



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Our new topic "Ice and Fire" will provide the stimulus for much of our work until Easter. We'll be learning about some cold and hot areas of the world and begin to name continents and oceans, so you may like to have a look at maps and globes at home too. RE work will focus on the story of Creation and how we should look after our wonderful world. Using a range of materials in art, we'll be creating pictures using hot and cold colours.

In English our work this term will be based around both fiction and non-fiction texts, mainly concerning animals that live in cold places. The children will have the opportunity to read, discuss and write simple poetry and extend their descriptive vocabulary. We will continue to focus on using correct pencil grip and seating position when writing so that good habits are embedded and the children will practise forming all letters correctly whilst joining many. Writing clear sentences demarcated with capital letters and full stops is a key target for this year (and also writing some with question marks and exclamation marks).

In Maths we are continuing to work on key number skills as well as comparing, estimating and measuring length, mass and capacity. The children will also be learning to describe position, direction and movement (including whole, half and three-quarter turns), name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shape and recognise simple fractions.

Our Science work will include learning to identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals and considering why some animals make good pets and others do not. Through this topic the children will be making observations and using these to suggest answers to questions, as well as gathering and recording data in different ways.

On Thursdays, during their music sessions with Miss Melling, Swan Class are learning to compose simple pieces of music and create graphic scores. They will also explore the difference between beat and rhythm.

We are looking forward to using the IT equipment in the SHEL (Space for Heightened Experiential Learning) this term. We will be devising algorithms using iPads to control programmable robots and in the process we will identify and correct bugs in our programming.

Reading

Thanks to your support with reading at home, many children are changing their reading books regularly and are becoming familiar with a wide range of texts which they read with increasing fluency. It is evident that the children are pleased with their success and guided group reading each week is approached with great enthusiasm! Please continue to write positive comments in your child's reading diary and see me if you have any concerns.

Spelling stars

New spelling lists of high frequency words for this term will be issued soon but it's not too late to gain a star for terms 1 and 2! Please help your child to learn to spell all these key words and let me know if they're ready for a retest. A test for term 3 words will take place in the week before the February break.

Homework

Thank you for your support with homework, which will continue in a similar format this term. Along with daily reading, a short English and Maths task will be set each Friday and homework folders should be put in the classroom tray when work is completed, by the following Thursday at the latest please.

P.E.

We are continuing to have our P.E. lessons on Thursday and Friday mornings, when the children may continue to come to school wearing their kit. On Thursdays, please make sure they wear an extra layer when the weather is cold as they will be practising hockey skills outside. Gymnastics will be taught on Friday mornings. Please make sure all PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name so that it can be easily returned to them if misplaced.

We will be running round our new track each day, building up to a daily mile, so please keep trainers in school if possible.

A named water bottle should also be in school each day. The children may refill it each morning if you wish to leave it in school for the week.

If you wish to talk to me at any time about specific matters, please catch me after school on the playground or arrange a meeting through the office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Diana Nicol