



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,

Well what can I say? Alice in Wonderland has been a hectic but amazing topic this term! We have been looking at various sections of both the Alice books by Lewis Carroll. We have also had a fun day out at the Garden of Surprises and the Gardens within Burghley House. The whole school performance of Alice in Wonderland was the culmination of weeks of creating props, refining scripts, creating sound tracks, rehearsing and improvised drama sequences; and has been a great success! Next term we will have a brand new, exciting topic which we will share with the year 6 children. In order to create an air of mystery, we are keeping the theme a secret until the children return from the Easter Break; details will be available on the web-site once the term is underway.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – To Be Revealed

Areas of study for the first half of the summer term will include:

- Mythical creatures;
- Comparing different towns across the world;
- Beliefs and Cultural understanding;
- Map reading and navigation;
- Moving toys (continued).

KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:

Myth; feature; characteristic; social; economy; wealth; education; resources; belief; religion; culture; community; racism; tolerance; acceptance; harmony; latitude; longitude; navigation; direction; symbol; direction; north; south; east; west; compass; gears; levers; cogs; and words specific to our secret topic.

LEARNING SKILLS – Thinking Skills

The main focus will be based on these statements:

- I can make suggestions as to the best sources of information and can comment on quality of information from a variety of sources;
- I can put forward credible conclusions from information gathered;
- I can compare and contrast different points of view;
- I can build on the ideas and suggestions of others to generate ideas.

NUMERACY

The main objectives are as follows: number work, calculations, problem solving, shape, measures and data handling. We will also be focussing on mental maths and times tables. We will be working on **Block E3 (continued) – Calculating, area/perimeter, coordinates and time; Block A3 – Counting, partitioning and calculating; Block B3 – Securing number facts and understanding shape**. We will also be continuing with the Big Maths programme that focuses further learning across the school based on specific gaps that need filling in the children's learning. This has been successful and I am sure this will continue to motivate the children next term.

LITERACY

The Read, Write Inc Literacy and Language programme has continued to be a great success through the school and in year 5 we have embraced it extremely well. The partner work and focused vocabulary have helped to embed skills learnt in previous years and develop their comprehension and writing skills even further. Next term year 5 will be studying **stories from a significant author, biography/autobiography and stories from another culture**.



ICT

Children will continue to access the class set of Netbooks to support and develop their learning across the curriculum. Children will look at using a variety of ICT programs such as Word; PowerPoint; Database software and graphical/data handling tools; along with recording equipment and film storyboard software. Children will regularly access the Internet as a source of information and to develop their skills of scanning and retrieving key information; taking notes and recording information in their own words. Children will also utilise E-Learning programmes to practise and apply skills learnt across the curriculum. E-safety is of great importance and will be imbedded into all ICT and will be focused on specifically in PSHE.

PE

Children will continue to partake in two hours of PE each week. Please remind your child that they should bring their PE kit into school on a Monday, leave it in school all week then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kit in school. Can we remind you that school rules state that for the safety of your child, earrings need to be removed for PE (which needs to be done independently) or plasters (provided by home) need to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to ensure that it is tied back. With the weather being very unpredictable, please ensure they have appropriate outdoor kit, including spare socks, gloves and long trousers/sleeves.

READING

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home, it is crucial to support their progression with reading comprehension and has a vital impact on their own writing across the curriculum. The children have the opportunity to visit the library once a week as a class; in this session, they can change their library book and research our topic. There is also extra provision through the week for some children to have reading time with an adult. Children should continue to develop the ability to choose a book that is both suitable and interesting for them, which they finish in its entirety. Please encourage your child to read a variety of texts, including stories, non-fiction, magazines, comics, children's newspapers and poetry. The children are expected to fill in their reading record books, and these should be brought to school throughout the week. Stickers showing the specific reading focus the child has been learning that week will also be placed into the reading record books so it is imperative that every child brings in their reading record book every day to school; especially on a Friday, when house points will be available to those children completing reading each week!

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs, which will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on the following 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 Literacy and Language and/or numeracy homework set.

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. If children have any problems or queries about the home learning given, there is opportunity on a Friday lunch time for them to get help and/or advice required.

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!

So far, year 5 has been an enjoyable and varied year, filled with exciting learning and amazing creativity. We now look forward to starting our final term in an exciting way, continuing to work together as a class and filling the weeks with more new and exciting learning opportunities. We are certain our next, mysterious, half term will be interesting and stimulating, with continued progress and achievement by all in year 5.

Yours sincerely

Miss Miller
Class Teacher

Mrs Sprouse
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Brittan
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Frost
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds
Head Teacher

