



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Horrington, Wells
Somerset, BA5 3EB
Telephone: (01749) 673516
Fax: (01749) 670685



sch.186@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.horringtonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

9th September

Welcome to Explorer Class!

Dear Parents/ carers

Explorer Class Autumn Term Newsletter

This letter tells you about some of the things your child will be learning this half term. It includes (in italics) some ideas for things to try at home to support your child's learning. We hope you find it useful.

For this half term, our enquiry question is '**How can we be champions?**' We will be exploring our personal talents and how we can work well as a member of a team. We will be thinking about our responsibilities and how we can be champions by making a difference to others.

Specific areas of the curriculum being taught:

English

The children will be reading and writing stories about champions, as well as compiling lists and captions. Look out for a letter and posters towards the end of term, which will invite you to a special event! We will also carry out a small unit on poetry and will learn to recite and write poems of our own. Our on-going work on phonics and reading will continue in mixed groups across the school, which are arranged to meet the needs of all the children at their individual stages of development.

At home try: reading and talking about stories and poems beyond your child's own reading ability. Write captions and labels for things around your home and maybe write a letter to a grandparent.

Maths

Year 2 children will be writing, ordering and learning to recognise numbers from 0-100, counting in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s (backwards and forwards) and estimating and counting large numbers of objects. The children will also be learning strategies such as partitioning and ordering numbers to 100 as well as learning number bonds facts for 10 and 20. Children in Year 1 will be focusing on deepening their understanding of numbers to 10 through problem solving and reasoning activities. We will also be focusing on addition and subtraction; Year 1 children will be using apparatus and mental strategies to calculate and Year 2 children

working towards informal pencil and paper methods – adding and subtracting two 2-digit numbers.

At home try: counting change when you've been shopping, learning to recognise the names of coins and guessing how long things might be i.e. 'about 2 metres'. Look at our calculations policy on our website to help your child add and subtract using the methods learned in school.

Science

Our Science topic for this half term is part of an on-going topic about the seasons, weather and plants. The children will make and record observations to answer questions and will record results in graphs and charts. As well as a trip to our local woods, the children will take part in practical activities in class to learn and recognise plants and trees.

At home try: talking about the different seasons and how the weather feels during these times. Whilst out on walks or in the garden, start to spot and name different trees and plants and how they change over the course of the year. Collect interesting parts of plants and trees and use in creative ways.

Computing

We will begin by agreeing sensible e-safety rules for the classroom. After that, we will be collecting data and generating graphs and charts to find answers. We will also be focusing on a unit of programming where the children will enter a sequence of instructions to achieve an algorithm with a robot, specifying distance and turn and drawing a trail.

At home try: talking about internet safety and ensuring your child understands that they must never use the internet without the supervision of an adult.

History

We will be investigating through stories, role-play and the internet, the life of a Victorian champion (still a secret at the moment!)

At home try: looking at pictures and photos that were made a long time ago. Talk about how you know they were not made yesterday! Investigate champions from the past – what differences did they make to the lives of others?

Geography

We will begin our on-going focus on Travelling Ted this term as he jets off with members of the class. We will be using maps, atlases and globes to locate the countries he has visited. We will be learning to name the continents and oceans he passes through/over as well as thinking about the weather in the countries he visits.

If you are planning a trip this year, please let us know and we can put it in Ted's diary; it doesn't need to be abroad as we also need to learn about Great Britain and the capital cities!

At home try: thinking about the places you have visited; where they were, what the weather was like, how you travelled there etc.

Music

In music, the children will be developing their understanding of Rhythm and Pulse using voices and classroom instruments and listening to music composed by historical musical 'champions'. *At home try: clapping and copying rhythm patterns, listen to 'The Four Seasons' by A. Vivaldi and think together about how the music describes the weather. When out and about, listen and discuss sounds of nature.*

Design Technology and PSHE

We will be investigating healthy diets for champion strength and agility! We will be grouping, evaluating, designing and making healthy food for a champion to sell at our charity event at the end of term.

At home try: thinking about how to make a healthy lunchbox or snack together – trying new foods and drinks.

PE

Mr Holmes will be working on a unit that explores cognitive skills via basic movement skills sessions on a Monday afternoon. In addition we will have a few sessions that will focus on working together as a small team to achieve success; we will be playing parachute games and embarking upon physical problem solving challenges.

RE

Our focus will be on special times in Judaism. We will be learning about the importance of the Torah and how it teaches Jews how to live their lives including celebrating special occasions such as Simchat Torah, Rosh Hashanah, Tom Kippur and Sukkot. The children will have opportunities to raise and suggest answers to relevant questions in response to the Jewish teachings on the Torah.

At home try: discussing how we can be more helpful and thinking about the consequences of some of our actions.

Additional information

Explorer Class is taught by Miss Lisa McLaurie on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and by Mrs Roisin McKie on Thursday and Friday. The class is supported by Miss Megan Rees.

Please continue to hear your child read their reading book at home as often as you can, writing any comments in their reading diary. Spelling, Maths and writing homework will be sent home on Friday to be handed in by the following Thursday.

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of **water** to keep hydrated throughout the day (squash attracts the wasps). These should not be placed in the book-bags please. Please try to use a **small** snack pot for your child's fruit/veg snack (storage space is limited).

Our cloakroom space is very small with very limited hanging space; please ensure the only bags your child brings to school are a Horrington School book-bag and lunch box.

If you feel you have a little time to spare, and would like to come into school to help with tasks such as reading, group work or class admin, please come and let us know – we will be very grateful!

We hope you and your child have a happy and rewarding time this year in Explorer Class. Please do come and have a chat if you have any concerns or ideas.

Best wishes,

Lisa McLaurie (Class teacher), Roisin McKie (Class teacher) and Megan Rees (Teaching assistnat)