

Dear Parents

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM

Happy New Year! We hope you've all had a lovely Christmas break, managed to stay well and enjoyed spending family-time together. We were overwhelmed by the generous cards, vouchers and gifts received and would like to take this opportunity to thank you again. Here are a few of the many exciting things we have planned for this term.

English

This term we will be exploring non-fiction books; creating owl information books, using information from our exciting owl visit and learning about dictionaries, definitions and alphabetical order. We will also be sentence stacking, inspired by Jill Tomlinson's, 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' and to link with our work on space, 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers.

Phonics and Reading

The children have settled into their new RWI (Read Write Inc) Phonics groups – which we refer to by the colour of their book – e.g. yellow group. As you know, the children are assessed and potentially regrouped every 6 weeks. This may mean they have moved forward to more challenging books or they may need to consolidate. This is often because they need to build more speed and fluency, even if they can read the words, but at a slower pace. Each week the children will be given sound practice sheets, for the sounds they have been practising that week. When they move to a new colour group they will also receive a 'red word' bookmark, to show the common exception words that they will cover in that group. Please feel free to practise these with them if you wish. Please note although we do listen to the children read their books with their partner, every day in their group, we don't record this in their reading record at all. We do love to see what/when they have read at home though, so please continue to make a quick record of the date and book title when you listen to them read. We will then check these and every time they have read we will reward them with a token for their class jar. The Y1 class with the most then receives a class treat. Announcements of winners will be on ClassDojo. Please note that we do just have a quick check through these reading records, so for any longer messages or queries please either speak to us on the door or email the school office, who will forward this on to us or the relevant reading group teacher.

Maths

The children were very proud to start working on their second Power Maths books this term. We are beginning to work on place value and understanding which digit in a number is a ten or a one (used to be referred to as a unit). This will enable us to work on increasingly larger numbers, this term focusing on 10-20, then 50. We will practise adding, subtracting and comparing these numbers, using the symbols + - > < = and counting in twos, fives and tens. We will be aiming to learn our number bonds to 10/20 and doubles to twenty off by heart. Practising these with games and songs at home can really help consolidate these. As we share them in class we will send out links on ClassDojo. Towards Easter we will be learning how to measure length, height, mass (weight) and capacity. Children should be able to access Numbots using the login in their reading records. This login also works for TT Rockstars, if your child is ready for an extra challenge. If you try the 'Jamming' section that is a good place to start. Please let us know if you would like more guidance about this, or if you are having problems logging in. In our 'Mastering Number' sessions we have enjoyed using the rekenreks and developing a deep understanding of numbers, partitioning and knowing for example all of the pairs of numbers that make a given number, we will continue to work through these numbers and develop our understanding of doubles and odd and even numbers and how this can help us with our calculations.

Science

We will continue to explore seasonal changes, from winter to spring; how the weather and day length/light are affected by the position of the Earth. Please could you again provide a photo on ClassDojo, of your child at 5pm with the sky and a tree in view, ideally in the same place as before. If you could do this early in January and then just before Easter we should be able to see a real change to their surroundings. This term the children will also explore animals, including humans and pets. They will learn the main parts of the body and senses and will recognise and classify animals into different groups according to their characteristics.

PSHE

Our whole school topics for the spring term are, 'keeping myself safe' and 'rights and responsibilities'. We will learn how to look after ourselves, for example by eating a balanced diet, being careful around medicines and getting enough sleep, managing our emotions and taking responsibility for things like plants, pets and our own money etc.

Humanities

In Geography we will be learning about hot and cold countries. For History we will be learning about a significant person within living memory; the important life of Neil Armstrong and the first moon landing.

RE

During RE, the children will be learning about different religions' routines and rituals. They will also study how and why Christians celebrate Easter.

Computing

Excitingly, this term we will be using 'Beebots' in our Computing lessons. These are very cute bee shaped programmable robots. We will learn how to program them; about buttons, directions and routes. The children will decide what their program will do. They will then create their program and test it on the robot. They will also learn how to debug their program.

Art

The children will continue to have their Art lessons in the Art Studio with our specialist teacher Mrs Thomas. They will be exploring a range of media and techniques using paint, chalk and pastels, linking with our work in other curriculum areas, with a focus on owls. We will be exploring some of the weird and wonderful work of the artist Salvador Dali. The children will create their own Little Owl, using his drawing as inspiration. Also, a focus on Picasso's line drawings of animals, including owls.

Music

In Spring 1 we will be using the song, 'In The Groove' that was specially written for classroom use to teach children about different styles of music. This is a very easy song to learn and has been arranged in six different styles; Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk. Each week we will listen and learn a different style of 'In The Groove', learning to sing and play glockenspiels. In Spring 2 we will use the song 'Round and Round', to explore more musical styles: Latin Bossa Nova, Film music, Big Band Jazz, Mash-up and Latin fusion.

PE

The children have made a great start to their PE lessons in Year One, using our new scheme PE Passport – they are enjoying learning lots of new skills! During the Spring term, the children will be practising gymnastics and invasion games, for example passing and receiving different types of ball, getting into ready positions, and moving around safely while dribbling. P.E. is now on Monday afternoons, this half term we are indoors (please check your child has black shorts for this) and after half term we will be back outdoors and needing warmer joggers and hoodies. Please also ensure that on Mondays long hair is tied back and that no jewellery is worn, especially earrings.

Key Dates

Please refer to the website via the following link:

<https://www.nicholashawksmooracademy.com/events/>

Key Information

Please continue to name your child's uniform, bottles and snack pots. This will help us to return lost property to the correct child.

Projects

Each half term the children are set a piece of creative homework which relates to a topic we will be exploring at school. These projects are shared in class after each half term. The children may be as creative as they like by making, writing, drawing or using technology to explore the given topic and create something to share with the rest of the class. We have been very impressed with these so far this year and the children really enjoy sharing and asking each other questions.

This term's projects:

Spring Term 1 (share on Friday 1/3/24)

Topic: **Animals – tell us about your favourite**

Spring Term 2 (share on Friday 19/4/24)

Topic: **Space or Neil Armstrong**

Best wishes
Year 1 Team



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