

Mrs Warren and I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts you gave us for Christmas. We are very fortunate to have such kind parents and children at The Ridge.



# Year 2 Newsletter

## Spring 2019

### Family Learning

**More details to follow in due course.**

## English

In English this half term we will be writing finding stories. Children will become familiar with the structure of a finding story through our model text (based on the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers). They will learn the text off by heart using actions and story maps and will then use this structure to write their own finding story. Later in the term, children will have the opportunity to write an information text about a given species of hedgehog (linking to one of our reading spine texts, The Hodgehog, by Dick King Smith).

We will continue to have daily SPaG lessons where children will learn spelling patterns, word classes, types of sentences and how to use punctuation accurately. Kinetic Letters is also taught daily; children will be revising letter formation and will be working on achieving consistency and fluency in their handwriting.

Guided reading sessions will take place weekly, where your child will get to read with an adult and get involved in 'Book Talk'. They will talk about their likes and dislikes, anything puzzling them, make predictions and make links to other

## Topic

We shall be learning about the Antarctic: its weather, animal life, explorers, as well as its location in the world. In the second part of the term, we will be finding out about the Great Fire of London: its causes, life in London in 1666 and how things changed following the fire.

Our theme will encompass many other curriculum areas, including art, DT, Geography, History, Computing and Music.

In Art, the children will continue to extend their drawing and observation skills. They will be learning how to show tone when shading.

In D&T, the children will have the opportunity to use tools to construct a product. We will be linking this to our conservation focus of British birds.

Our History will be focused on The Great Fire of London. We will also be learning about the explorer, Ernest Shackleton and find out about his Antarctic adventure!

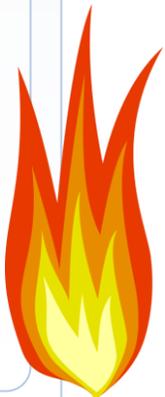
In Geography, we will be looking closely at the Antarctic. We will explore the differences between the frozen landscape and our local environment.

## Mathematics

Our main focus this term will be on multiplication and division – please support children learning their times table facts at home as it helps them so much in school! We will use practical equipment to show children that multiplication is the same as repeated addition and is commutative, meaning it can be done in any order unlike division. Children will be taught that like addition and subtraction, multiplication and division are the inverse of each other. They will continue to practice number facts to 10, 20 and 100 as well as the 2, 5, 10, 3 and 4 timetables so that they become fluent and are able to manipulate numbers so that they demonstrate an understanding that addition and multiplication can be done in any order but subtraction and division cannot. Children will be expected to use and apply known facts to solve problems.

This term, children will also learn how to interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables. They will ask and answer simple questions by counting the number of objects in each category and sorting the categories by quantity.

We shall have number bonds and multiplication tests on a Friday. Please ensure that children are learning these facts weekly for their home learning task as well as using the DoodleMaths app. Hit the Button is a fantastic free online game which children can use to learn their multiplication and division facts as well as their number bonds. Little and often is the best form of practice



## P.E.

This term P.E. will take place on a Thursday. For the first half term the children will develop their gymnastic skills. They will perform sequences of movements, involving different methods of travel as well as balances and rolls.

After half term, the children will continue to develop their throwing, catching and aiming skills. They will apply the skills they have learnt and develop their tactical awareness through small team games, including benchball.

## Music

The children will learn and sing a variety of songs, many related to our topic, and will focus on pulse and rhythm, creating simple patterns using percussion instruments.

## R.E.

We shall continue to develop our understanding of different places of worship within the Christian, Islamic and Sikh faith. We shall also think about special food associated with each religion before moving onto the story of Easter and its significance for Christians.

## P.S.H.E

Through our topic work, we will be exploring the impact humans have on our environment e.g. climate change and the harmful effect of plastics in our oceans. We will then explore our responsibilities around protecting our planet and how we can all do our bit.

We will also be focusing on safety; how we can stay safe in the home by exploring things that may be harmful to us, along with fire safety.

Finally, we will begin to introduce the differences between males and females, along with the concept of gender and gender stereotypes.

## Science

Science will be linked to our topic work this term and we will be observing the changes in materials brought about by heating and cooling. We shall also learn about forces.

The children will be encouraged to think like scientists, carry out experiments and record their observations.

## Computing

The children will be learning about taking and editing photographs. The children will also be using the internet for research, especially in relation to our theme. We will think about internet safety and will use iPads to support our learning.

## Home Learning

Please ensure that as well as listening to children read, they are also being read to by an adult or older sibling so that they have an excellent model as an example.

Continue to support children learning their spellings from the Spelling Olympics.

Continue to practice number bonds, multiplication and division facts for the club that your child is currently on and telling the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to and 5 minute intervals) on an analogue clock. Daily DoodleMaths practice is also so important. (Please ensure you have linked your email to their account).

Following our Aspire Day, further information will be given regarding this term's topic home learning. Please look out for more information and maybe an overnight guest...sshhh! All will become clear in due course ;-)

*Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns.*

[lryder@ridge.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:lryder@ridge.dudley.sch.uk)

