



Curriculum Newsletter for Bluebell Class – Year 1 Children

Half Term 3 2023-2024

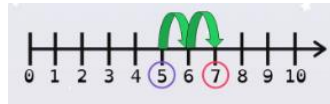
Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and want to say a massive thank you for your very generous gifts, cards and messages at the end of last term. The children are loving the challenge of the Year 1 curriculum and we continue to be so proud of all their achievements. We have another busy and exciting half term planned. This newsletter provides you with some information about the curriculum we will be covering.

Maths

Throughout the maths curriculum the children will be using different models and representations. They will be using practical objects to support the deepening of their understanding and we will be working on their ability to solve problems and apply reasoning strategies, they will be working on answering ‘why’ or ‘how’ an answer was reached

Addition within 20

We will be adding by counting on ones, using our number bonds to help us and solving addition word problems.



Subtraction within 20

We will be subtracting tens and ones crossing over the tens barrier. We will be solving picture and word problems using subtraction and using related addition facts to help us work out the answer.

Place value within 50

We will be exploring counting in 2s and 5s to 50 looking at the patterns we can see. We will also be answering addition and subtraction word problems.

English

We will be looking at texts linked to our topic ‘Once upon A Time’. We will be reading the traditional tales and alternative versions. We will be predicting what might happen, using adjectives to describe characters and settings, using the correct punctuation to write

sentences to sequence the story and then planning and writing our own versions of the stories. We will also be writing a recount of our visit to the Panto!



Phonics

The children will continue ‘Phase 5’ of our Bug Club Phonics. In these sessions the children will learn a series of new letter sounds and different ways to make the sounds they have already learnt. The children will continue to learn how to read and spell tricky words or ‘common exception words’. Weekly spelling lists will continue to be sent home and this reflects the spelling rule taught in phonics that week.

RE - Our topic for this term is: Families and Celebrations

The children will learn about what it means to be a member of a family and to be a member of the school community. They will learn what it means to belong to the Church family. They will hear how Jesus’ family took him to the Temple and think about why this was a special occasion. They will learn about some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions. To support our learning we would like to request that you



Chinese New Year –



As part of our work on learning about other faiths. In Bluebell class we focus on celebrations from around the world. In class during the week beginning 5th February we will be making and tasting

PE – In PE this term we will be learning about:

Dance and Gymnastics. The children are very fortunate this half term and will have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Friday**. The sessions may be inside our school hall.

provide a photograph of your child's Baptism or a Baptism/Christening that they have attended. These can be emailed into the school office. Many thanks for your support with this.	Chinese food, learning about the celebration, making decorations and sending cards.	
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The children will be taught in a creative way through **themes and topics**, through a given theme we then cover key skills from all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Through our environment inside and outside we will encourage the children to be independent, curious and learn through exploration and play.

Curriculum- This half term our topic is 'Once upon a Time'

History & Geography- The children will learn how to identify different locations and features on a map. They will use directional language including (North, South, East and West) to find hidden objects on a map. We will be looking at castles in Fairy tales and comparing them to famous castles and how they have changed through time such as 'Windsor Castle'. The children will be able to identify key physical and human features. In History, the children will be observing how the clothes people wear have changed over time and classifying and sorting this, linked to the stories we are focusing on. We will also learn about Charles Dickens as a significant person in History.

Science – This half term we will be looking at everyday materials including wood, plastic, metal, water and rock. We will learn to identify and name everyday materials and will have the opportunity to explore the properties of these materials. We will carry out a simple investigation to help us decide which material would be most suitable to use for an umbrella. We will then apply our knowledge of everyday materials to sort objects by their properties.

Computing – We will begin to use Purple Mash, an online scheme of work where children will be able to further develop their technological and creativity skills on Chrome books and on iPads. We're very excited to get up and running with this in school and as the term progresses, children will have access to it at home, so look out for usernames and passwords being sent home. We will also be participating in Safer Internet Day, on Tuesday 6th February, to raise awareness for a safer and better internet for all.

Art and DT: The children will also make up their own stories and make masks, props and puppets to act them out.

To help your child at home you could -

Reading
Where possible we would recommend you hear your child read daily. When you have listened to your child read please write a comment or sign to show that the book has been read. Reading books will be changed twice a week. Please make sure that your child's book is kept in their book bag and **brought to school every day**. The teaching staff will listen to your child read during the week and will need their reading book and reading record to do so.

Spelling Bee –
Now the children are in the Spring Term of year 1 they will be introduced to Spelling Bee as a means to improve the spelling of tricky words. Your child will bring home a folder with a maximum of 20 words to learn by February half-term. The folder will also contain spelling activities to add an element of fun to your child's learning. We know that a lot of children struggle with spelling so we are trying to take the focus away from scores and concentrate on progress. The children will be tested on these words within the next week, but they will not be informed of their score. In the last week of this half term the children will be retested. They will receive a certificate if they improve their score by 5 from their first test. Children who achieve maximum marks will also receive a certificate. The class with the highest overall average score will receive a trophy for the half- term. There will be time in class to practise but I would be very appreciative if you could encourage and support your child to learn their words at home.

General information
Outdoor clothing
Every child should have a warm outdoor coat and a pair of wellies that can be left in school. Children should also have a hat, scarf and some warm gloves.

School fruit and milk

We are fortunate that every child is able to have a piece of fruit as their snack in school every day. We do not need you to provide your child with an additional snack.

Your child will receive complimentary milk until their 5th birthday. Please be aware that once they turn 5 they will no longer receive daily milk unless you subscribe through CoolMilk. Please email the office if you need further details.

Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions concerns please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office

Best Wishes

Mrs C Gilhooly and Mrs Fisher