



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 10th January

Dear Parents,

Explorer Class Curriculum Newsletter

We hope you had a very enjoyable Christmas and wish you and your families a Happy New Year in 2020! Thank you all so much for our lovely Christmas cards and presents.

For this half-term our research question is **'How can we be good problem-solvers and help Ted get to Grandad's home?'** which will encourage children to explore movement, forces, maps and designing and making moving vehicles. It focuses on solving a particular problem that is linked to the book 'Harry's Home' by C. and L. Anholt, in which a boy visits his Grandad by journeying on a train, bus, boat and taxi. I'm sure Ted will have a lot of fun being hurtled across the classroom! Please bring in any small cardboard boxes you may find at home to help us with our designs.

Maths, writing and spelling homework will continue to come home on Fridays. Please bring this back to school by the following Thursday. Please try to find time to practise the spellings that we send home - little and often is the best method! Don't forget that book bags and books need to be in school every day please. Please try to find a little time each day to listen to your child read and to discuss their books. **If you have a little time to spare, we are still in need of 2/3 parent volunteers to listen to children read (for about 30-40 minutes). Please let us know if you can help.**

Specific Curriculum content

English

Our English work this term will connect with our research question on moving and travelling. We will be using connectives in our writing about a special journey that Travelling Ted will be going on! The children will be exploring ways of gathering, developing and recording their ideas and plans for stories and letters. Our punctuation and grammar focuses will be on using question marks and exclamation marks, using connecting words (conjunctions) and selecting and using quality adjectives to add detail. Our on-going work on spellings/phonics and guided-reading will continue.

At home try: to tell, make up or read simple stories and ask your child to guess what might happen next? Talk about how stories have a beginning, middle and end.

Maths

Year 1 children will be extending their understanding of number: reading and writing numbers to 50 in words and digits and partitioning the numbers into tens and units to help them add and subtract. They will also begin work on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

The children in Year 2 will be continuing to work multiplication and division. This will include learning times-tables and applying this knowledge to multiplication and division problems. Thereafter they will explore statistics (with a tally chart and pictogram focus) and shape (2D & 3D shape, including lines of symmetry and making patterns).

Year 3 children will continue with multiplication and division with a focus on the 3 and 4 times tables and multiplying 2 digits by 1 digit. They will then move on to statistics (pictograms, bar charts and tables) and shape (beginning to explore angles).

At home try: Learning the time is often something that can be made part of everyday life at home. Try taking note of the time our favourite TV programmes are on and working out how many minutes until tea time by counting in 5's.

Science

Our Science topic for this half-term is on forces and movement. We will learn about how objects move and how we stop, start and change direction in P.E. and on playground equipment. The children will be investigating the different ways that toy cars roll down slopes, compiling questions and predicting what might happen in certain situations, e.g. with a steep slope, a heavy car or a rough surface. They will be devising fair tests and comparing and recording their results. How will Ted cross the room in his vehicle?!

At home try: talking about how different toys can be made to move i.e. by pushing, pulling, squashing, stretching, flicking or winding.

Computing

Year 1 & 2 computing will involve giving commands and instructions to make a floor robot move. We will also develop our data handling through science and maths focuses and will continue our awareness of keeping safe when using the internet.

Year 3 will start to learn to program using Scratch. This is a free programming language for children.

At home try: Exploring Scratch Programming online and having a play... how creative can you be? <https://scratch.mit.edu/parents/> (Go to Create)

Geography

The geography this half-term is based around making and reading maps. The children will be making plans and simple route maps to help themselves and others (Ted) find their way around the classroom. We will be looking at conventional map symbols and inventing some of our own.

At home try: thinking about, or going on, a simple journey (such as going to school) and discussing what you see on the way. Can you remember things in the right order? Can you draw a picture or picture map of your journey?

Design and Technology

As a main part of our research question, the children will be designing, making and testing simple vehicles and other devices to help get Ted to Grandad's! They will be exploring how basic axels are constructed and will be learning how to join, cut and manipulate a range of materials.

At home try: looking at how the wheels on some of your child's toys are attached and how they rotate.

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

Music

Music this term will focus on exploring rhythm patterns to communicate mood and feeling in both voice and percussion.

At home try: noticing how music can convey feeling or set a mood in tv programmes.

RE

This unit explores what Christians believe about God. The children will discover The Bible and understand how the Old Testament guides both Christians and Jews to care about the world and all that has been created in it. They will also learn Psalm 23 (The Lord is My Shepherd) and perform it to the rest of the school in music assembly.

With best wishes

Miss McLaurie, Mrs McKie and Mrs Cull