



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Explorer Class Newsletter – Autumn 2, 2020

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.

Our focus question for this half - term is, '**How can I tell a tale?**' It will involve us in telling different types of story in written and spoken language as well as using dance, drama, music and art. We will use story maps to develop our ideas and to link the concept of a story being a journey; with a beginning, middle and end.

Spelling, English and maths **homework** will continue to be given out on **Fridays via Google Classroom**. Please do remember to update your child's reading log when you listen to them read – reading every day is proven to be very beneficial. Reading books will continue to come home weekly. Please ensure books are kept in the book bag as children sometimes get the opportunity to read their reading books during an independent time.

Reminders

- Water bottles should not be carried in book bags due to leaking bottles resulting in damaged books. If your child needs an extra bag, please ensure it is a drawstring bag (like a swimming kit bag) that can be folded up and placed in the book bag, once it has been emptied of drinks bottles and snack pots.
- The most appropriate footwear on PE days are trainers rather than daps as these give the best support to the foot and ankle. They are also more appropriate on wet days which are now with us!
- As winter approaches and we try to spend time in the fresh air, can we remind you to start moving towards a waterproof winter coat (rather than a raincoat) due to the exposed nature of the school site.

Curriculum focus

English

Our English work this half-term begins with a focus on traditional tales and stories. The children will be extending their story writing by focussing on story structure e.g. beginning,

middle and end, clear sentences and ordered events. The children will be developing their descriptive vocabulary by finding a range of words to describe characters and settings. We will also be learning about poetry and using it to explore our senses, as well as writing instructions linked to our science and seasonal work. Our on-going work on spelling, word building and grammar will continue each day within our Read Write inc sessions.

At home try: talking with your child to describe characters in storybooks, guess what might happen next in stories and make up alternative endings. Try learning some traditional tales 'off by heart' and tell them to a family member.

Maths

In our maths work this half-term we will be using a range of mental calculation strategies in addition and subtraction and we will be extending our work with 'real life' money and word problems. Place value work will continue by exploring and ordering numbers beyond 100 for Year 2 and to 20 for Year 1.

At home try: playing more games by asking your child simple practical problems e.g. 'If I buy one sweet for 12p, find me the coins that I will need to pay for 3 sweets.'

Science

In science we will be continuing with our on-going focus on the seasons; looking at changes in the weather, day length and how the seasons effect the plants, trees and landscape. We will continue recording, measuring and observing the bulbs we are growing.

At home try: noticing how light/dark it is at key points during the day and how it changes over the course of the next couple of months. Let your child explore trees and plants in your garden and when out and about.

Computing

Our ICT this term will continue to develop the children's programming skills. We will be using Beebots and on-line programming apps/games to develop predicting and de-bugging skills, as the children control their characters to make journeys.

Art

Our Art will fit with our story-telling theme and will involve the children producing weaving to tell a story. This will involve learning basic weaving skills and exploring colours and texture that could represent the journey of a story.

At home try: looking at the work of artists that use weaving. What messages/stories is the weaving trying to convey?

Geography

Our learning in Geography will explore simple map and plan making. We will begin to consider using a key and symbols to help the user of our maps. We will be mapping the journeys we take during the winter.

At home try: to find different types of maps and discuss how they are used. Can you draw a map of your journey to school?

Music

In our music we will be preparing songs and instrumentals for our Christmas performance.

At home try: talking to your child about some of the sounds they hear in a favourite piece of music.

PE

Our PE this half term focuses on hockey and dance. The children will be using dance to tell stories and learn how other dancers communicate ideas and feelings through movement. The children will be learning basic ball and stick control and how to work together in a team.

RE

Our theme in RE continues with Judaism, and what family life is like in a Jewish home.

With best wishes,

Miss McLaurie and Mrs McKie