

13<sup>th</sup> January 2012

## **YEAR 1 - TOPIC LETTER**

Dear Parents,

Outlined below is the curriculum your child is following this term. We hope that it will be of use to you when discussing school with your child and looking for ways in which you can support them at home.

English: The National Literacy Strategy.

This will include reading a range of books including stories, poetry, plays, following instructions and factual information.

There will be a strong emphasis on phonic knowledge (i.e. the sounds made by letters and letter clusters) as well as other strategies, which can be used to decode unknown words.

We will also be concentrating on increasing our key word vocabulary. They will be taught different strategies to help them read such as knowing the sounds of the letters, pictorial clues and whether the text makes sense.

The children will be taught to recognise full stops and capital letters when reading and they will be encouraged to use them correctly in their written work.

The children will have formal handwriting lessons when they are taught correct letter formation and orientation (i.e. which letters sit on the line, tall letters etc).

The children are given opportunities to carry out a range of writing e.g. stories, poems, lists, labels, facts connected with the topics and writing their names.

Speaking and listening is a very important part of the English curriculum. The children are given opportunities to develop their skills through work with puppets and use of the role play area.

Maths: The National Numeracy Strategy.

This includes mental skills which are practised every day as well as a range of mathematical knowledge including Numeracy, time, money, measurement and handling data. The children will be working with numbers up to 30.

Science: Our topics this term are materials and pushes and pulls.

R.E.: We will be focusing on the Bible being a special book and in particular learning about stories from the Old Testament.

We will then focus on the special days leading up to and including the Easter Celebration.

Information Technology: Our topic this term is; 'Using a Wordbank'. Children will gather information from a variety of sources and will use keywords to label and classify objects. Children will also develop their keyboard and mouse skills.

P.E.: Dance and Gymnastics - Body shape.

In Dance the children will be encouraged to listen carefully to the music and to interpret this. Gymnastics will include both working on the floor and the large apparatus. Games skills include throwing, catching and batting skills.

Music: We will explore rhythms, playing percussion instruments, listening and appraising music as well as learning songs. In the second half of the term we shall be working towards our 'Easter Assembly'.

D.T.: We will be investigating playground equipment. The children will have the opportunity to use construction kits to build a variety of playground structures and will make some from reclaimed materials.

Art: We will be looking at various materials and weaving with some of these.

Geography: The children will be learning about the local area. Jobs, buildings and local amenities.

History: We will be identifying features of homes today and in the past. Children will be looking at artefacts from the past and present and drawing them.

Visits: You might like to take your child to visit Cobtree Farm, The Museum of Kent Life, the local libraries and Hall Place.

Yours sincerely,

Miss D. Sears and Ms C. Broadfoot  
Class Teachers