



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



[horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk)  
[www.horringtonprimary.co.uk](http://www.horringtonprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Welcome to Pioneer Class!

We hope you had a very enjoyable and relaxing Summer break and we welcome you to a new school year.

This letter tells you 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.

Pioneer Class is taught by Mrs Amber Lane and is supported by Mrs Nicola Holmes and Mrs Jacque Western. Mrs Ruth Jenkins teaches music and Mr Dylan Lowman teaches PE. There are 23 children in the class; 16 children in Reception and 7 children in Year 1.

During the first 2 weeks of term, the children will be taking part in a Recovery Curriculum to settle them back into school life. This is designed to help children re-engage with their learning through a mindful and holistic approach.

Our focus question for this half term is: **'What can we learn from the adventures of Paddington Bear?'** We will be exploring the adventures of Paddington Bear and what we can learn from both his mistakes and his achievements. This will also include thinking about where we live and who with; finding out about different types of homes, both present and past; learning about seasonal changes and creating a bear art gallery.

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 begin phonics, in which they learn and practise different letter sounds and the skills of blending and segmenting, all of which links to the first steps in reading and spelling. The children will immerse themselves in a range of stories and poems, begin to develop their skills in number and shape, and explore their ideas through role play, music, construction and art. 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.

## **Year 1**

### **English**

Our English this half-term will start with a fun exploration of 'We're going on a bear hunt', before then meeting Paddington Bear and following him on various adventures. During our exploration of these texts, we will be retelling stories; writing labels, lists and captions for the different characters and settings; writing various pieces of non-fiction; and continuing to develop our understanding of phonics.

*At home try: to read and be immersed in different stories and talk about the characters in terms of what they look like and their personalities; have a go at creating captions for the characters.*

### **Maths**

In our maths this half-term we will be developing our knowledge of number to ensure that our place value and our skills in counting are secure. We will extend our work on addition and subtraction, as well as explore 2D and 3D shape.

*At home try: talking about number in everyday home life, for example when shopping and playing games; finding 2D and 3D shapes at home.*

### **Science**

In science, we will be developing our skills in scientific investigation, thinking about the best type of hat to keep Paddington's marmalade sandwiches safe and dry. We will then begin to explore the seasons, starting with Autumn.

*At home try: talking about the different seasons and what happens at the different times of year; going on an Autumn walk.*

### **History**

We will start by looking at who we live with and thinking about our lives compared to the lives of our parents and grandparents. We will then move on to investigating different types of homes and how they have changed over the years.

*At home try: finding out about your family history by talking about it and sharing photographs; finding out about the different types of houses where you live.*

### **Geography**

In geography, we will start by looking at where Peru is and what it is like. The children will then look at where they live and explore their locality using maps. Following this, the children will have a go at creating their own maps.

*At home try: finding out about Peru; talking about where you live and the journeys you make; creating maps and following them.*

### **Computing**

Our computing will focus on learning about how to stay safe when on the internet; programming a robot to follow a set of instructions; and using computer programs to represent information.

## **Art**

We will be exploring the art of Peru before then focusing on colour and pattern. Following this the children will learn about Pop Art, and in particular the work of David Hockney, Andy Warhol and Howie Green.

*At home try: finding out about the art from different countries; talking about colour and pattern and how different colours make you feel.*

## **RE**

In RE, we will be exploring the questions, 'Who are we?' and 'What do Jewish people believe about Torah?' The children will learn about the different festivals in Judaism and the Christian festival of Harvest.

*At home try: finding out about different religious festivals.*

## **Music**

In music, we will be exploring pulse and rhythm and responding to sound by using instruments.

*At home try: talking to your child about some of the sounds they hear in a favourite piece of music and try to copy some simple rhythms by clapping their hands, stamping their feet, clicking their fingers.*

## **PSHE**

We will be exploring the themes of personal hygiene, teamwork, friendship and how to stay healthy.

## **PE**

Our PE this term will be taught on a **Monday** by Mr Lowman. The children will need to come to school wearing their PE kit on this day.

## **Additional information**

### **Reading**

Children are sent home with 2 reading books once a week; one of the books is the book they have been reading in their phonics group, whilst the other book is a new book in line with your child's reading ability. We encourage you to read daily with your child, or at least 4 times per week, and to record their reading in the reading diary on Google Classroom. Book-bags and books need to be in school **every day**.

### **Spelling/Phonics homework (via Google Classroom)**

Year 1 children will receive phonics/spelling **homework** each **Friday**, which is to be completed by the following Thursday. The spellings that come home contain the phonemes and graphemes we will have been learning in school that week, as well as one or two High Frequency/Common Exception words (which are usually tricky to sound out so just have to be learned).

Reception children will receive phonics homework each week, which will involve practising the sounds they have learned that week.

**Other homework (via Google Classroom)**

Year 1 children will receive one other piece of homework each week, which will be either maths or topic-related. At times, Reception children will also receive topic-related homework to enhance their exploration of what we are doing in class. All homework should be handed in by the following Thursday, unless otherwise stated.

**Water and snack**

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of **water** to keep hydrated throughout the day (no squash please, as it attracts the wasps). This should not be placed in the book-bag. Please also ensure that your child has a healthy fruit/ vegetable snack for morning break time. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a fruit or vegetable snack for afternoon break time.

**Bags**

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

We hope you and your child have a happy and rewarding time this year in Pioneer Class.

We hope this letter has been of some help.

Best wishes

Mrs Amber Lane  
Mrs Nicola Holmes  
Mrs Jacquie Western