

## **Birkrigg** – Summer 1

Welcome back to a new half term and we hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. Our topic this half term is **Pirates** and at the end of the half term we will have a Pirates day when the children can come to school dressed as pirates! More information will be given out about this later in the half term. There is no need to buy any pirate fancy dress costumes as we can make accessories in school and children can wear things they may already have at home – shorts, stripy T-shirt, etc.

### **Literacy**

We continue to teach Phonics daily and the children seem to be enjoying the challenge of reading longer words. We will continue to change home reading books twice a week. The children will bring their new books home on a Monday and a Thursday. Please comment in your child's reading journal if you have heard your child read. Rereading a reading book will improve your child's fluency and confidence. Many of the children's reading books now contain tricky words. These are words that are not decodable and the children are learning to read them by sight. On a Tuesday the children can choose a book from our school library for an adult to read to them. They can keep this book for a week.

The texts we will use this half term include 'The Pirates Are Coming', 'The Night Pirates', 'The Pirates Next Door' and 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Breakfast'. Lots of opportunities are provided to talk about these stories, making predictions and asking questions. We will describe pirates and create a character profile, describe treasure, write a message in a bottle and a letter among other writing activities. The children are beginning to be able to write sentences, and we are working on using a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, a full stop at the end and finger spaces in between words.

### **Maths**

We are going to be building numbers and counting patterns beyond 10. We will also start adding more to a number and taking away. We use different resources so children can physically move objects to understand this number work, such as ten frames and number shapes. We will look again at 2-D shapes and how they can be rotated or combined to make new shapes. We will get out lots of jigsaws to begin with before moving on to tangram activities.

### **Understanding the World**

In our science work we are going to investigate shadows and how they are formed (there are references to shadows in one of our Pirate story books). Hopefully we will get some sunny days so we can explore shadows outside! Linked to pirates we will explore materials by sorting treasure items according to their properties and investigating which materials float, and which sink.

We will find out what pirates are and what they did as well as learning about some famous pirates in history.

In Geography we will talk about what an island is and how pirates might have found their way around the seas and oceans. We will look at world maps and globes to find where the oceans are and name some of them. We will learn the 4 basic compass directions and how a compass is useful to navigate with. We will of course be making our own treasure map!

## **RE**

This half term we will think about what makes a place special. The children can talk about special places that they like to go to and how they feel when they are there. We will explore some of the natural wonders in the world and why they are so special for people. We will then talk about Bible stories that feature special places such as Moses and the Burning Bush. We will also look at places of worship for different faiths.

## **PSED**

We are going to think about keeping healthy in terms of eating healthily and how we can look after our teeth. We will find out what pirate food was like and maybe try out a pirate recipe or two!

## **Music**

This half term the unit is called 'Big Bear Funk' and the children will learn to sing a melody and accompany with percussion instruments.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Linked to our Pirates topic, we will draw pirates, listen to sea shanties, and make our own antique pirate treasure map.

## **Computing**

There will be new activities on Mini-Mash linked to Pirates. Children will have more opportunities to write using the writing templates.

## **PE**

We continue to have two hall times for PE. This half term, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons although as the weather improves, some lessons can be taught outside on the playground. On Tuesday afternoons we will have HP activities in working with the children on a ball skills unit involving rolling, throwing and dribbling. On a Thursday we will start a games unit where the children will develop their fundamental movement skills through games, and start to learn how to score and abide by the rules.

As usual when the weather allows, we will use the bikes and scooters on the school playground and visit the field where possible.

If you have any further questions, please ask.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson

