



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

Thursday 22nd May 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

The Summer term has been fantastic so far – the money raised from the minibeast paperweight sale has meant that the children have been able to care for caterpillars, snails, ants, worms and a stick insect! It has been fascinating to watch these minibeasts grow and change, particularly the metamorphosis of the caterpillars.

As the weather is now particularly hot and sunny, we would encourage children to bring a named sunhat to school. If your child requires sun cream during the day, please give a member of the year 1 team a named bottle that we will store safely in the classroom. Your child must be able to apply the sun cream by themselves, under supervision of an adult.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – *All creatures great and small: Animal species*

We have learned facts and information about minibeasts, but we now need to learn about the different species of animals. The children will learn to group and categorise animals by their type, as well as talk about the needs of each group of animal. We will talk about animal habitats, diet, parts of the body and how to care for a variety of creatures. We are hoping to have visitors to Norwood that will share a variety of animals with us (for instance reptiles), as well as talk about the needs and features of each animal.

The children will experience a variety of activities that involve hands on experience of habitats. This in particular includes our class trip to Sacrewell Farm, joined with the Reception class. Here the children will be able to see a variety of farm animals, as well as go pond dipping, have a tractor ride, and observe a working farm.

When we come back from the Farm, we are going to create presentations for our friends. These will be based on all of the knowledge that we have learned over the last two terms.

Towards the end of term, we will present this to you, as well as show off the songs we have learned and work we have designed and created.

A reminder that our trip to Sacrewell farm is on **25th June 2014**. Many thanks to the responses received so far, we now have enough adults to support our trip. If you have not sent the reply slip for your child, please send this back as soon as possible.

To begin this section of our topic, we would like each child to dress up as their favourite animal on the first day back after half term (2nd June). This will begin our learning on sorting and categorising animals, as well as allowing children to talk about what they know about their favourite animal.

LEARNING SKILLS

This term focuses on 'Speaking and Listening'.

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

- *I can take part in a brief presentation.*
- *I can follow and understand instructions given to a large group.*
- *I can listen carefully to what others are saying in a group discussion and make an appropriate response.*
- *I can share ideas confidently and give an opinion.*

NUMERACY

The children's knowledge of numbers and patterns is becoming more secure, and they are continuing to enjoy Big Maths sessions which develops their ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide in a fast and rapid way. We are currently working on children's ability to use numbers beyond 20 to order and calculate with. We have learned our one and two times table, and the children are enjoying checking each other's knowledge of the number facts involved. Please continue helping your child to learn these times tables in particular, as the number facts are important to their knowledge of working with calculation. We will continue with our framework learning, and the first of these for next term will be Block C3: Handling Data and Measures. The second will be Block D3: Calculating, measuring and understanding shape.

LITERACY

The main literacy focus next term will be phonics, as a reminder that the Phonics Check is the week beginning **16th June**. The children are continuing to learn new sounds, and are practising Fred Talking nonsense and real words. We use the sound booklets that we sent home to help to monitor children's gaps in knowledge, so please do use these at home with your child. The practise of phonics check lists that we send as home learning is also helpful, as this identifies to you the sounds your child is finding trickier to remember.

Write Dance and handwriting sessions continue to develop the children's ability to form letters correctly and clearly. Thank you for your continued practise at home, particularly through Home Learning.

Our all creatures great and small topic will help children to be able to write non-fiction texts, as well as information booklets and instructions for the care of creatures.

We will use our speaking and listening skills when we put together presentations. This will bring our knowledge of computing together with our knowledge of creatures.

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. We have loved experiencing a variety of wildlife this term, and look forward to seeing more next term!

Mrs L Burnham
Year 1 Teacher

Mrs A Woods
Teaching Assistant

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

