

Iceland/Italy Newsletter

Autumn Term 1- 2019

Hope you all had an enjoyable summer and we welcome you back. We are looking forward to a new and exciting school year, full of successes. Our topic this term is 'Who lives in a house like this?'. The children will be researching different habitats/microhabitats, animals and life cycles to design their own animal park. We will be reading the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and using this in our talk for writing learning. You may wish to read other fairy tales such as: Three Billy Goats Gruff, Rumpelstiltskin, Puss in Boots, Hansel and Gretel, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Cinderella, Little Red, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk. The more stories children are familiar with, the wider their vocabulary. This will have a positive impact in their writing.

Our English and topic work is called '**significant learning**' which means that there will be lots of cross curriculum links, giving children opportunities to develop their learning further by using the skills they learn in all aspects of their development.

In Science the children will be learning about 'habitats'. This will focus around Living Creatures and their Habitats. The children will research, observe and gather ideas about animals and their habitats to inform their animal park. This includes exploring our school grounds and a trip to the lake. The children will develop their enquiry skills and begin recording their investigations using tables and headings.

We will be continuing with our RWI phonics and reading programme and all children began the programme this week. The children who have completed the programme will begin the RWI Spelling programme. This is used throughout the school and builds on children's knowledge to further develop their understanding of spelling rules and common exception words.

Additional to RWI reading, each child will be in a reciprocal reading group where they will read with an adult once a week. Your child will receive a comment from an adult at least once a week.

Children will have additional grammar and handwriting lessons. Children will use vocabulary including nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, time connectives and adverbs. Alongside this children will learn to use a range of punctuation including; full stops, capital letters, commas in a list, speech marks, exclamation and question marks.

Maths: Children will be consolidating their knowledge from Year One by re-visiting number bonds to twenty (with pace), counting forwards and backwards to and from one hundred in any order. We will also be ensuring children learn their mental calculation strategies e.g. doubling, halving, bonds, multiplication and division.

Place value is an essential skill taught in Year Two and they will learn to understand the value of a tens and ones digit to solve missing number problems using a range of calculations. They will develop a good understanding of adding and subtraction two, two digit numbers. Year 2 focuses on 2 digit numbers and children will develop their reasoning skills to explain why answers are correct/incorrect. This will be through diagrams/pictures or written explanations.

Please support your child with their counting at home as this will give them greater confidence. This term we will be learning to count in 2's, 5's and 10's from a given number at pace, ready to learn our times tables later on in the year.

PE: will be on a Monday afternoon for both classes. This will be held outside weather permitting. Please ensure children have their full PE kit which consists of plimsolls, shorts, trousers, T-shirt and a jumper. Please ensure this is in school every day. Children with medium-long hair must be tied back. Earrings need to be removed on this day otherwise they are unable to take part. We are not allowed to use tape anymore.

PSHE: This half term our focus is 'feelings and emotions'. We will look at communicating feelings and define fair and unfair, right and wrong, teasing and bullying. We will consider how these make us feel and our coping strategies around these.

HOMEWORK

Learning homework weekly:

Using TimesTable Rockstars, Bug Club and Purple Mash. Logins will be sent home shortly so you can access these websites with your child at home.

Daily reading with comprehension questions.

Practising tricky words and Read, Write, Inc. sounds.

Regular practise of identifying number bonds, halving numbers and doubling numbers and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Spellings will be sent out on a Wednesday and tested on the following Wednesday.

Our reading reward scheme will continue this year. We are excited to see how many badges the children can collect. Reading books can be changed on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. In Year 2, there is a greater focus on comprehension so please ask your children questions about the book to check their understanding. It is ok for your child to read the book more than once to develop their comprehension skills.



As a school we will be introducing D.E.A.R. At some point throughout the day, the teacher will say "DEAR" and the children stop what they are doing and read their reading book. We want to promote a love of reading so the children will be keeping their reading books out on their desks to read, talk about and discuss with their teacher. Please ensure your child brings their book in everyday so they can join in with this.

REMINDER

Please ensure that your child's reading diary and reading book are brought back to school every day. This will allow us to comment in their diary when they have been read with. This can help you to support your child at home as we record their next steps which are represented by a wand symbol. Children are expected to read daily with an adult at home to maximise

their development. Please always sign/comment when your child has read so we can monitor and reward when necessary.

HOMEWORK HELP

A great site to use at any time is

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/index.htm>

www.ictgames.co.uk

www.splat.co.uk

At 8:30 am children will be working on their English and Maths next steps. Therefore we would ask that your child arrives at school promptly.

Every morning there will be adults on the Year 2 bay. If you have any questions please ask those members of staff who will help to deal with any questions you may have. If need be, they will direct the question to the class teacher who will happily contact you at playtime/lunchtime, or speak in person at the end of the school day.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to come and ask.

We are looking forward to a brilliant year.

Miss Vickers & Miss Triggs