



We're Going Back To School



Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable festive season and enjoyed relaxing and catching up with family and friends.

We have lots of exciting things planned for this term and look forward to sharing them with all the children.

A few reminders for this term:

- It is important that home reading folders come to school every day. As well as changing books when required, they are also read in class most days. Please make sure that you write in the reading record every time your child reads with you, or their books will not be changed.
- Water breaks are incredibly important for the children. Children should have a clearly named water bottle every day.
- The early bird morning tasks are a wonderful way for children to consolidate learning, discuss issues that they may have had in a previous lesson and begin their day with a positive routine. They run between 8.45am and 9am. We would like to encourage as many of the children as possible to take part in these activities and look forward to seeing you all at 8.45am.
- We have decided to stop Show and Tell. There is just not enough time in the day to fit this in. We would still welcome anything to do with topic that the children would like to share. But would please request that no further toys or other items from home are brought into school, they are distracting and can easily be broken and lost.

English

Our first topic this half term will focus on descriptive story writing, linking closely to our topic of Africa. We will be investigating the book 'How the Giraffe Became so Tall' by Andrea Florens, focusing on adjectives and alliteration. Children will research and act out the traditional African tale, before planning and writing their own version about a different Safari creature.

After that, we will investigate non-fiction texts. Our particular focus will be creating a non-chronological report about the African continent, the different weathers experienced throughout the continent. We will complete this unit by creating and filming a weather report.

The children will continue to revise and extend their knowledge of spellings and phonics. We would like to encourage your child to practice the reading and writing of the **tricky words**. These can be found at the back of your homework books.

Grammar will focus on connectives, conjunctions, adverbs, nouns and descriptive sentences.

Maths

In maths, we are learning to extend our knowledge in the areas of:

- Place value and counting on and back with numbers up to 100
- Time
- Multiplication and division by 2,5 and 10
- Addition and Subtraction with money

An important aspect of mathematics is to apply this knowledge to problem solving and investigations. This means that a component of mathematics taught must be to reason, question, reflect and discuss strategies in order to answer questions.

Topic

Topic encompasses geography, history, art and design technology. This term our topic is Africa. We will look at the continent of Africa, the physical features of the country and the weather systems experienced across the various countries. We will then focus on the country of Kenya, investigating the Maasai National Park and the animals found there. Children will research the effects of climate change and the wide spread drought experienced by the country.

Science

This term we are linking science to our topic of Africa. We shall be investigating weather in the local area and learning how to identify weather patterns. We shall then compare and contrast this to weather experienced across Africa, with particular focus on the worrying droughts experienced in North East Africa. We will celebrate National Science Week 9th -13th March. The theme for science week is 'Our Diverse Planet'. With this theme in mind, we shall be conducting a series of experiments that involve exploring local biodiversity and the U.K's social diversity.

R.E.

In this half term we will be investigating the big question: Does the Creation story help people to understand God?

Children will investigate the Creation story and discuss the importance of looking after the planet. They will be able to retell the story and sequence the events in the correct order.

Computing

This term's computing links to our exciting topic 'Africa'. The children will be introduced the key skills needed to create an e-postcard. The children will select photographs and learn how to place font on top of the postcard, before sending it to a friend within the class. We shall also continue to look at programming, focusing on how to debug a program.

Art

In Art, our work will also reflect our topic of Africa. We will study the colours and patterns used by the Maasai tribe and the techniques they use to create cloth and jewellery. The children will then have the opportunity to create their own craft works based on these designs.

PE/Games

PE is on Wednesdays. Owl Class will also have the opportunity to take part in 2 sports festivals at Homer Green School. The sports festivals are a wonderful chance to work with pupils from others schools and use a wider variety of sports equipment.

Other Information:

We will be participating in the Little Missenden Music Festival during the first half term. We will have a number of workshops lead by a team of professional musicians and the composer John Webb. The children will work with the musicians to create a piece of music about the seasons.

Mrs. Stockdale teaches on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mrs. Downie teaches on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Homework

Reading and spelling continue to be the focus of our homework in Owl Class

Reading books will continue to be changed as children require. We encourage changing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please continue to record in your child's reading record every time you read with them.

New spellings continue to be given out every **Monday**. We encourage the children to practice their spellings every day using the look, cover, write, say and spell method. We would also like them to practice using the words in a sentence.

We have also included a list of key words the children should know how to read and spell by the end of keystage 1. Please read and write these as often as you can. You are welcome to tick them off as your child is able to read and write each word correctly.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Year 2 Teachers

