

Curriculum Update

Year 1 – May 2022

At the start of term we continued our work on the theme 'Going Wild'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this theme and have shown great engagement and focus. We have read various stories and looked at information books which link to the theme. We focused on the story 'Lost and Found' in Literacy lessons which tells of a great friendship between a boy and a penguin. It inspired us to find out lots of things about penguins and the children have produced some great information writing about penguins. We have been able to make some purposeful links to values education using this story.

We have now moved on to a new theme called 'Unity in the Community.' This is a thematic unit about the area that we live in, with a mainly geographical focus. The children will develop their geographical skills, local knowledge and understanding through learning about their learning space, the features of our grounds, the surrounding area and how it has changed over time. They will be taught all about the importance of acting responsibly within both their learning space and within the wider community.

Reading

Please could the children continue to have their reading books and yellow reading diaries in school every day!

Please could you have a look at the Summer Term wordlist on the Learning Guidance section on the class page on the school website. We are aiming to get the children to be able to read and spell these words by the end of Year 1. Any support at home with this would be greatly beneficial! Please read with your child every day if you can!

Maths

This term the children have been working towards deepening their understanding of place value, fractions and position and direction.

The children need to be able to understand how to find half and quarter of both numbers and shapes. They have worked practically at activities to support this. Place value is all about identifying the tens and ones in a number. We are mostly working at securing understanding of numbers to 100 and knowing for example that 36 is made up of three tens and six ones. Any practice that you could do at counting in tens would be useful. We have also been working on understanding turns and have learned about whole turns, half turns and quarter turns. We also have looked at knowing left from right as this proved to be tricky for some children! They have enjoyed playing different number games individually on the Topmarks website. These resources are free and are great for sharpening skills and reinforcing learning. www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting

Literacy

This week we have really enjoyed finding out more about Queen Elizabeth as we approach the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The children have loved finding out more about her life and have produced some great information writing.

In their writing the children are making sure that they use finger spaces reliably, sit their letters on the line, use full stops and capital letters and make their sentences more detailed by using conjunctions. We are working hard at improving presentation and making sure that we always use our best handwriting.

In phonics and spelling the children have been working hard on identifying the sounds in longer words and writing these words in sentences. They are also working towards being able to read and spell the Common Exception Words for Year One. These can be found on the class webpage. Please do take a look!

We have also been continuing work to secure phonics skills in order to prepare the children for the phonics screening check which takes place in June.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

Through outdoor learning, the children have investigated and studied different spring and summer plants, identifying in particular the buds of plants. Over the recent visits to Forest School, we have also enjoyed the bluebells in the woods and identified the reasons as to why and where they grow. Challenging the children, we asked them to build the highest structure using pinecones after researching and discussing best techniques for it.

Theme

In our theme of 'unity in the Community' the children have thought about what the word community means and using our walk around Madley village as a stimuli, identified features of the village that include and promote community spirit. They thoroughly enjoyed our walk and were able to recognise important community landmarks. Alongside our class theme, the children have also learned about the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee and in particular the decade of 2002 to 2012. They shared their learning with other classes and found out more about the decades the other classes have focused on. They also learnt a new jubilee dance and the National Anthem.

Healthy Schools

As a 'healthy school' we ask the children to bring a fruit snack for the children to eat before they go out for morning break. We would ask that all children bring in fruit to eat and not cereal bars or similar snacks. Thank you in anticipation.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr Lewis as a student teacher who is currently working with us in Year One. He will be with us until just before the end of term.

