



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

Explorer Class Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome back to the new term – we trust you all had an enjoyable summer.

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 I tell other people about myself by making an art gallery?'** We will be exploring what makes us unique, what we have in common with others and how we can communicate this in a variety of ways, but our main communication focus will be through our creation of an art gallery. We will be visiting a **gallery in Bath on Tuesday 24th September** to find out how to set up and curate an exhibition and to gather ideas about the contents of our gallery (please see following trip letter). You will be invited to the class gallery at the end of term – **provisional date is Tuesday 22nd October.**

Please continue to hear your child read their reading book at home whenever you can, writing any comments in your child's reading diary (coming home soon). It is really useful if you bring book bags and books to school **every day**. As you may remember from previous Read Write Inc. parent meetings, children will receive 2 reading books at a time: these being a paper version of the book they have read over the past 3-7 days (depending on the level), along with a Book Bag Book of the same coloured level. These books heavily rely on your child using their phonic skills to read unfamiliar words, with a few Red Words (regularly occurring tricky words that do not sound out). We also occasionally send out a library book for shared reading with you. We may also include an additional book sourced from other reading schemes. These additional books will not always be phonetically decodable and the children will come across words that will need to be tackled with other important reading strategies such as looking at context, questioning and discussion. Once your child has completed the RWinc programme they will bring home 1 or 2 small chapter books which they get to choose themselves from the class library. These books still need to be read with an adult.

Spelling and homework will be sent home on Friday to be handed in the following **Thursday**. Please support your child at home and mark their work together (where appropriate). We will check homework books and spelling packs each week.

Please ensure your child brings in a named bottle of **water** to keep hydrated throughout the day (squash attracts the wasps). A small healthy snack in a small pot for morning break will be required. Year 1 and 2 children can have a piece of school fruit in the afternoon. Year 1 and 2 Children should only require a book bag to bring their belongings to school. Should they find carrying extra items on some days challenging, a plastic/foldup bag should be used so that it can be placed into their book bag once emptied. Year 3 children are allowed to bring a small backpack instead of a book bag along with a small pencil case. The pencil case should contain: a pencil; a rubber; a small ruler; a pencil sharpener, which holds the sharpening; highlighters; whiteboard pen and a glue stick. These are essential pieces of equipment that your child will use every day and it will help your child if each is labelled clearly. Children will be given a pencil and whiteboard pen at the start of the term. These are Year 3 only privileges.

As a reminder, Explorer Class is taught by Miss McLaurie (Monday - Wednesday) and Mrs McKie (Wednesday - Friday). We will be supported by Mrs Cull.

If you feel you have a little time to spare in the afternoons 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!

Please find below a more detailed account of the subject areas the children will be studying this half-term.

English

Our English work this term will link with our research question about ourselves. The children will be reading and writing poems about themselves and other people and making class anthologies. We will also read and discuss stories by Laurence Anholt and use some of his content and style in our own narrative writing. We will be using diagrams, labels and sequencing to write instructions for people visiting our art gallery. Look out for your invitation towards the end of term! Our on-going work on spellings/phonics and guided-reading will continue through Read Write Inc. and group based sessions.

At home try: to find some instructions on packaging or leaflets that tell you how to do something. Look at the sorts of words that are used to direct people. Write captions and labels for things around your home.

Maths

Children in Year 1 will be exploring and consolidating working with numbers to 10 and expanding their rapid recall skills for addition and subtraction. They will also solve problems using numbers to 10.

Children in Year 2 will be writing, ordering and learning to recognise numbers in numerals and words from 0 - 100, counting in 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s (backwards and forwards). The children will also be learning strategies such as partitioning and ordering numbers to 100. In

our work on addition, we will be learning to add two, two-digit numbers (please see our calculations policy on our website) and using these numbers to solve money problems. We will be using addition to check our subtractions and using our fluency skills to solve problems both mentally and with written methods. Children in Year 3 will begin to explore numbers to 1000 and to calculate with 2-digit and 3-digit numbers, including solving money problems.

At home try: counting change when you've been shopping, learning to recognise the names of coins and counting objects around the home – finding one more or one less. Also learn to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes on an analogue clock (an end of Year 2 objective).

Science/PSHE

Our Science topic for this half-term is about what is special about being a human being. We will learn about the different ways of categorising living things and describe differences and similarities. We will be exploring how living things change as they grow older and naming the different human body parts (linking them to our 5 senses). We will also think about basic human needs and how to keep the body clean and healthy. The children will make and record observations to answer questions about living things and record results in graphs and charts.

At home try: talking about different groups of living things, such as plants, mammals, fish, insects etc. Talk about the things that are similar and different about them. Explore your 5 senses around the home and discuss how our senses help keep us safe.

PSHE

In PSHE we will understand rights and responsibilities in and out of the classroom. We will also explore rewards and consequences and how the choices we make affect our lives and learning.

At home try: talking to each other and giving positive feedback about responsibilities including around the house (e.g. keep your room tidy, help with chores), in the playground (e.g. take turns, use kind words) and with people (e.g. Show respect, be caring).

History

Our work in History this term uses portraits as a source of information about the past and as a stimulus for raising questions. What can you tell about a person and what they were like from a painting? The children will be comparing portraits from various decades and gathering evidence to categorise them.

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!

Art

This half-term, our art will be about portraits and ourselves. The children will be using drawing, painting and 3D materials to explore how they can convey meaning, emotion and narrative. We will be looking at the work of various artists and how they have used different techniques in their portraiture.

At home try: finding some examples of portraits and talking about the mood or expression they show e.g. pictures or adverts in magazines, books, libraries and galleries.

Music

In our music sessions the children will be learning about pulse, rhythm and pitch using voice and percussion instruments.

PE

Our P.E. sessions this half term will be on Monday and Friday so children will need to wear their PE kits to school on these days. We will be working our social skill and cognitive skills via exploring fundamental movement.

At home try: teaching your child to do up zips, buttons and shoe laces and learning to ride a 2 wheeler bike or scooter.

RE

Our religious education this term links closely to our PSHE but specifically focuses on what Humanism is as well as what Christians believe about Jesus. We will learn how to live a good life through role play of parables from the bible (Christianity) and through our actions (Humanism).

At home try: As with PSHE.

Computing

Our ICT topics include safety online, technology in our lives and handling data (on pictographs).

At home try: Instil good online practices such as: always ask to use technology; remind children of internet safety every time they use it; limit time; use technology for something other than games (e.g. writing shopping lists, reading Newsround articles).

Please come along to the class meeting with Miss McLaurie for further information, on Wednesday 11th September at 2:45pm.

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.

Yours sincerely

Miss McLaurie, Mrs McKie and Mrs Cull