



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Horrington, Wells
Somerset, BA5 3EB
Telephone: (01749) 673516
Fax: (01749) 670685



sch.186@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.horringtonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

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Dear Parents/Carers

Pioneer Class Curriculum Newsletter

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

Our focus question for this half-term is, **'Where can Planes, Trains and Automobiles take us?'** The children will uncover the history of transport and explore different materials which will lead to them designing and making their own vehicles.

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 their knowledge of phonics in order to develop their skills in reading, writing and spelling. The children will immerse themselves in a range of stories about vehicles, continue to explore their skills in number, shape and measure, and investigate their ideas through role play, music, construction and DT. In particular, the children will explore poetry with a focus on the senses; the story of *The Train Ride*, as well as other stories throughout the course of the half term; find out about the continents and the oceans of the world; learn about explorers; develop their skills with a range of art techniques and styles; enhance their skills in programming. 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.

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English

Our English work this half-term begins with a focus on poetry; the children will use their senses to develop their descriptive vocabulary in order to write a poem based on sound. The children will then look at exploring and innovating the story of *The Train Ride*, before then discovering non-fiction writing. Our on-going work on phonics, spellings, sentence structure and word building will continue.

At home try: talk with your child about different types of transport; share stories from all over the world; talk about words and find new words to extend vocabulary.

Maths

In our maths work this half-term, the children will be developing their skills in number and their understanding of addition and subtraction within 20. They will also be exploring number by looking at 'real life' problems. The children will then go on to look at place value within 50.

At home try: *play board games; find numbers in everyday life; explore and manipulate money; tell the time.*

Science

Our Science topic for this half-term continues the children's learning about the seasons. They will focus on the season of winter, exploring what it is and carrying out some winter-inspired experiments. They will also be exploring materials and their properties.

At home try: *talk about the seasons and how they change; go on a winter walk. Explore natural materials.*

Geography

In our geography work we will be learning about continents and oceans of the world. To conclude this, we will also be designing our very own continents!

At home try: *look at maps and talk about different countries/continents; watch the weather forecasts; share experiences of travelling; explore their own locality in terms of physical and human geography.*

History

Our history topic will involve learning about how transport has changed and what transport might be like in the future.

At home try: *find out about different types of transport.*

Computing

Our ICT this term will continue to develop the children's skills in programming.

DT

In DT we will explore vehicles, axles and wheels. The children will design and make their own vehicles using a variety of materials, before then evaluating them.

At home try: *talk about different types of materials and their uses.*

Music

In music we will be using our voices and instruments to explore long and short sounds. We will also be looking at ways of reading and presenting rhythm patterns using pictures and symbols to represent sounds.

At home try: *talk to your child about 'long' and 'short' sounds in the environment; sing nursery rhymes together or take turns filling in gaps in songs.*

PE

Our PE this half term focuses on jumping and landing and seated balances.

RE

In RE this term we will be investigating Humanism and later, asking the question, 'What do Christians Believe about God?'

At home try: *talk about special times in your family and why they are special.*

We would like to take this opportunity to say that the children in Pioneer Class have settled particularly well this academic year: they know the routines; they are accessing the different areas of learning in the classroom; they are polite and helpful towards each other and the

staff. It is at this time of year that we encourage the children's independence when coming in to school each day, and ask that you use the 'stop and drop' system in the car park, or drop your child at the gates; there will always be a member of staff to greet your child and to settle them in the classroom each morning.

Spelling/phonics and maths/topic **homework** will continue to be given out on **Fridays**. For those children that are bringing home books, we ask that you read daily, or at least 4 times per week, with your child and to record their reading in the reading diary. For those children that are bringing home sounds and words, we ask that you practise at least 4 times per week.

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,

Amber Lane, Nicola Holmes, Sue Nicholas