

Birkrigg – Autumn 2

Welcome back to school and a new half term.

Our topic this half term is **Colour**.

Literacy

The children are enjoying our daily Phonics session learning the letter sounds, how to blend them to read words and how to write their letters correctly. In addition, we have started reading practice sessions with the children in small groups. To start with, some of these books are wordless where we talk about the pictures and play I-Spy to practise initial sound recognition. As a class, we will be reading several stories related to colour including 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?' 'Elmer the Elephant', 'The Princess and the Wizard' and 'The Mixed-Up Chameleon'. We will also read some poems. We will practise our writing with activities linked to these stories.

Maths

We are going to be doing lots of activities relating to numbers to 5 to gain a deep understanding of them, including their composition, for example, 3 can be composed of 1 and 1 and 1 or 2 and 1, and so on. We are also going to look at shapes, firstly circles and triangles, then later in the term, shapes with 4 sides.

Understanding the World

To begin our half term, we are going to find out about the Hindu festival of Diwali and where and how it is celebrated. Other dates on the calendar that we will look at are bonfire night, Remembrance Day and Advent as we prepare for Christmas.

We are going to continue thinking about Autumn and seasonal changes and talk about hibernation. We will also think about nocturnal animals. Linked to our topic of colours, we will find out all about camouflage, what animals use camouflage and why.

RE

Our topic this half term is 'Christmas'. We will explore the nativity story and for Christians, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus.

PSE

Through links to some of the stories we read in Literacy, we will think about what makes us the same and what makes us special and unique, thinking about respecting ourselves and others. We will continue to work on following instructions and working together to make things.

Music

This half term the unit is called 'My Stories'.

Expressive Arts and Design

There are still opportunities daily for the children to explore drawing and painting independently. Together we are going to explore colour mixing and incorporating shapes in our artwork, looking at paintings by the artist Kandinsky. We will also have art and design projects linked to different celebrations at this time of year – Diwali, bonfire night and of course, Christmas! The children will get a chance to model with clay and with salt dough.

Computing

The children enjoy using the 'mini mash' section of Purple Mash and we will continue to provide opportunities in the classroom to have a go at the paint projects on mini mash linked to our topic. We have set up folders, called 'trays' on mini mash so this half term the children will be reminded how to save their work into these trays before they exit the site so that they can open their work another time and look at their creations again. We also encourage children to use '2 Handwrite' to practise their letter formation and the Phonics activities in the reading and writing area on the home screen.

PE

We will continue to have two hall times on a Monday, and Thursday. This half term we have a gymnastics unit and a games unit involving bean bags and balls.

As last half term, weather permitting, we also hope to use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and get out onto the school field weekly.

Please can you ensure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school. A pair of wellies would also be particularly useful for wet weather.

We will continue to change reading books twice a week. The children will bring their new books home on a Tuesday and a Friday. Please comment in your child's reading journal if you have heard your child read.

Many of you have already activated your Tapestry account. Tapestry is an online journal where we record some of the activities the children do in school using photographs.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to come and speak to one of us.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson