



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

11 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

## Explorer Class Curriculum Newsletter

We hope you had a very enjoyable Christmas and wish you and your families a Happy New Year in 2019! Thank you all so much for our lovely cards and presents.

Like last half-term, this letter tells you some of the things your child will be learning about over the next few weeks. 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 research question is '**How has technology changed our lives?**' Our main focus will be on how toys, transport and communication have changed within the living history of our relatives/families. A trip to the Fleet Air Museum on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January will support and enhance our learning during this enquiry.

We will be heading off to the woods at West Horrington this month as part of our science and geography learning. **Parent helpers** with DBS clearance are required – please volunteer! We will be travelling there in small groups by mini bus. Your consent and payment has already been received for this on-going trip. We will confirm the date shortly but we are expecting to go in the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Maths, topic and spelling homework will continue to come home on Fridays. Please bring this back to school any day **before the next Thursday**. Please try to find time to practise the spellings that we send home - little and often is the best method! If your child hasn't quite secured the spellings sent home, we will highlight them for you to revisit during the next week.

All children are now well settled into Explorer Class. To try to promote further independence, it would be beneficial to their development if they were to walk down the path without their parents in the morning, where they will be met in the classroom. Please come and see me if you feel your child isn't able to manage this and will need further support from us.

Below is a more specific outline of the areas being covered within each subject area this term:

## **English**

Our English work this term will connect with our Enquiry Question on how technology has changed our lives. We will be following and writing instructions and we will be reading and writing information texts to communicate our learning about the past. We will also be reading, learning and writing poetry, linking to seasonal changes at this time of year. Our on-going work on spellings, phonics and reading will continue.

*At home try: to tell, make up or read simple instructions for all sorts of tasks (maybe make some Lego!) Find some favourite poems – can you learn any off by heart?*

*Some Year 2 children have now completed the Read Write Inc programme and will only be bringing home “free-readers” as reading books. It is vitally important to continue listening to your child read and to discuss these more challenging text on a daily basis. Please record when they read in the reading diary including any comments which can inform us of your child’s achievements and progress at home.*

## **Maths**

We will continue to explore multiplication and division in Year 2 this term and children will begin to bring home times tables to learn off by heart, as well as multiplication and division problems. Children in Year 1 will be working on adding and subtracting numbers within 20 and then moving onto reading, writing, making and exploring numbers to 50. Ongoing work on rapid recall of number facts (number bonds to 10, 20 and 100) will continue regularly for children in Year 2.

*At home try: listening to a times-table CDs and practise counting in 2’s, 5’s, 10’s and 3’s. Teach your child to tell the time on an **analogue clock** to the nearest 15 minutes. Discuss how long it will be till... and the time you will be doing...*

*Please come to the Parent Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> where you will learn how to further support your child at home with Maths.*

## **Science**

Our Science topic for this half-term continues on the seasons, weather and plants/trees. We will be naming plants, making comparisons, growing and investigating bulbs and making careful observational drawings. We will use our sense to find out and describe what Winter is like.

*At home try: talking walks in the woods, discussing what happens to the plants and trees in winter and what the weather is like in winter.*

## **Computing**

As well as focusing on e-safety, we will learn about how technology has changed the toys we play with today compared to the past and we will make electronic jigsaw puzzles.

*At home try: finding and exploring electronic/computerized toys.*

## **Geography**

The geography this half-term continues to follow Travelling Ted to different places with members of the class and to investigate places that the children hear about in the news. We will be using maps and a globe to locate and name the places we learn about.

*At home try: talking about different places in the news; what the weather is like there and how it differs to the UK. Try finding places on a map/globe and discuss how you might travel to different places and what you might need to take with you.*

## **Design and Technology**

As a main part of our Enquiry Question, the children will evaluate, design and make a winding toy. We will compare it to old and new toys with similar mechanisms.

*At home try: looking together at how different toys move – do any use a winding mechanism?*

***If you have any shoe boxes that we could use, please bring them into school.***

## **History**

We will be finding out, comparing and sorting old and new toys and thinking about how toys have changed and/or stayed the same over the living history of our family members. Has technology changed the way we play? We will also be thinking about how transport and communication has changed over time and how that impacts our lives today.

*At home try: ask Mum, Dad, Grandma, Grandad or a family member to tell you about the toys they played with, the way they travelled and how they communicated with their friends and family.*

## **PE**

Our PE this term will focus on core skills. We will be looking at coordination through floor movement patterns and improving a static balance through games and stories.

## **RE**

This term we will be thinking about the special times in our lives and the special occasions Christians and Jews celebrate: baptism, confirmation, marriage, bar/bat mitzvah. We are hoping to visit St Thomas' church to deepen and broaden our understanding on baptism and marriage.

With best wishes

Miss McLaurie, Mrs McKie and Miss Rees