

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2014

Dear Zebra Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Zebra Class!

My name is Maria and I am delighted to be teaching Zebra class this year. It has been wonderful getting to know each other and I know we will have a fun and exciting year together as Zebras.

As you know the children got to experience their new classroom before the summer holidays but have now spent their first week as members of Zebra Class. We have been busy getting to know the classroom routines and have enjoyed completing different activities.





We enjoy being creative in Zebras!



Our first topic in Zebra Class will be **People Who help Us.**

ENGLISH:

In English the children will be continuing to learn their sounds using the Read, Write Inc. programme through daily 30 minute Phonics and Spelling sessions. Whole class English lessons will follow these sessions with differentiated tasks to ensure everyone's needs are met and the children are challenged effectively. This term we will be focussing on using labels, captions and lists when describing 'people who help us'. We will also be writing recounts which will be linked to our visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum. As we approach Christmas we will be focussing on Narrative using fictional stories. In addition, the children will be looking at sounds and blending when reading texts pitched at their reading level. They will be encouraged to discuss what they have read to develop their comprehension skills.

MATHS:

Our Maths work will be practical and, where possible, related to other areas of our learning for instance Science or Topic. We will be focussing on securing our knowledge of numbers to 20 (reading, writing and ordering), doubling single digit numbers, learning our number bonds to 10, recognising and sorting 2D shapes, adding by counting on and describing position using positional language such as half turn and full turn. Moreover strategies for solving problems using a variety of materials will be taught. Children will be encouraged to then solve problems independently, reinforcing these skills, in turn developing their mental maths skills.

SCIENCE:

Our first topic is 'Ourselves'. We will be learning to name the parts of the body, exploring our senses and making observations and comparisons about and between ourselves. Our second topic is 'Light and Dark'. We will be learning to name, describe and compare light sources and describe the differences between day/night and light/dark.

TOPIC: As stated above our topic will be People Who Help Us. We will be learning about people who help us in the community and how these roles have changed over time. To gain an insight into historical figures we will study Florence Nightingale. We will be comparing nurses, police officers and firemen. We will compare them from the olden days to now to give the children a greater understanding of the concept of History.

ART: In Art we will be learning about drawing. Children can experiment with mark making using a variety of materials including pastels, crayons, pencils, pens etc. We will then focus on how to draw different textures using different drawing techniques.

Music: This term, the children will be learning how to repeat rhythms and create their own. They will be experimenting with different instruments and using these to prepare a 'story' through music to perform to their peers.

French: In French our topic will be greetings and 'all about me'. Year 1 will build on early conversations by recognising and replying to questions such as 'how are you?' and 'what's your name?' Children will also be learning numbers 1-12 as well as colours which link into our end of term Christmas activities.

PSHCE: We will be focusing on 'new beginnings' and how changes affect our lives. We will be exploring how we can make our classroom an exciting place to be and how we can look after the new things around us.

RE: We will be starting our RE topic by discussing which aspects of the natural world they find wonderful. Following this we will explore what different religions believe regarding how the world was made. We will be looking at different celebrations related to each religion, for instance Divali, Christmas and Hannuka.

PE: Our P.E days will be **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. On Mondays the children bring their PE kit in a bag for the week and we will get changed all together on our P.E days. Motive8 will run one session with the children and I will one run session. This term we will be focussing on Dance. The children can then take their PE kits home again after Wednesday's session.

Home Learning: The children will continue to get home learning in Zebra Class. Your child will receive a piece of maths home learning based on our week's lessons along with a list of spelling words to practise. Two of these should be recorded in sentences. Your child will also continue to be sent home three Oxford Reading Tree Books and three books from our class library. Please hear your child read and comment in their reading record book weekly. Your child's home learning will be sent home on a **Thursday** and needs to be returned the following **Tuesday**.

Green Leaves: Please keep sending in the green leaves with all the lovely things your child has been doing at home. We are always happy to add another leaf to our golden rules tree.

Show and Tell: Children may take in a show and tell on their book changing days. Therefore if your child is in Blue Group and therefore changes his/her books on a Monday then this would be their Show and Tell day. Confirmation of book changing days can be checked with me. Show and Tells should be related to something the child has been learning in or out of school please.

Request: We would like to display some words about the topic in a variety of languages so, if anyone could translate our topic vocabulary, please come and see me.

Question Time: If you have any questions or queries then please come and talk to me. Catching me at the end of the day is usually easier than the morning. I will also be available to meet after school on a Tuesday; please let me know if you would like to make an appointment.

Dates for the diary:

18th September - Trip - The Florence Nightingale Museum

19th September - Jeans for Genes Day

19th September - PTA Meeting - 9.00 - 10.00am (at school)
2nd October - PTA AGM - 19.00 - 21.00 (at school)

2nd October - Library Visit – Zebra Class

16th October - PTA Social – 19.00 – 22.00 (at school)

20th – 24th October - Art Week

24th October - Last day of half term (normal time)

Half Term - 27^{th -} 31st October

3rd November - Inset Day

4th November - Children back to school
18th & 20th Nov - Parents consultations
27th November - Library Visit - Zebra Class
5th December - Kew Sparkle (Kew village)

11th December - Key Stage 2 – Richmond Theatre (more information to follow)

12th December - PTA Christmas Fair (school hall)

18th December - Christmas Lunch

19th December - Last day of term (normal time)

Maria and Julie.



