



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to Explorer Class

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 we be Super Heroes?**' We will be exploring our personal talents and how we can work well as a member of a team. We will be thinking about our responsibilities and how we can be super heroes by making a difference to others.

Specific areas of the curriculum being taught

Recovery Curriculum

For the first two weeks, the whole school will be employing a different timetable and curriculum to help ease the children back into learning. This will be based on 5 levers: relationships, community, transparent curriculum, metacognition and space. We will do this by exploring the book, *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers. We will reflect on our beautiful world and our place in it. Alongside this book, we will do lots of creative activities to help the children get to know each other again, learn to learn again and build confidence into their lives.

In the second week, we will start assessing the children for their reading groups and only then will they be given the appropriate RWInc books to read at home. In the meantime, we will send home some age appropriate linked fiction and non-fiction, which you can share with your child.

English

Later in the term, the children will be reading and writing stories about super heroes, as well as compiling lists and captions. We will also carry out a small unit on poetry and will learn to recite and write poems of our own. Our on-going work on phonics and reading will continue in mixed groups within the class, which are arranged to meet the needs of all the children at their individual stages of development.

At home try: reading and talking about stories and poems beyond your child's own reading ability. Write captions and labels for things around your home and maybe write a letter to a grandparent.

Maths

Year 2 children will be writing, ordering and learning to recognise numbers from 0-100, counting in 1s, 2s 5s and 10s (backwards and forwards) and estimating and counting large numbers of objects. The children will also be learning strategies such as partitioning and ordering numbers to 100 as well as learning number bonds facts for 10 and 20. Children in Year 1 will be focusing on deepening their understanding of numbers to 10 through problem solving and reasoning activities. We will also be focusing on addition and subtraction; Year 1 children will be using apparatus and mental strategies to calculate and Year 2 children working towards informal pencil and paper methods – adding and subtracting two 2-digit numbers.

At home try: counting change when you've been shopping, learning to recognise the names of coins and guessing how long things might be i.e. 'about 2 metres'. Look at our calculations policy on our website to help your child add and subtract using the methods learned in school.

Science

Our Science topic for this half-term is part of an on-going topic about the seasons, weather and plants. The children will make and record observations to answer questions and will record results in graphs and charts. We are hoping that a trip to our local woods will be able to go ahead near the end of term but this is dependent on government advice closer to the time. The children will take part in practical activities in class to learn and recognise plants and trees.

At home try: talking about the different seasons and how the weather feels during these times. Whilst out on walks or in the garden, start to spot and name different trees and plants and how they change over the course of the year. Collect interesting parts of plants and trees and use in creative ways.

Computing

We will begin by agreeing sensible e-safety rules for the classroom. After that, we will be collecting data and generating graphs and charts to find answers. We will also be focusing on a unit of programming where the children will enter a sequence of instructions to achieve an algorithm with a robot, specifying distance and turn and drawing a trail.

We will also be incorporating computing in our literacy topic by creating Powerpoints to communicate their super hero learning.

At home try: talking about internet safety and ensuring your child understands that they must never use the internet without the supervision of an adult.

History

We will be investigating, through stories, role-play and the internet, the life of a Victorian super hero (still a secret at the moment!).

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! Investigate super heroes from the past – what differences did they make to the lives of others?

Geography

We will begin our on-going focus on Travelling Ted this term. Normally he jets off with members of the class, but we are going to ask the children to post Ted a postcard instead of taking him out of the class as Ted is still on lockdown. We will be using maps, atlases and globes to locate the countries & places in the UK that he has visited. We will be learning to name the continents and oceans he passes through/over as well as thinking about the weather in the countries he visits.

If you are planning a trip this year, please let us know and we can put it in Ted's diary; it doesn't need to be abroad as we also need to learn about Great Britain and the capital cities!

At home try: thinking about the places you have visited; where they were, what the weather was like, how you travelled there etc.

Music

In music, the children will be developing their understanding of Rhythm and Pulse and listening to music composed by historical musical 'champions'.

At home try: clapping and copying rhythm patterns, listen to 'The Four Seasons' by A. Vivaldi and think together about how the music describes the weather. When out and about, listen and discuss sounds of nature.

PSHE

This term we will be focusing on Being Me. As well as the recovery curriculum building in a lot of circle time, listening and team building, in PSHE we will also explore understanding what it means to feel safe, be safe, be part of something bigger and be proud of who we are and what we can achieve.

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

PE

Mr Lowman will be working on a unit that explores cognitive skills via basic movement skills sessions. In addition, we will have a few sessions that will focus on working together as a small team to achieve success; we will be playing games and embarking upon physical problem solving challenges.

RE

Our focus will be on understanding Judaism. We will be learning about the importance of the Torah and how it teaches Jews how to live their lives including celebrating some special occasions. The children will have opportunities to raise and suggest answers to relevant questions in response to the Jewish teachings on the Torah.

At home try: discussing how we can be more helpful and thinking about the consequences of some of our actions as well as how we can forgive one another.

Homework

Please continue to hear your child read their reading book at home as often as you can. This term we will have a virtual reading diary on Google Classroom. Please write in it as often as possible. Spelling, Maths and writing homework will be set via Google Classroom on Friday to be handed in by the following Thursday.

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of **water** to keep hydrated throughout the day (squash attracts the wasps). These should not be placed in the book-bags please. Please try to use a **small snack pot for your child's fruit/veg snack** (storage space is limited).

Our cloakroom space is very small with very limited hanging space; please ensure the only bags your child brings to school are a Horrington School book-bag and lunch box.

We hope you and your child have a happy and rewarding time this year in Explorer Class. Unfortunately, due to the current situation we won't have the drop-off or pick up time opportunity to have informal chats but it is important that we communicate with each other too. If you have any information to share or concerns that we should be made aware of, please do make an appointment with me through the office.

Best wishes, Mrs. McKie, Mrs. Cull & Miss Nicholas