



## Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parents

In assembly this week, Mrs Laing, Mrs Alexandre and some of the Reception scientists told us the story of how the Bananarium came to be and showed us how well the banana plants have grown. We discovered that the plants which have grown best are those which were planted in soil, rather than those planted with a mixture of compost and banana skins. All the children in Pre Prep were set a challenge to design a poster all about the project with a chance of winning one of the banana plants to take home. This is an optional activity; family members are very welcome to get involved! Bird Family meetings focused on setting personal goals and targets.

### **Literacy**

Mr Fereday's group have been learning the 'er' (better letter) grapheme and comparing to the other grapheme of this phoneme (ur and ir). The children have recognised that 'er' is most often found at the end of words. They have also continued their work on the 'How to Lose a Balloon' poem, reorganising lines so that the poem flows and ideas are joined.

Mr Fisher's group have been learning the 'ew' (chew the stew) grapheme as well as learning a bit about adding 'ed' at the end of a word. This suffix is sometimes used even when it sounds like a 't' sound e.g. jumped. We finished off our fantastic 'gingerbread men' stories and also read another traditional tale, 'Robin Hood'.

Mrs Wilson's group have been learning about homophones (literally same sound). They have discussed when they should use 'their', 'there' or 'they're' and 'too', 'to' or 'two'. For the extended writing this week, the children read a book called 'Our House' and used it as inspiration to write a letter to an imaginary friend or relative, inviting them to a sleepover in their bedroom. They described their bedrooms in detail and even commented on whether they keep them messy or neat and tidy!

Due to the Year 1 concert next Tuesday, and School being closed on Wednesday because of the Norfolk Show, this week has been our last full week of group literacy this year. We will still have a literacy group session on Monday when we will do our spelling quizzes. In the final week of term, we will be completing our final piece of independent writing in preparation for Year 2, as well as completing other literacy activities within class.

### **Numeracy**

This week, the children have been introduced to division. We explain division as sharing and the children have been practising sharing out different objects. Some children used playdough (e.g. make 8 eggs and share them between 4 nests) and wrote the corresponding number sentence on a whiteboard. Other children shared out cubes between different numbers of children. Word problems such as 'share 30 pencils between 10 children' were also acted out with real objects. The practical approach is extremely important when introducing new concepts and the children enjoyed this experience.

### Other lessons and activities

- Topic lessons have been greatly enhanced by two trips over the last couple of weeks. We have been very impressed with the children's impeccable behaviour on both trips and how beautifully they represented Town Close. The trip to Gressenhall involved getting involved in the washhouse by getting water from the pump and heating it on the copper. The children used a wooden 'dolly' to agitate the clothes and smelt carbolic soap. Finally, they squeezed out the water with a mangle. The children were also able to play with a variety of Victorian toys, clean a wooden table with salt and scrubbing brushes and make drop scones. Some children also rode tractors and saw some animals. In addition, they visited the museum, schoolroom and village stores. The children also enjoyed running around in the fantastic adventure playground. The children also enjoyed visiting the castle and gained a lot from the walk either to or from the castle. On the way, Mr Fereday gave an informative tour, stopping to teach us about the history of the old hospital, the city walls and the Forum. At the castle, the children were very interested in the variety of dolls houses and learned so much from handling real objects from the 1940s and 1960s. At the end they were asked whether they would prefer to live in the 1940s, 1960s or present day. In your child's bookbag you will find a complimentary ticket to both Gressenhall and The Castle.
- Computing: The children have continued to use Word to create a poster for their history topic, revising and consolidating skills learned previously, such as inserting a border, changing the size and style of font and inserting pictures.
- Games: We enjoyed welcoming the children's friends and family at their sports afternoon this week. It was a fabulous event and we were so proud of all the children for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm.

### Over the weekend your child might like to:

- Create a poster about bananas! Reception gave an informative assembly all about their banana project and reminded us about the blog they are keeping: <https://thebananaprojectblog.wordpress.com/> They are running a competition to create the best poster about either the banana project in school or bananas in general. Please use the poster sheet provided in your child's book bag and hand it in (with full name and class) to Mrs Laing.
- Complete the handwriting and spelling homework provided by your child's literacy teacher.
- Try these division questions at home using practical apparatus:
  1. Share 30 pieces of pasta between 10 people.
  2. Share 10 flowers between 2 vases
  3. Share 9 biscuits between 3 hungry mouths!
  4. Can you think of your own sharing questions?

### Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00am:** Year 1 concert in the Read Hall

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June:** Royal Norfolk Show – School closed

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Moving up morning

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – 4.00pm: End of Term – No After School Care**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September:** 'An introduction to Year 2' information evening for parents at 6pm in the Pre Prep 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*