



HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



horringtonparents@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.horringtonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Goodland

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to Pioneer Class!

We hope you had a lovely half term.

Our focus question for this half term is: **'What happens in the wild wood?'** We will be exploring lots of wonderful stories and poetry including *The Gruffalo*, *The Way Home for Wolf* and various Traditional Tales such as The Gingerbread Man.

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. They will continue to build upon their phonics, in order to further develop their reading, writing and spelling skills. The children will be re-telling and sequencing stories as well as writing labels, cards and invitations. We will be looking at poetry, rhyme and stories from different cultures, including Diwali and Christmas and will explore these themes through our play opportunities. We will also be continuing our skills in number, shape, space and measure, construction and DT.

Year 1

English

Our English this half-term will start with *The Gruffalo*. During our exploration of these texts, we will be retelling the stories; writing labels, lists and letters; writing our own traditional tales and having a go at some poetry, too.

At home try: to read and be immersed in different stories and talk about the characters and settings. It would also be really helpful to talk to your child about rhyming words.

Maths

In our maths this half-term we will be continuing to develop our knowledge of number to ensure that our place value and our skills in counting are secure. We will also be looking at 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 looking at different types of materials and what they may be used for.

At home try: *talking about the different materials found in the home, as well as the materials that our favourite toys are made from.*

History

We will be looking at toys in History this term – the differences and similarities between toys from the past compared to those in the present.

At home try: *finding out about your family's favourite toys!*

Computing

Our computing will continue to focus on learning about how to stay safe when on the internet and using links to websites to find information.

DT

This half term, we will be looking at designing and making some fabric faces!

At home try: *exploring different types of fabric.*

RE

In RE, we will be finding out about the Hindu festival of Diwali and exploring the Nativity.

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

Music

In music, we will be linking instruments to songs for the Nativity.

At home try: *to practice some Christmas songs!*

PSHE

We will be exploring the themes of Celebrating Difference.

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.

Reminders

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.

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 piece of 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).

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mrs Amber Lane
Mrs Nicola Holmes