



Welcome back from the Y1/2 Team

We hope you all had an enjoyable and fun-filled summer! We have an exciting Autumn Term planned with our topic Let's Investigate and Explore Nature! This is split into mini topics over the term – these are Leaf Trouble, Wild Woods, Harvest Time, Fire and Flowers and Plants as Presents. Each block will cover all areas of the curriculum with lots of opportunities for practical hands-on activities, outdoor learning and experiments. We are planning a trip to Saltram House, local walks to parks and woods, a visit from a hedgehog, a visit to Tesco and a repeat of our Apple Tea and Guy Making Day.

Literacy

We will be teaching literacy in blocked units of work, the titles of which are: Labels and captions, Poems using the senses, Recounts, Stories/Narratives, instructions and Letter Writing. We will also be looking at the work of the authors Simon James, Lois Ehlert and Rosie Welleseley. Reading will be taught daily through guided reading and phonics sessions, developing the children's range of decoding and comprehension skills. We will make Phonics Bug books available for your child to read online at home – please see their logging on details in their journals.

Mathematics

Maths areas include number, calculation, shape and data handling. We will make maths come to life by using stories, real life problems and concrete experiences. We will help children gain skills to solve problems in their heads as well as beginning to record their maths thinking using jottings and then more formal workings. Teaching will be differentiated to ensure the lessons challenge and support all children. Children will have opportunities to work alone and in groups.

Science

Our focus this term will be Thinking Scientifically. The children will be asking questions, making predictions and working scientifically. The investigations they plan and undertake will be linked to our topic work on perfect plants!

Computing

In computing lessons the children will cover the three strands of computer science (E safety), Digital Literacy and Information Technology. These strands will be linked to other curriculum subject as appropriate eg 2.6 Data – (Barefoot unplugged resource) (maths) 1.1 Beebots – program toys (maths) 2.4 web images / research topic (geography) 1.2/2.3 take images and manipulate/edit (geography/maths/visits & experiences) 2.5 email (Prickly Ball/Tesco)

Physical Education

We will swim once a week in the first part of the autumn term – Bats on Fridays and Hedgehogs on Wednesdays. Once the weather changes, our indoor PE will be Dance. The focus for outdoor PE on Tuesdays will be Team Games, and hopefully tennis after half term.

Other Curriculum

Geography – We will be drawing simple maps, finding out about the countries of the UK and the continents of the world.

History – We will be learning about significant people who help us to learn about or look after nature, and also about harvests in the past.

Art – We will be looking at images of wildflowers by local artist Yvonne Coomber. We will also be printing with leaves, seeds and fruit. We will be developing our colour mixing and making imaginative responses to nature.

RE – Beliefs and stories.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Thursday and collected in the following Tuesday, giving teachers time to mark the children's books, before returning them with new homework. Spellings will be sent home and tested on Tuesdays. On most occasions, homework will be related to work completed in school. Please ensure you hear your child read regularly from a range of sources which could include school reading books, books from home and the library, the internet, comics, etc. Please comment regularly in your child's Planners.

Film Consent

To enhance the children's learning, we occasionally find it useful to show clips / entire films on DVD. Occasionally these are not rated U, although any material used is viewed by staff first and checked for suitability. We ask that if you have any queries, or do not wish your child to see these materials, that you let us know. If we hear nothing, we will assume that this is acceptable.

Finally

If you would like to help in your child's class generally and / or have special skills to offer such as cooking – please let us know! Your help will be welcomed and appreciated. We love to hear about your child's achievements at home and so will also send home special mini-certificates to record Wow! Moments which we will share in class! Please keep in touch with us by making notes in your Planners. Any questions can be asked too.

Dates

<p>TOPICS</p> <p>5.9.16 Growth Mindset Week –challenging myself and doing my best</p> <p>12.9.16 Leaf Trouble (2 weeks)</p> <p>26.9.16 Wild Woods (2 weeks)</p> <p>10.10.16 World Harvests (2 weeks)</p> <p>31.10.16 Flowers in the sky (2 weeks)</p> <p>14.11.16 Plants as Presents (3 weeks)</p> <p>5.12.16 Christmas (2 weeks)</p>	<p>IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR YEAR 1/2</p> <p>20.9.16 Meet the team</p> <p>26.9.16 European Day Of Languages</p> <p>27.9.16 Walk to Wood</p> <p>W b 3.10.16 Trip to Saltram House</p> <p>10.10.16 /12.10.16 Tesco visits Harvest trail + apple survey</p> <p>11.10.16 Hedgehog visit (tba)</p> <p>20.10.16 Apple Tea – parents invited in</p> <p>4.11.16 Guy Making Day – parents invited in</p> <p>21.11.16 M&M productions – Peter Pan</p> <p>7.12.16/ 8.12.16 Christmas Performance</p>
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