



Ashton Under Hill First School Hawthorn Class Spring 1, 2020



Welcome back!



We hope you've had a lovely holiday and thoroughly enjoyed the festive break. Our topic this half term is "**Oceans and Islands**", and the children will start by learning about the earth's five oceans and seven continents. They will learn to use world maps, atlases and globes to find different locations, as well as a compass to identify north, south, east and west. They will then start finding out about islands and be able to their identify key features. In addition to developing their geography skills, the children will create a map of the world

display in the classroom. We have already talked with them to find out what things in particular they would like to know more about, and their ideas will be combined with ours to provide an exciting range of lessons and activities for this half term.

Parents' Evenings will be held on the 3rd and 4th March and we're looking forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do come in and speak to us, preferably at the end of the day when we usually have more time available.

Mrs Emond and Miss Miller

Healthy Eating and Water

Fruit for morning snack time is provided for all children in Reception and Key Stage 1, however you may send an alternative snack into school if you prefer. As we are a healthy school, please do not send in crisps, sweets or chocolates for morning snack time.

Please also ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school each day – clearly named and only containing water. Thank you.



PE kit

This term, Hawthorn class will have PE lessons every **Wednesday** afternoon and it is essential that pupils have a complete PE kit in school. Please can you make sure that every item of their kit is **labelled**. When the weather gets cold your child will need warm jogging bottoms for outdoor P.E. lessons.



Our class will have **swimming lessons every Thursday** from 9th January to 13th February.

Forest School for Year 1s

This term, Forest School will be on **Wednesday** mornings unless otherwise advised.

Homework – Essential Skills

This term, we will continue to work through our spelling scheme. Every child will be reassessed and given appropriate spelling patterns for English homework. The children will also practise spellings in school. Spelling tests will be carried out every Monday, and we'd be grateful if you could encourage your child to learn their words each week. English homework books will be sent home every **Tuesday**, and it is important that they are brought back in the following **Monday**, so we can check that homework has been completed and stick in the next set of words. Year 2 children will start to receive times tables homework this term, handed out on **Friday** to be returned by **Thursday**.



Equipment and toys

The children are provided with everything that they need for each lesson. With this in mind, please can we ask that they do not bring personal pencil cases/rubbers or any toys etc into school as this can often be an area for squabbling and upset if things go missing. Many thanks for your support.

HELP NEEDED!

If you can spare a little time to come in and listen to readers or practise maths skills with the children, please let us know. We are always looking for volunteers.

“How can I help my child to do well at school?”

Maths

The maths curriculum is extremely broad, but here are a few key areas in which you can support your child:

Written calculation methods

In Year 1/2, the children develop their understanding of all 4 operations, using different apparatus and representations to consolidate their learning. They will find that, while addition and multiplication can be done in any order, subtraction and division cannot.

Mental maths and times tables

Mental maths is a lifelong skill and we encourage you to help your child practise as often as possible – providing them with real-life opportunities for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. All the children will be working on numbers up to 100. Year 1s will count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10, and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20. Year 2s will derive and use addition and subtraction facts up to 100, and work on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Fractions

Children frequently find this aspect of maths hard to understand, even though we often talk about halves and quarters in everyday life. You can help by sharing with them your knowledge of the following fractions: $1/2$, $1/3$, $1/4$, $2/4$, $3/4$. Also by encouraging them to make the link with division eg to find a half of something, divide by 2.

Most children find fractions of shapes straightforward, but finding fractions of quantities is more of a challenge. Try exploring this when sharing out items at home, helping them to understand that fractions are equal parts of a whole, even if that whole is an amount rather than a shape.

Measurement

The children will discover more about length, height, weight/mass, volume/capacity and use a wider range of related vocabulary. They will also start to use different coins to make a particular value, and recognise and use the symbols £ and p.

Time

Pupils will develop their time-telling skills. They will learn to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour in Year 1, extending to quarter past and to the hour in Year 2. Finally, they will need to know time-related facts like the days of the week, number of minutes in an hour and hours in a day.

Geometry

They will explore 2D and 3D shapes, identifying and describing their properties in more detail. They will also use mathematical vocabulary to describe position and direction (quarter turn, half turn, clockwise etc).

General

The children will also develop their reasoning and problem solving skills.

There are many practical, everyday opportunities which will enable you to support your child's learning. Please ask if you would like any help with this.

Writing



Here, the focus is on spellings, punctuation and grammar, otherwise known as SPaG! The children will learn to:

- segment spoken words and write them down, spelling many correctly
- know the meaning of and use some common prefixes and suffixes
- distinguish between common homophones (eg to/too/two)
- apply spelling rules and guidance
- use a wider range of punctuation, such as the apostrophe for omission (I'm, don't, we'll) and possession (Bill's, Ann's)
- develop a positive attitude towards and stamina for writing
- plan, edit and read aloud their writing
- write and punctuate sentences with different forms (statement, question, exclamation, command)
- use past and present tense
- use and understand the grammatical terminology they are introduced to
- develop their handwriting

You can help by making sure your child learns their spellings every week. Also, by looking out for examples of these spellings and punctuation in the books they read and the world around them.



Reading

Reading is very important to us here at Ashton First School. We are keen for our pupils to make the progress that is appropriate to their age and ability. Studies show that children make the best progress when listened to regularly at school AND at home and we hope you will make every opportunity to read with your child. We are still using the VIPERS method to help us concentrate on learning in different areas. Please continue to use this and if you have asked your child a vocabulary question for example write a V next to any notes, comments or questions in their reading record book.

Little and often is generally the best method - we want them to enjoy reading not to see it as a chore and turn them off reading for life! Many thanks.