

Birkrigg – Summer 1

Welcome to a new half term. Our topic this half term is '**Where we live**'. This half term Mrs Jessop will continue to be the class teacher on a Monday and Tuesday for this half term and Miss Turner will be teaching on a Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday.

Literacy

Phonics continues to be taught first thing in the morning with Year 1 and Reception being taught separately. Reading books will still be changed on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** for both Reception and Year 1 children. When you hear your child read, please comment in their reading record as it really helps us. Reading books more than once improves the children's fluency and if there any questions in the back of their reading book, asking these will aid your child's comprehension.

Our Literacy lessons this half term will link with our Geography topic, Where We Live. We will begin by using 'Martha Maps it Out' by Leigh Hodgkinson as a stimulus for non-fiction writing about where we live, leading to an information poster about Ulverston. We will then look at 'Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain' by Verna Aardema which is a story set in Kenya. We will describe the story setting of the Kenyan landscape and finally retell the story from the character's point of view. Reception will continue to practise using the sounds that they have learned to write simple phrases and sentences linked to our Literacy lesson.

Maths

Like with Phonics, Maths continues to be taught separately to Reception and Year 1. Reception children will extend their number work to 20, building numbers to 20 and practising verbal counting beyond 20. They will also use 'first, then and now' number stories to answer the question 'how many now?' Finally they will complete a shape unit to end the half term.

The Year 1 children will take a first look at simple multiplication and division. Firstly, they will learn to count in 2s, 5s and 10s before moving onto recognising equal groups, making arrays, and making equal groups by grouping and sharing. Following this unit, they will be introduced to fractions, recognising and finding both a half and a quarter of a shape or quantity.

Science

Our topic is plants. We plan to make observations of plants on our school field, grow lots of plants in the classroom and investigate what a bean needs to grow. The children will find out about the parts of a plant and will begin to identify and name some of our common garden plants.

Geography/History

Our focus for this half term is Geography and we will be learning about our local area. We will begin by reviewing all our learning from the previous terms, thinking about our town, country and continent before looking at the human and physical features of Ulverston. We will then compare Ulverston with a contrasting part of the world, Kenya.

RE

Our topic is Creation; the children will have the opportunity to be creative and make things using construction or art and craft resources. We will think about how proud we are when we have created something. We will then explore the natural world and the awe and wonder we often feel

when we see things. We will think about ways that humans can look after the world and how it can be spoiled by pollution, litter etc.

We will look at the Creation stories from different faiths including Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism.

PSE

Our topic is 'Physical health and mental wellbeing'. We are going to think about what it means to be healthy and why it is important, and how we can take care of ourselves on a daily basis.

Music

Our unit this half term is Your Imagination.

Design and Technology

Both Year 1 and Reception children will complete a cooking and nutrition unit this half term. Year 1 children will work in small groups to design and make their own fruit smoothie. Reception children will design and make a fruity kebab.

Computing

Our Purple Mash topic for this half term is Animated Stories. We will learn how to create an e-book with animation and sounds using the 2Create a Story app.

PE

We have two PE times, **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. On Tuesday we will be learning some traditional Folk dances and making the most of any sunny weather on the field. On Thursdays the children will be taking part in a multi skills games unit.

On PE days it is helpful if long hair is tied back, and earrings are removed or covered.

Weather permitting, Reception children will be able to use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and the whole class will get out onto the school field when we can.

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

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

Miss Turner and Mrs Jessop