



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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11th April 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back; we hope that you had a lovely Easter and got to enjoy some of the sunshine. Our enquiry question for this half-term is, '**What's it like to live in Africa?**' It will involve exploring the country of Kenya in terms of its geography and the people that live there, its artwork, dancing and music, and also the food and the animals. The children will then think about the similarities and differences between Africa and the UK, comparing their lives with the lives of children living in Kenya. We will also be looking at different plants by planting various seeds and monitoring their growth, and then designing our own salads and preparing them for a special afternoon with our parents. Further information regarding this event will follow shortly.

Spelling/phonics and maths or writing **homework** will continue to be given out on **Fridays**; please bring it back in the folder by the following Thursday. All homework can be placed in the tray in the classroom. Just a little reminder, for you to please sign and comment in your child's reading record whenever you hear them read. Last term you were given a copy of the Common Exception words for reading and spelling: please try and spend a little time encouraging your child to read and spell these very important words.

We would like to thank our lovely parent volunteers for their help with listening to children read at school and changing reading books.

Below follows a more in-depth look at our curriculum coverage for this Enquiry Topic:

Reception

The children will explore their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through play, talk and creative media. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of phonics in their first steps towards learning to read, write and spell. We will be encouraging the children to practise their skills in pencil control and producing correct letter formation, all of which will support the children in more independent writing. The children will immerse themselves in a range of poems and stories, continue to explore their skills in number, measure, shape and pattern, as well as investigate their ideas through role play, music, construction and art. In particular, the children will explore the country of Kenya and other African countries, and compare it to where they live in the UK; different plants including how to grow edible plants, garden flowers and wild flowers; and different types of salad which will include tasting, skills in preparation and evaluating. Throughout the school day the children will participate in a range of indoor and outdoor activities, both child-initiated and adult-led in order for them to develop the necessary skills, and it is always good practice to plan from the children's interests when creating the learning environment.

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English

Our English work this half-term begins with a focus on stories from a different culture, specifically Africa. Through these stories, the children will be extending their sentence and story writing by developing a greater understanding of plot, character and setting. The term will then end with a focus on instruction writing, which will relate to the children science work on how to grow a plant. Our on-going work on phonics, spellings and word building will continue.

At home try: sharing stories from other countries; talking with your child to describe characters and settings; guessing what might happen next in stories and making up alternative endings; looking at instructions around the home.

Maths

In our maths work this half-term, the children will be developing their skills in number, multiplication and division, shape and statistics. In particular, the children will be exploring numbers up to 100, recording data, 3D shape, and 'real life' problems involving number.

At home try: playing more games by asking your child simple practical problems e.g. 'If I buy one sweet for 12p, how much change will I get if I give the shopkeeper 20p?'

Science

Our Science topic for this half-term explores different plants. The children will be growing plants, naming and identifying both garden and wild flowers, and learning the different parts of a plant.

At home try: looking at and talking about different plants; thinking about how a plant grows and what it needs.

Computing

Our ICT this term will focus on recording data and using programs to create a story to share.

Design and Technology

Our Design and Technology will explore where our food comes from, which will lead in to a project all about salads. The children will develop their tasting skills and then their food preparation skills. We will design our own salads, which will then be shared with others as a part of our evaluation.

At home try: tasting different foods at home; showing your child how you prepare food at home; talking about how to eat healthily.

Geography

In Geography this term we will be learning about Africa, in particular the country of Kenya. The children will learn about the physical geography of Kenya and also what it might be like to live there. We will then look at our own local area, before then comparing where we live to life in Kenya. As a part of this topic, the children will also develop their skills in map reading and how to draw their own map, including keys and symbols.

At home try: talking to your child about different countries and the way that other cultures live; looking at maps together and talking about them.

Music

In our music we will be looking at pulse and rhythm and then using shapes and pictures as notation.

At home try: talking to your child about some of the sounds they hear in a favourite piece of music.

PE

Our PE this half term focuses on multi skills and athletics.

RE

In RE this term we will be looking at how wonderful our world is and the importance of looking after the planet. This will continue in to next term's topic.

With best wishes,

Sam Ray, Shirley Groves, Joanne Stephens