



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

April 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children in year one have had yet another fantastic term, culminating in a brilliant performance of *Alice in Wonderland* at the Voyager School. Their confidence has grown immeasurably.

We have got some exciting topics planned for the coming two terms, based on the interest the children are currently showing about the world around them, and how the environment is changing due to the changing seasons. They are particularly interested in the wildlife that is currently coming out of hibernation.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – *All creatures great and small: Minibeasts*

Throughout the summer terms we will be learning about all creatures great and small, including an exciting trip to Sacrewell Farm (more details to follow!) The purpose of this topic is to encourage the care of creatures, including how to look after animals such as pets, and how to encourage wildlife, particularly in gardens and the local area. During the first part of the summer term, our focus will be Minibeasts. We will conduct experiments to find out which minibeasts are currently surfacing within our school grounds, and design ways in which to encourage even more. We will be building giant 3D minibeasts – so please empty your recycling bins and help us to collect plastic bottles, kitchen rolls and cardboard boxes! This will also help us to focus on the notion of reuse, reduce and recycle. Throughout our topic on minibeasts, we are hoping to encourage the children's love and interest in the natural world, and we intend to use the outdoor learning spaces in school as often as possible.

Of course, no minibeast topic would be complete without live minibeasts, so we are going to be having some weird and wonderful additions to our classroom. In order to achieve this, on **Friday 25th April 2014** we would like to invite you into the classroom at **3.15pm** to purchase minibeast paperweights that we will make – any donations for these will be greatly appreciated and will allow us to buy a variety of minibeasts to care for.

LEARNING SKILLS

Next term focuses on 'Thinking Skills'.

In year 1, we will be working towards the following 'I can...' statements:

- *I can use organisational features of texts, to find information, e.g. indexes, chapters and simple data bases.*
- *I can make comparisons between events and objects, e.g. can group living things according to observable differences and similarities.*
- *I can record results and observations in simple charts, pictograms and text.*
- *I use trial and error strategies to construct something/make something work.*

NUMERACY

Next term we will be building on the children's knowledge of numbers, in particular understanding the place value of each number, and how to use these numbers when calculating. We are beginning to learn times tables now, in particular the two times table. We continue to count on and back in ones, twos, fives and tens, and knowledge of these number patterns helps children in all areas of numeracy. We are also exploring data handling and classifying through our minibeast topic. We will use Numicon to support the children, and we will use the National Numeracy Framework through block units to develop the children's numeracy knowledge. The first of these for next term will be Block A3: Counting, Partitioning and Calculating. The second will be Block B3: Securing Number Facts and Understanding Shapes.



LITERACY

Our particular focus for literacy next term is phonics, and using our Read, Write Inc. sounds as much as possible to Fred talk both real and nonsense words in preparation for the Phonics Screening check. The children are becoming more familiar with reading sounds in words they have never seen before, and are enjoying the variety of games that we are playing to encourage this skill. Please continue to practise the sounds at home, using the Read, Write, Inc. sounds booklet is particularly useful. The phonics check practises are also allowing us to see which sounds children need more support with. Through our topic on Minibeasts, we will be learning how to write non-fiction texts in order to provide information to others, including using the internet and computer programmes to achieve this. The children will access our handwriting programme Write Dance, and continue to develop their handwriting and letter formation skills through this.

PE

PE will be covered in two one hour sessions each week, **Monday** is outdoor PE and **Friday** is indoor PE. Please ensure your child has both indoor and outdoor kit in school with them all week. Children with long hair will need to have it tied back for safety reasons. Any earrings (studs only are allowed in school) will also have to be removed (by the child) or covered with a plaster (which must be supplied from home).

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs, this will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on a Tuesday. Every Tuesday, one Learning Log per class is chosen to be shared in the whole school assembly on Thursday. Your child will also be awarded House Points for the work produced in their Learning Logs. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child. In addition, there will be either key skills numeracy homework, or phonics check practises, as well as the continuing phonics set in the red reading records.

Home learning is expected to be completed each week at home and handed in on time by Tuesday. If children do not meet this requirement then they will complete the home learning during break time. Can you please ensure that your child completes their home learning each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

In addition to this, your child can choose to undertake a half-term home learning project, which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme; the more creative the better!

READING

Please continue to read with your child at home. Each week, they will be given 1 reading book which they can share with you at home and any comments recorded in the Reading Record. This will be changed weekly on a **Tuesday**. Year 1 have the opportunity to visit the library on a **Friday** and learn about all the different types of books and how to use a library. Each week, your child will also participate in Guided Reading where they will have the chance to join in with plenty of book talk.

Please ensure that your child brings in their reading log book every day. This enables us to stick in the reading objectives that we have covered during the week through class learning and Read, Write Inc, therefore sharing the children's learning and success with you. Thank you for continuing to record your own comments in the reading log books, as this helps us to move your child's reading forward.

SHOW AND TELL

Show and tell will be on a Friday each week. If the children do bring an item in, it is preferable that this either be related to the topic, or an exciting event/achievement.

Mrs L Burnham
Class Teacher

Mrs A Woods
Teaching Assistant

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

