

Birkrigg – Autumn 2

Welcome to a new half term. Our topic this half term is **The Great Fire of London**.

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.

All children take part in group reading sessions with a member of staff two or three times weekly. Sessions include decoding text in a new book, prosody and reading comprehension. In Literacy lessons, we will be using the *Pathways to Write* approach with our key text *Meesha Makes Friends* by Tom Percival. Year 1 children will be working hard to compose a sentence orally before writing it. By the end of the unit they will be able to write a diary entry. Reception children will be given lots of opportunities to write using their phonic knowledge to date.

Maths

Like with Phonics, Maths continues to be taught separately to Reception and Year 1. Reception children 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.

Our Year 1 Maths block is all about addition and subtraction (within 10). Towards the end of the half term we will also complete a shape unit, recognising, naming and sorting both 2-D and 3-D shapes.

Science

We are going to finish our 'Everyday Materials' by drawing conclusions from the scientific investigation about how waterproof materials are that we started before half term. We will also sort materials and objects based on their simple properties. As autumn continues and winter approaches, we will focus again on seasonal changes, in particular how animals deal with colder conditions and how day length changes.

Geography/History

We will find out all about the Great Fire of London. To begin with this will include finding out about London as our capital city now and comparing it to the London of 400 years ago. Afterwards we will move onto the story of the fire and learn about Samuel Pepys and the diary he wrote.

RE

Our topic is, Why is it important to give gifts. We will begin by thinking about why we give gifts to others. We will think about how the children feel when they give or receive a gift and think of gifts that money can't buy such as our time or kindness. We will then look at gifts in the Christmas story and how Christians view the birth of Jesus as a gift.

PSHE

Our topic continues to be 'Relationships'. We will use the book 'Silly Billy' to think about times when we might feel worried and discuss what we can do about it. We will talk about kind and unkind behaviour, and what respect means.

Music

Our unit is Rhythm in the way we walk and Banana Rap.

Art and Design

This half term has a design and technology focus. We will be looking at fire engines and designing and making our own fire engine. In addition, Year 1 will explore and use mechanisms – wheels and axles.

Computing

We will continue to explore Purple Mash while considering internet safety. We will look at grouping and sorting information and learn about pictograms.

PE

We have two PE times, Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesday we will be taking part in topic linked dance units. On Thursdays we will start a gymnastics unit called 'Jumping Jacks' where children will learn different types of jump and how to land safely when jumping off low apparatus.

Your child's PE kit is in school on their peg. On PE days it is helpful if long hair is tied back and jewellery (including earrings) removed.

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