



Wrens Newsletter Autumn Term 2017

Our topic this term is 'Amazing Animals'.

<p>English</p> 	<p>We will be looking at a variety of fiction and non-fiction text 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 as we'll be enjoying texts including atlases and maps.</p> <p>In phonics this term we will start by revising the graphemes taught in Reception and applying this phonic knowledge to help us read words and write sentences. Then we will begin to learn some alternative spellings for the graphemes already taught so that we can access a wider range of vocabulary and begin to make decisions about which spelling rules to apply in our writing. We will be practising saying out loud what we want to write and making our sentences make sense. We will be making sure that we form letters correctly, use finger spaces to separate words and use capital letters and full stops to show where sentences begin and end.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>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. This term we will focus heavily on developing number fluency so that children can recognise and use numbers confidently. This will involve a lot of counting – forwards, backwards, from different start numbers and developing children's understanding of place value so that they can order numbers. We will also focus on learning number facts e.g. number bonds to ten and the two, five and ten timetables to help us solve calculations.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>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 will be thinking about food chains as we move through our topic.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>We'll be learning this term 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.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>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 such as Scott, Columbus, Shackleton and Amundsen.</p>

<p>Art & DT</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>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>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>PSHE lessons at the beginning of this term focused on the 'Golden Rules'. 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</p> <p>Later on in the term, 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 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 make sure 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. This term we will be learning about the Christian celebrations of Harvest and Christmas. We will be exploring why these celebrations are special to Christians and the different ways in which they are celebrated.</p>
<p>Other Information</p> 	<p>The focus for 'Home learning' this half term is reading. Please listen to your child read at least 3 times a week and sign their reading diary to indicate they need a new book.</p> <p>Wellies and waterproofs are essential for the children to enjoy and make the most of the outdoors and all the learning opportunities it has to offer. Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies and waterproofs in school throughout the week. An old shirt to wear over school uniform is useful for messy activities.</p>

And finally...

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

Mrs Anne Wilkinson