



Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 7th November 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a super half term break. We are hoping for good weather for the PTA bonfire party tonight and hope to see you there.

In assembly this week, we talked about Remembrance and observed a two-minute silence at 11am. We also talked about our new sandpit and discussed how safely to use the play areas now that the season is changing. Bird Family meetings focused on the election of new Top Birds, in which every child had the chance to vote.

Literacy

It has been so pleasing to hear about all the wonderful reading that has been going on over half term. All groups began this week with a strong focus on phonetic consolidation before moving onto a new grapheme. Mr Fisher's group have been learning 'ar' (start the car) while Mrs Wilson's group have been looking at 'air' (it's not fair). Mr Fereday's group have been studying 'igh' (fly high).

Numeracy

Subtraction has been a key area of development this week. We have looked at the different vocabulary associated with subtraction and thought about the process as a smaller number being taken away from a larger number. We have used different mathematical apparatus to help us with our calculations including number lines, cubes and number squares. One of the most important points we regularly emphasise when subtracting (or adding!) on a number line, is to avoid counting the number you start on as the first jump. We have also been encouraging the children to begin to solve simple subtraction questions mentally.

Other lessons and activities:

- We are pleased to announce that this year's Year 1 Christmas production will be called 'The Innkeeper's Cat'. On Tuesday afternoon all Year 1 children gathered in the hall to learn the part they would be playing and to watch the teaching staff 'act' out the play!
- As well as marking Armistice Day with the traditional two-minute silence, we made beautiful poppy field pictures in Art using an impressionist technique.
- The children were introduced to our new topic *Materials*. Over the next few weeks they will begin to undertake the following range of simple experiments: floating and sinking, magnetism and waterproofing.
- In computing we have switched our focus to the mechanics of how computers operate. The children were introduced to the term 'algorithm', meaning a clear set of ordinal instructions. The children were tasked with giving clear instructions to their teacher in order to make a glass of squash, with varying degrees of success reported amongst the three classes!

- We have had our usual swimming, library, music and dance lessons with our respective teachers. During music with Miss Skinner we started to learn some of the songs for our Christmas production.

Over the weekend your child might like to:

- Make a number line from 0-30 and use it to practise some subtraction calculations. These can be recorded in their home/school book.
- Go on a materials hunt around the house and see what materials different household items are made from. Your child's thinking can be extended by asking them why they think a specific item is made of a particular material.
- Begin to learn and practise their words for the Christmas production.
- Read their home reading books to you and share their library book with you.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 8th December – 8.30am-10.00am: Year 1 coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall followed by the Year 1 Christmas production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

With very best wishes from Mrs Wilson, Mr Fisher, Mr Fereday and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries