

# AUTUMN TERM - NEWSLETTER NO. 4

## Autumn News

We recently enjoyed a visit from our School Improvement Partner who works with us to ensure the school continues to make progress and is successful. I am very pleased to inform you that he joined with us to celebrate the attainment of our Year 2 children who recently went to Abbotswood. Our End of Key Stage Assessments in all areas were well above Hampshire and National averages. This is the culmination of three years hard work by the children, their teachers, teaching assistants and yourselves. Well done everyone!

## Fun Run

Could you please bring any outstanding sponsorship money into school by Thursday 19 November. Thank you.

## Curriculum Updates

### Year R

The first part of this half term, Year R's topic will be 'Space'. We have encouraged the children to discuss what they would like to learn about Space. The children find this topic particularly enjoyable due to the awe and wonder surrounding the idea of space, rockets, planets and stars. They will be exploring Space through pictures, books and clips on the internet. This topic will allow the children to be creative using a range of resources as well as developing their knowledge and understanding of the world.

The second part of this half term, Year R's topic will be 'Christmas Around the World'. We feel this topic is very appropriate as this will link to our Christmas play as well as the time of the year. We have chosen to look at the ways Christmas is celebrated in different countries to enhance the children's multi cultural awareness and increase their understanding of the diversity of our culture. We will share the Nativity story, the story of Babushka and the story of St Nicholas.

In Art we will be looking at pictures of the different planets and from the pictures the children will have the opportunity to design and make their own planet using a range of skills like painting, sticking and drawing. In Design and Technology (DT) the children will be learning how to attach objects they have made to a space mobile, through treasury tags. We will also use Art and DT to design, create and make our Christmas cards. In PE we will be thinking of ways we can travel on one or more parts of the body and how we can link the movements when using the apparatus to travel from one area to another. We are thinking carefully about our rights, respect and responsibilities at school through PSHE.

In Literacy we will be introducing Ruth Miskin's Phonics Scheme that we use throughout the school.

The children will:

- Begin to recognise, say and read the sounds m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k.
- Begin to try and form/write the letters m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k using Hazel Wood handwriting and rhymes to help us remember the letter formation.

Please see your child's reading diary to find out what letter sounds and hand writing formation we have been focusing on each week.

We are encouraging the children to write emergently in different areas of the curriculum. This will take place in forms of marks and patterns to begin with and, as their phonics knowledge and handwriting develop, will progress to matching sounds to some of the letter shapes. The ways that we encourage the children to write are:

- Making a shopping list in the role play
- Taking phone messages
- Writing a letter to aliens
- Writing a card
- Drawing a diagram in the construction area and adding labels to show what they have done.

In Numeracy we are focusing on the numbers 1-10. We will be using these numbers to:

- Count from 1-10 and back starting at different numbers i.e. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
- Recognise the numerals 1-10
- Order the numbers 1-10
- Find 1 more and 1 less than a given number i.e. 1 more than 5 is 6 and 1 less than 8 is 7.

Our environmental maths this half term will involve:

- Recognising differences in quantity when comparing sets of objects i.e. the wooden brick is heavier than the plastic brick.
- Sorting and matching objects and being able to talk about sorting the objects.
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### Year 1

In the second half of the Autumn Term, Year One's topic will be 'Space'. We will be encouraging the children to discuss what they would like to learn about Space. They will be investigating different forces, researching the planets on the internet, in books and from programmes and learning about 'The Moon Landing'. We will also be visiting the planetarium at Intech Science Centre. The children will also be learning about 'Christmas Around the World'. They will travel around the world with baby bear from the story 'Whatever Next' and will be learning about the how other cultures celebrate Christmas.

In Art we will be looking at sculptures by Umberto Boccioni and the children will be making sculptures of spacemen. They will also be using a range of media to draw planets.

In literacy we will be

- using a story map to tell a star wars story and the nativity story to a range of audiences
- practising and reinforcing handwriting skills

- practising sentence construction using a capital letter, full stops and finger spaces
- using adjectives to describe nouns

In Numeracy we will be:

- deriving and recalling all pairs of numbers with a total of 10 and then 20
- relating addition to counting on;
- recognising that addition can be done in any order;
- using practical and informal written methods to support the addition of a one-digit number or a multiple of 10 to a one-digit or two-digit number
- Visualising and naming common 2-D shapes and 3-D solids and describe their features and using them to make patterns, pictures and models
- practising the formation of numerals

## Year 2

In the first part of this half term, Year 2 will be learning about space. We will be researching different planets on the internet and using books from the library. We will be learning about 'The Moon Landing' and we will be visiting the planetarium at Intech Science Centre

The children will be designing and creating a rocket, space station or space ship and will be encouraged to think about how to make their structure stable. In art we will be making our own planet and creating different textures to represent the different features of our planet.

Following our topic on space we will be learning about 'Christmas Around the World'. The children will be finding out about how we and others celebrate Christmas.

In Literacy we will be

- planning and writing a recount based on 'The Moon Landing'
- spelling time words such as *first, then, next, finally*
- using exciting words to add detail to our writing
- remembering to read the sentence again if it doesn't quite make sense

In Numeracy we will be

- adding and subtracting 9, 10 and 11 using a number line.
- Learning how to read word problems carefully, working out which operation to use.
- Recording information in a tally and answering questions about a table or chart
- Recognising odd and even numbers

## Energy Free Day – Tuesday 01 December

As part of our topic 'Christmas Around the World' we will be giving 'The World' a present from the staff and children of Hazel Wood. On Tuesday 01 December we will be holding an energy free day. On this day the school will be saving as much energy as possible so there will be no heating and no electricity to the main part of the school so please ensure that your child wears an additional layer of clothing with their uniform. The school kitchen and office will be the only

areas in school that will use energy so children will still receive a hot meal if they want one. To help us make the day even more effective we would like you to bring the children to school by walking or cycling. Children from Hazel Wood School will be undertaking a survey of the car park in the morning and at the end of the day so please leave the car at home or park away from the school and walk the remaining distance. We are hoping that such a drastic change to their school day will have a lasting effect on how we and our children save energy for future generations.

If anyone would like to join the eco-schools group our next meeting will be on 04 March 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

### Bike Shed – Security

I am sorry to report that a bicycle was stolen from our bike shed one evening last week. Can I please remind you to ensure that your child's bicycle or scooter is securely fastened to the rails as we are unable to accept any responsibility for lost or stolen items. Thank you.

### Milk Scheme

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Withers and Tracy Smith for volunteering to take over the running of the Milk Scheme. We are very grateful to them for giving their time to manage the administration of it.

Could I please remind you that if your child no longer wants to have milk we must have it in writing and the charging will only cease at the end of term. Please ask your child's teacher or the school office for a Milk Cancellation Form. Thank you.

### Healthy Schools

Please can we remind you that children should only bring water into school, including in their lunchboxes. Please talk to your child about healthy choices in their lunchbox to encourage them to have a balanced diet. Thank you.

### Fowl News!

Matt and Nicky, the ducks we hatched last year, have now gone to a new home at Copythorne Lodge Bed & Breakfast and Farm Shop. They are thriving and are happy and well in their new permanent home. Many thanks to Katie Cook for looking after them until now. We will be looking forward to more arrivals next year.

*Cathy Davies*

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Headteacher