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Curriculum Newsletter for Pine Class - Spring Term 2010

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope the children managed to rest at some point during the Christmas excitement and are ready and refreshed for the term ahead! Please find below information about our curriculum for this term, which I hope you will find useful in helping you to support your child with their learning.

Literacy

We will begin the term with studying examples of poetry that use powerful descriptive language, and use these as models for own descriptive poems. We will then move on to studying stories which raise issues and dilemmas. This will involve considering the issues/dilemmas faced by characters and the possible consequences of their actions. We shall role play giving characters advice to help them make decisions. We will later develop our own ideas for a story in which the main character faces a dilemma, and will focus on developing our characterisation skills to show our character's personality and feelings.

After half term we shall be focusing upon non-fiction writing. We will begin by looking at information texts and will develop our skills at researching and making notes about a topic using key words, and summarising the main points of what we have read or watched. We will then move onto studying explanation texts which tell us how something works or happens. We will identify their key language and presentation features and use them as a model for writing our own explanation texts.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we will begin by learning how to calculate perimeter and area. We will then move into comparing and ordering numbers, extending into negative numbers. We will develop our skills in doubling and halving, using partitioning to help us, and will continue to develop our mental calculation skills for multiplication. We shall interpret data presented in tally charts, frequency tables, pictograms, Venn and Carroll diagrams and bar graphs, and will collect and present data using such methods. We shall also practice measuring capacity and develop our skills in reading timetables.

After half term we will initially focus on developing the children's written methods of addition and subtraction, spending time on ensuring they fully understand the column methods for addition and subtraction. We will then revisit fractions and reinforce comparing and ordering fractions and the decimal equivalence of fractions, and will end with studying symmetry and exploring the nets of 3D shapes.

Science

We will begin by studying the topic of 'Keeping Warm'. The children will learn about measuring temperature and will observe how it changes over time. They will investigate which materials are most effective at keeping heat in, and will identify the use of thermal insulators and conductors in everyday life.



After half term we will be learning about circuits and conductors. We will explore making circuits and switches, and investigate whether materials are electrical conductors or insulators. We shall also consider how to use electricity safely and will try using the Morse Code to communicate messages to each other!

Geography

We will be investigating Rivers throughout the term. We will begin with studying the water cycle and finding out where water comes from and where it goes. We will then research the formation, features and processes of rivers through studying the journeys of different rivers from source to mouth. We will also consider the impact that humans can have on rivers through pollution.

ICT

During the first half of the term we will be developing our skills in presenting and communication information using ICT. This will be linked to our work across the curriculum by word-processing Literacy work, creating graphs of data linked to our Science and Geography work, and creating an animation to illustrate the water cycle (again linked to Geography). The second half of the term focuses upon control and modelling, and the children will be learning how to control a screen turtle to create shapes and patterns on-screen. This will involve developing the use of command language and procedures.

Art

Our Art focus for the term is 'Journeys'. Our work will be inspired by our Geography topic of rivers as we think about the journey of water. We shall investigate colour mixing and will explore different techniques such as painting and printing with materials found in the environment.

Design Technology

We will be studying torches to link with our Science topic of circuits and conductors. We shall look at different types of torches and think about who might use them. We will learn about the different parts of torches and find out how they work, and will then develop our own design ideas for a torch and its circuit. **If you have any examples of torches at home that you are happy for your child to bring into school, please send them in after half term. Thank you! ☺**

Religious Education

During the first half of the term we will be thinking about signs and symbols and their meaning in religion. We will begin by looking at examples of signs and symbols in everyday life and discussing their meaning. We shall then study a range of Christian symbols and discover what they represent. Finally, we will consider the symbolic meaning of the different foods eaten during the Passover by Jews.

The second half of the term focuses upon Easter and its importance to Christians. We will learn about the events of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with the resurrection. We will finish the term by distinguishing religious and secular symbols of Easter.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

We will be thinking about people who help us in our community. We will focus in particular on the police and learn about their role in preventing crime and keeping us safe. We will also consider how we can contribute to our local community.

SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)

Our SEAL theme for the first half term is 'Good to be Me'. This will focus upon recognising the things that we are good at and developing our strategies for coping when we find something difficult. We will also explore ways in which we can calm ourselves down if we feel we are getting angry or frustrated.



The SEAL theme for the second half term is 'Going for Goals'. This will involve developing skills in perseverance to overcome barriers. We will set ourselves goals and decide upon their success criteria so we will know when we have achieved them.

Physical Education

We will be developing our Gymnastic skills across the term. This will involve exploring different shapes, ways of travelling, balances, jumps and rolls, and combining them into sequences with pairs mirroring each other's movements.

Music

Our focus for the term is singing games and clapping/action rhymes. We will learn popular examples of singing games/playground chants and the actions that accompany them, and will think about the features of a 'good' singing game. We will then create our own examples of such games and rhymes to teach each other and share with the rest of the school! **If you can remember any singing or clapping games that you used to play when you were at school, it would be wonderful if you could please teach them to your child so they can then share them in school with the class for extra ideas and examples.**

If you have any queries or would like any further information then please do not hesitate to pop in and see me.

With best wishes,

Miss. Jennifer Kelland
Pine Class Teacher