

19th April 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. We are pleased to welcome trainee teacher Mr Beaty to Year 2, who is completing his final teaching placement at Castle Park School and who will be working alongside the Key Stage One team to plan and deliver lessons to the children. We have two exciting topics planned for this half term, starting with a science topic in which we will be learning all about "Plants", before moving onto a topic about "Transport". Once again, we would like to outline the curriculum for this half term, including ideas for the children to continue their learning at home.

Thank you for all your continued support - it is very much appreciated.

Mrs Bond and Mrs Clement

<p>English</p> 	<p>During our daily phonics sessions, we will initially be focusing on the Phase 5 digraphs such as wh, ph, au and ir. The children will be given lots of opportunities to apply their new and existing phonic knowledge to reading both real and alien words, in preparation for the Phonics Screening check that all Year 1 children will take in June. We will continue to focus our English sessions and writing tasks around our topics. We will be reading and enjoying Spring poetry as well as having a go at writing some of our own. We will also use topic themed texts, such as 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Titch', as inspiration for a range of writing styles (character descriptions, imaginative writing etc). Punctuating sentences correctly and developing a neat handwriting style are also continual areas of focus.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>This term, we will be exploring our target 'Learn Its' in more depth. Each child has a personal folder containing their Learn It calculations and we will be practising these through different tasks daily, both for early work and during our maths lessons. The aim is for the children to know the calculations, by heart, when they are presented in a variety of ways e.g. with the answer first, with missing numbers etc. We will also be introducing the children to the concepts of multiplication and division. This will be practical, and will build upon previous work relating to counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>As part of our topic on plants, the children will be labelling the different parts of a flowering plant and finding out about its function. We will be thinking about the conditions for growth, and planting a range of bulbs and seeds in order to observe the changes that take place. The children will be carrying out their own investigations and will be developing their skills of asking questions, making predictions and thinking about how to make the test fair by controlling the variables.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>Our computing lessons, this half term, will focus on simple programming. We will be using Scratch Junior which allows children to snap together graphical programming blocks in order to make characters move, jump, dance and sing.</p>

<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The Geography work, this half term, will be linked to our transport topic, and the children will be using directional vocabulary and simple maps in order to describe a familiar journey.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Art sessions will support the topic work this half term and will incorporate a range of different skills such as colour mixing, painting, and drawing. We will also be concluding our project from last term in which we learnt about the life and works of Claude Monet.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>The children will be learning Springtime songs and new songs that we sing altogether in school assemblies.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children continue have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session, this half term, will focus on activities such as circuit training and movement to music in order to promote a healthy lifestyle. The outdoor sessions will start with skill development activities and then we will move on to an athletics programme in preparation for our annual Sports' Morning.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>In RE lessons, pupils will be thinking about the question "Why do people have special ways of welcoming new babies?" We will be exploring different rites of passage relating to this question within the Christian and Islamic faiths.</p>
<p>PSHE, Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>This half term, our whole school focus is on the value of being responsible. The children will be thinking about their responsibilities when it comes to looking after themselves and the environment. We are teaching all the children how to keep safe in a range of situations, and will be discussing issues such as stranger danger, internet safety and being the 'boss' of their own bodies.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books are fine) • Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, book reviews) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins) • Telling the time to the hour and half past the hour • Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s • Looking at maps and following directions