

Bledlow Ridge School
Class 1 Curriculum Letter - Spring Term 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly we would like to welcome the children back and wish you all a Happy New Year. May we also say thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts that we received. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of this term's plans.

English:

Whole class reading will focus on fairy tales. We will be looking at a range of texts including 'Cinderella', 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Rapunzel'. Through these texts the children will be learning to sequence, re-tell, analyze characters and create their own book. The children will also read non-fiction texts and will learn to read instructions, follow them and create their own. The children will also work in groups to read texts that are appropriate to their abilities. In the last week of this half term the children will be learning all about action rhymes. Please could we kindly ask for you to work with your child in choosing and practising a short action rhyme; it can be as simple as reciting 'Wind the bobbin up'. We are looking to see that your child can remember the words and some actions. The idea is that it is fun, short and about sharing our enjoyment of rhymes. The children will be heard throughout the week beginning 8th February 2016. Throughout this half term your child will be learning to read words with contractions e.g. I'll and don't. They will also be learning to check that what they have read makes sense and show that they have a good understanding of the text.

Writing tasks will link to reading material. With the new curriculum's emphasis on punctuation and grammar, the children will also learn to recognise and classify nouns and identify and use plural nouns ending in s and es. In weekly writing groups, children will learn basic sentence grammar and composition skills. Specifically, they will be learning to join phrases using 'and', spell the days of the week, expand their use of capital letters to the names of places as well as days of the week, check their writing makes sense and make improvements. Alongside this, the children will be continuing to apply the correct phonemes when spelling words including alternative spellings. Handwriting practice will take place daily and we will now be starting joined up handwriting.

We are now moving onto phase 5 of Floppy's Phonics where we will be looking at alternative spellings as well as split digraphs. Here is a list of sounds we are hoping to cover over this half term:

Ways of making...						
ai	igh	oa	S	e	j	le
a-e	igh	oa	S	e	j	le
a	y	o	ss	ea	ge	el
ai	i	oe	se		gi	al
ay	ie	o-e	ce		gy	il
eigh	i-e	ough	ce		dge	
ey		ow	ci			
			cy			
			sc			
			st			

Each week the children will be continued to be tested on spellings from high-frequency words programme – words that occur often in reading and writing but cannot always be sounded out. These will be set and tested on Monday and will help them to learn how to spell the Year 1 common exception words that the children are required to know by the end of the year.

Maths

A large part of our time will be spent on number where the children will be counting to 100, finding 1 more and less and looking at odd and even numbers. We will also be learning our number bonds to 20 and solving one step addition and subtraction problems. We will then be moving onto multiplication and division where we will be learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. On a Thursday and a Friday, the children will continue to look at money and finding change from certain amounts (they briefly did this before Christmas but struggled with it). They will also do more work on 2D and 3D shapes. The children will continue to use the individualised RM Easimaths computer program on a daily basis.

Science

At regular points throughout this term we will be looking at 'Our Changing World', where we will be looking at changes in plants throughout the spring as well as looking closely at animals.

During this spring term specifically, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of 'Materials', by looking at materials that are bendy, opaque, absorbent, translucent and transparent. Later, the children will learn about a wide range of animals. They will look at what they eat, how they move and which animals are nocturnal.

Computing

In January and February the children will learn how to use a painting program as well as to save and improve their work. They will be working in small groups to create a book based on a traditional tale. After half term the children will learn how to use the internet in our topic called 'We are collectors'.

Humanities

In History this term the children will be learning about 'Toys' and the history of toys. We will hopefully be going on a trip to the Museum at High Wycombe to give the children a different experience.

Art

This term the children will be developing their art skills and learning to mix colours. The main focus will be on 'Materials' where we will be learning to weave. **If anyone has any spare ribbon, wool or coloured carrier bags then I would really appreciate it to help with our project.**

P.E.

PE will continue to be taught on a Monday and Thursday. In gym, the children will be learning to balance, move safely and create a sequence of movements. After half term the children will take part in our dance programme called 'Let's Move'. Please ensure that your child has their full, named PE kit and that their hair is tied back securely; earrings must be removed or taped over.

A planned programme of study will be followed in music and R.E. / P.S.H.E which is taught by Mrs. Chaplin-Stephens.

Show and Tell

Class 1 appeared to really enjoy show and tell last half term and I enjoyed hearing the children talk about their special achievements and objects. We will continue with show and tell on Wednesdays. Please see when your child's day is in the table below.

Scott	20/1/16
Cook	27/1/16
Magellan	3/2/16
Columbus	10/2/16

Targets

Your child has been given a reading, writing and mathematics target for this term. They have been informed of their target and working towards it during lessons. I have attached a copy of their targets to this letter so if you would like to support them in this then you can do at home.

Home learning

Reading – Please continue to hear your child read for 10 minutes daily and nurture their reading and comprehension skills through talking about the text. It is always useful to get your child to retell a story in his/her own words and to say what he/she liked/ didn't like about a book.

Your child may be asked to complete a comprehension activity that is linked to a book they have read.

Spelling – Formal home learning of high frequency spellings will begin; children will be tested weekly on Mondays.

Maths Challenges – Each week your child will receive a maths task linked to work completed in school. A lot of the children's maths target focuses on them knowing their number bonds to 10 and then onto 20 (ways of making 10 and 20). Any time that could be spent at home supporting this would be really appreciated.

Phonics - Phase 5 can be quite tricky. Please can you help your child by continuing to spend time reviewing the phonics sheets and then keep them in a safe file at home. Please make use of the websites below to help your child become familiar with the alternative spellings, alien words (made-up words to test their true phonic ability) and in particular the split digraphs (two vowels with a consonant in between, which used to be known as the magic 'e').

Topic Work – Occasional tasks will be set linked to the current topic.

Communication

Please put any letters, notes or reply slips in your child's transparent plastic reading wallet. Mrs. Wells (teaching assistant) will check book bags daily and if a reply is needed we will place a note in the wallet. Alternately, please do call in at the end of the school day if you have anything you wish to discuss or share with either of us.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Starling & Mrs. Chaplin-Stephens

Useful Phonics Websites:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

www.ictgames.com/phonemePopLS-v2.html

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/>

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>