



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

9<sup>th</sup> September

## Welcome to Pioneer Class!

Dear Parent/Carer

### Pioneer Class Autumn Term Newsletter

We hope you had a very enjoyable and relaxing Summer break and we welcome you to a new school year.

This letter tells you 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.

Pioneer Class is taught by Miss Sam Ray and is supported by Mrs Shirley Groves and Mrs Nicola Holmes. Once a week Mrs Ruth Jenkins teaches music and Mrs Roisin McKie teaches an area of the class topic. Miss Sue Nicholas and Mrs Carol Futchter also work in Pioneer Class, providing some 1:1 support for children. There are 21 children in the class; 15 children in Reception and 6 children in Year 1.

Our focus question for this half term is: '**What can we learn from the adventures and misadventures of Paddington?**' We will be exploring the adventures of Paddington Bear and what we can learn from both his mistakes and his achievements. This will also include thinking about where we live and who with; finding out about different types of homes, both present and past; learning about seasonal changes and creating a bear art gallery.

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 begin phonics, in which they learn and practise different letter sounds and the skills of blending and segmenting, all of which links to the first steps in reading and spelling. The children will immerse themselves in a range of stories and poems, begin to develop their skills in number and shape, and explore their ideas through role-play, music, construction and art. 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.

## **Year 1**

### **English**

Our English this half term will start with a fun exploration of 'We're going on a bear hunt', before then meeting Paddington Bear and following him on various adventures. During our exploration of these texts, we will be retelling stories; writing labels, lists and captions for the different characters and settings; writing various pieces of non-fiction; and continuing to develop our understanding of phonics.

*At home try: read and be immersed in different stories and talk about the characters in terms of what they look like and their personalities; have a go at creating captions for the characters.*

### **Maths**

In our maths this half-term we will be developing our knowledge of number to ensure that our place value and our skills in counting are secure. We will extend our work on addition and subtraction, as well as explore 2D and 3D shape.

*At home try: talking about number in everyday home life, for example when shopping and playing games; finding 2D and 3D shapes at home.*

### **Science**

In science, we will be developing our skills in scientific investigation, thinking about the best type of hat to keep Paddington's marmalade sandwiches safe and dry. We will then begin to explore the seasons, starting with Autumn.

*At home try: talking about the different seasons and what happens at the different times of year; going on an Autumn walk.*

### **History**

We will start by looking at who we live with and thinking about our lives compared to the lives of our parents and grandparents. We will then move on to investigating different types of homes and how they have changed over the years.

*At home try: finding out about your family history by talking about it and sharing photographs; finding out about the different types of houses where you live.*

### **Geography**

In geography, we will start by looking at where Peru is and what it is like. The children will then look at where they live and explore their locality using maps. Following this, the children will have a go at creating their own maps.

*At home try: finding out about Peru; talking where you live and the journeys you make; creating maps and following them.*

### **Computing**

Our computing will focus on learning about how to stay safe when on the internet; programming a robot to follow a set of instructions; and using computer programs to represent information.

### **Art**

We will be exploring the art of Peru before then focusing on colour and pattern. Following this the children will learn about Pop Art, and in particular the work of David Hockney, Andy Warhol and Howie Green.

*At home try: finding out about the art from different countries; talking about colour and pattern and how different colours make you feel.*

## **RE**

In RE, we will be exploring the question, 'Why are some times special?' The children will learn about the different festivals in Judaism, the Christian festival of Harvest and then move on to finding out about what baptism is and why it is important in Christianity.

*At home try: finding out about different religious festivals; talking about baptisms and christenings.*

## **Music**

In music, we will be exploring pulse, rhythm and singing together. We will be learning a number of bear-themed songs, as well as some songs for Harvest festival, and experimenting with different instruments.

*At home try: talking to your child about some of the sounds they hear in a favourite piece of music and try to copy some simple rhythms by clapping their hands, stamping their feet, clicking their fingers.*

## **PSHE**

We will be exploring the themes of personal hygiene, teamwork, friendship and how to stay healthy.

## **PE**

Our PE this term will focus on spatial body awareness, co-ordination and balance.

## **Additional information**

### **Reading**

Children are sent home with 2 reading books once or twice a week; one of the books is the book they have been reading in their phonics group, whilst the other book is a new book in line with your child's reading ability. We encourage you to read daily with your child, or at least 4 times per week, and to record their reading in the reading diary. Book-bags and books need to be in school **every day**.

### **Spelling/Phonics homework**

Year 1 children will receive phonics/spelling **homework** each **Friday**, which is to be completed by the following Thursday. The spellings that come home contain the phonemes and graphemes we will have been learning in school that week, as well as one or two High Frequency/Common Exception words (which are usually tricky to sound out so just have to be learned).

Reception children will receive phonics homework each week, which will involve practising the sounds they have learned that week.

### **Other homework**

Year 1 children will receive one other piece of homework each week, which will be either maths or topic-related. At times, Reception children will also receive topic-related homework to enhance their exploration of what we are doing in class. All homework should be handed in by the following Thursday, unless otherwise stated.

### **Water and snack**

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of **water** to keep hydrated throughout the day (no squash please, as it attracts the wasps). This should not be placed in the book-bag. Please

also ensure that your child has a healthy fruit/ vegetable snack for morning break time. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a fruit or vegetable snack for afternoon break time.

### **Bags**

Our cloakroom space is very small with limited hanging space; please ensure the only bag your child brings to school is a Horrington School book-bag (and a lunch box if applicable). We ask that children do not bring in any toys or personal possessions from home, unless it is for their 'Show and Tell' session (timetable will follow shortly).

### **Arrival in school**

Please be aware that on arrival into the classroom, children should place their book-bags into their group box and their snack and water bottle into the relevant trays. During this arrival time, myself and my class TA will be meeting to discuss the day ahead. If you have any messages, please contact the office and they will pass them on accordingly.

### **Parent helpers**

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 something creative, please come and let us know – we will be very grateful! Please be aware that you need to be DBS cleared to help in school. If you would like to help in school and you do not currently have a DBS for our school, please speak to us or contact the school office.

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

We hope this letter has been of some help.

Best wishes

Miss Sam Ray (Class teacher)

Mrs Shirley Groves (Higher Level teaching assistant)

Mrs Nicola Holmes (Teaching assistant)

Miss Sue Nicholas (SEN teaching assistant)