



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

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Dear Parents/Carers

## **Pioneer Class Curriculum Newsletter – Summer Term**

We hope you had a very relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and we welcome you to the start of a new school term.

Our focus question for this half-term is, '**How can we help Plop to not be afraid of the dark?**' Through stories, scientific and historical investigation and artistic exploration, the children will learn about light and dark, local history and nocturnal animals.

As we head into the summer term, we would like to remind you about a few additional 'must haves' as the weather hopefully gets warmer. All children should bring a drink of water in a named bottle, a named red or black sun hat/cap and a small bottle of sun cream for the hotter weather (to be applied by your child at lunch time) if you are not able to apply 'all day sun cream' before they come to school.

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 and deepen their knowledge of phonics in order to develop their skills in reading, writing and spelling. They will immerse themselves in a range of poems and stories; continue to explore their skills in number, shape and measure; and investigate their ideas through role-play, music, construction and art. In particular, the children will explore the poem, 'The Owl and the Pussy-cat' and the stories 'Owl Babies' and 'The Owl who was afraid of the Dark'; continue their learning about the seasons; investigate the scientific concepts of light and dark; find out about local history; explore the idea of special places; and continue to develop their computer skills in presenting information, using technology and data handling. 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 work this half-term begins with a focus on the poem, 'The Owl and the Pussycat'; the children will develop their descriptive vocabulary to write their own lines of poetry. The focus for the rest of the half term will then be on the stories 'Owl Babies' and 'The Owl who was afraid of the Dark.' The children will explore these stories before then creating their own story about the character of Plop. Our on-going work on phonics, spellings, sentence structure and word building will continue.

*At home try: talking with your child to describe the season of spring and nocturnal animals; sharing stories about light and dark; talking about words and finding new words to extend vocabulary.*

### **Maths**

In our maths work this half-term, the children will be consolidating their knowledge of numbers to 50, and then extending their understanding by exploring the concepts of multiplication and division. They will also be learning about fractions, in particular, halves and quarters, of objects, shapes and quantities.

*At home try: talking about numbers whilst at home; counting in 2s, 5s and 10s; exploring money by helping with the shopping or playing games; playing board games; practising telling the time.*

### **Science**

Our Science topic for this half-term starts with a look at spring, which will involve our third walk to the woods to look for signs of spring and to observe the changes in the Oak tree. It will then focus on the concepts of light and dark, looking at where light comes from and how it helps us. The children will be carrying out and recording a number of different scientific experiments in order to answer their questions and to enhance their knowledge.

*At home try: looking outside and talking about what you can see in spring; going on a spring walk; talking about and observing what happens when it gets dark or light.*

### **Geography**

In our history work we will be learning about local history. In particular, we will look at the caves in our area in terms of their discovery and importance.

*At home try: talking about the area where we live and sharing any knowledge of local history; talking about and finding out about caves and the people that explore and look after our caves.*

### **Computing**

Our ICT this term will continue to develop the children's skills in using technology, presenting information and handling data.

## **Art**

In art this half term we will be exploring light, dark and colour. The children will find out about a range of artists that all use light, dark and colour in different ways. They will learn different skills and techniques using a variety of tools and resources.

*At home try: looking at different artists; going on a colour hunt; creating a picture of colour.*

## **Music**

In our music we will be using our voices and simple instruments to develop our learning about Pulse and Rhythm and to create musical patterns. The themes of colour, day and night and bird song will be included in songs and instrumental work. We will also sing and make music for the story 'The Owl who was afraid of the Dark'.

*At home try: going on a sound walk with your child; listening to sounds of nature, particularly birdsong; making up rhythm patterns with clapping games or using household objects, such as tins and pots.*

## **PE**

Our PE this half term focuses on agility and co-ordinating our movements whilst using equipment. We will also be developing our skills in throwing and catching.

*At home try: playing ball games; creating movements; balancing.*

## **RE**

In RE this term we will be investigating 'Gospel.' The children will learn about why Jesus is important to Christians, begin to look at some parables and explore the special people in their own lives.

*At home try: talking about special people; finding out about the stories of Jesus; exploring special people in the world.*

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak with one of us.

With best wishes,

Sam Ray, Shirley Groves, Nicola Holmes, Sue Nicholas