

### English

#### Reading

We will continue to develop our phonics knowledge this year by daily speed sound sessions and reading sessions. We will be focusing on reading three-four syllable words, as well as reading 'alien' words, which aren't real words, but use all of the phonics the children need to know.

Thank you for all the home reading that is going on; the impact of daily home reading is huge and we can always see such a difference in their confidence and fluency.

We will be having a bigger focus on the Set 3 sounds, whilst still revising the Set 1 and 2 sounds.



#### Writing

We start the term with reading winter-themed poems by Shirley Clarke and learning about rhyming words, before writing our own. We will then move on to writing stories, using traditional as a starting point. As well as stories, we will be writing instructions, and facts and recounts about visiting a park.

### Science

#### Animals Including Humans

- Identifying a variety of common animals and comparing them to ourselves and other animals
- Grouping animals and looking at mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and fish
- Learning about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores

This will be linked to our Geography topic, as we will be focusing on animals in continent groups.

#### Book recommendations and other things to look at

It would be useful to read books or watch videos about different types of animals, such as lizards, amphibians, mammals, birds and ocean animals. Can they point out and use to key vocabulary?

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| -Fur      | -Talon     |
| -Feathers | -Gill      |
| -Scales   | -Omnivore  |
| -Fins     | -Carnivore |
| -Tusks    | -Herbivore |

### Maths

#### Maths

This term we will continue to make our maths practical and fun. Children will use number lines, objects to count, as well as pictures and even each other's bodies to understand our key mathematical principles.

#### Place Value

In the first term of Year 1 we began by sorting, counting, representing numbers to 10. We will continue building on this knowledge for digits to 20. We will then learn how to recognise our numbers as words. We will then focus on adding 1 and subtracting 1 more and 1 less to and from a digit and establish how we count back from 20. We will then teach how to group numbers.

#### Addition and Subtraction

Having understood the basics of adding or subtracting 1 more or less we will use a model to help the children add and subtract larger number – whole part models. We will learn our number bonds to 10 and begin using some mathematical problems.

#### Length, Height, Mass and Volume.

We will learn more about measure. We will learn to use rulers, scales and height charts.

## Physical Education

In **P.E.** our units are:

- Gymnastics
- Games that include attacking, defending and shooting.
- Send and Return skills.
- Dance (including our music through the decades from History!)

**Our PE Day will continue to be Wednesday.**

## Geography

### Continents and Oceans

For our geography topic this term, we will be learning to name and locate all the continents and oceans of the world, and what some of their features are. We will also be learning some of the countries that belong to each continent and looking at what it is like for the people who live there. There will be a strong focus on the animals and habitats of each continent, which links closely to our science theme. Some excellent films to watch are The Lion King, Back to the Outback and Rescuers Downunder, to start to know the animals and habitats. Go Jetters is also a great educational cartoon!

## Important Dates

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - First day back

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Parents' Evenings

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February- Finish for half term

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Back to school

March – Date TBC - Gadebridge Park trip

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2pm - Finish for Easter holidays

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Return to school

## Music

In **Music** children will:

Spend the first half term learning about rhythm. We will firstly look at the difference between pulse and rhythm and then progress on to read and write songs using rhythmic notation.

In the second half of the term we will see how we can hear different types of pitch in the music world. We will focus on high and low sounds and how they are different.

## PSHE

In **PSHE** children will be learning about:  
How to look after themselves making healthy choices, keeping clean and how to use money responsibly.

## Reading and Homework

Children should continue to read at least for times a week at home with an adult. Please write down every time your child reads in their orange reading record. Just the date and a signature is fine!  
Children will have their books changed by their read Write Inc group's adult when they have finished the reading cycle for their book. Homework is set on Fridays and due on by the following Thursday. **We will be changing over to online homework** – it can take a while to set it all up and for everyone to get it up and running, so bear with us and we will do our best to make a smooth transition.

## R.E.

In **R.E.** children will be learning about:

The Jewish community, who are Jews and how they live. We will be welcoming a Jewish Rabi into our class and will interview him about Jewish lifestyles.

We will also think about Jesus dying on the cross in the run up to Easter.

## Art

In **Art** children will be learning about:

The work of Michael Bolus and thinking about sculpting with sheet materials. We will look at how to cut, shape and join paper and card to make them.

## Suggestions for days out /activities

Visit the adventure playgrounds - Chaulden, Addeyfield, Bennetts End – they often have activity sessions planned too. Visit Tring Museum or the Zoo to look at different animal groups.

Make some heart biscuits for Valentines Day, weigh the ingredients and follow the recipe.

Go on a trip to Gadebridge Park, Stockwell Discovery Centre, Verulamium Park. Take photos and explore.