration from these to create our own camouflage pictures using oil pastels. The children will practise making different lines and patterns to create texture and effects on their work.
Music 	Singing will take place each week, starting off with Harvest songs before learning Christmas and celebration songs. Class music sessions will involve learning about different notes (duration and rhythm) and the effect they have on music and songs. We'll also have a go at using some instruments to create effects and will enjoy listening to different music, thinking about the effect it may have on the listener.

<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>PSHE learning in the first half term will focus on friendships. Children will consider what makes a good friend and how to make up with friends when things go wrong. Later on in the term, to tie in with their mathematical learning about money, children will begin to learn about the value of money. They will consider where money comes from, how they might earn money and what it means to have less money than you need.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p> 	<p>The children will take part in dance and games lessons this term. In dance, the children will use their knowledge of the 'Great Fire of London' from last year as a stimulus for exploring different ways of travelling. In games, the children will develop their throwing, catching, striking and dribbling skills to play small games. Some of our activities will take place indoors whilst others will be outside so....please ensure that your child brings their indoor and outdoor PE kit to school on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday.</p>
<p>Religious Education</p> 	<p>This term will focus on celebrations. We will start by looking at why Christians celebrate Harvest and what a typical harvest festival celebration looks like, before heading a little further afield and looking briefly at Harvest in other countries. Children will then learn about the celebration of Diwali and what it means to the Sikh faith, before finally focusing on the true meaning of the Christmas story to Christians.</p>
<p>Other Information</p> 	<p>Please continue to support your child by encouraging them to read daily and by discussing their books with them. You will notice that in year two, children are responsible for changing their own books and write the title of their new reading book themselves. Home Learning ideas will be updated on the class webpage every Friday, starting from Friday 15th September, so keep an eye on Kingfishers page to see how you can support your child at home. Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellington boots and suitable wet weather clothing in school throughout the week so that they can make the most of outdoor learning opportunities. Mathletics and Accelerated Reader will start later on in Year 2.</p>

And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Ferrett
Mrs Grant