

Birkrigg – Summer 2

Welcome back to a new half term. Our topic this half term is Holidays and what a great way to start a half term by having our trip to Grizedale with Hoad class as well as a minibests morning at Ford Park.

Literacy

We continue to teach Phonics daily and will cover the final part of the Reception Phase 4 Phonics. The children will still read three times weekly in a small group using the Phonics scheme reading books. We will carry on changing home reading books twice a week 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. Mrs Rigg will continue to change school library books on a Tuesday, and the children can keep them for a week, bringing them back to school the following Tuesday. These are books for you to read to your child.

The texts we will use this half term include 'Room on the Broom', 'What the Ladybird heard on Holiday', 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane'. Lots of opportunities are provided to talk about these stories, make predictions and ask questions. We will look at words to describe places and write postcards, among other writing activities.

Maths

As well as consolidating our key number skills, we are going to extend our knowledge of doubling numbers, sharing and grouping, and recognising odd and even numbers. We will also work on some spatial reasoning activities such as following simple maps of obstacle courses and looking at photographs of familiar things that have been taken from unusual viewpoints.

Understanding the World

In our science work we are going to find out all about minibests beginning with our morning at Ford Park. Later in the half term we will focus on ladybirds and snails in particular. We will think about seasonal changes as Spring turns into Summer. We are also going to find out about some of the animals that live in Australia.

In History, we will compare seaside holidays past and present and in Geography we will talk about what a holiday is – both being at home during a school holiday and going away somewhere on holiday. We will find out about London ('What the ladybird heard on holiday') and locate some of the cities and countries that are visited in two of our other stories 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' and 'A Ticket around the World' and discover how they are the same or different to where we live.

RE

This half term, we are thinking about what makes a good friend. This includes how we make friends and how we treat other people. We will then think about Jesus and how he had a special group of friends in his disciples.

PSE

We are going to continue to think about keeping healthy in terms of eating healthily and we will make some fun healthy snacks. We will also talk about other ways to stay happy and healthy including taking exercise and wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. We explore how we can stay safe in the sun, and we will start to think about the transition from Reception into Year 1.

Music

This half term the unit is called 'Reflect, Rewind and Replay'.

Expressive Arts and Design

We are hoping to explore and create various arts and crafts relating to ladybirds and snails. We will make and decorate our own paper aeroplanes – and of course have a go at flying them!

Computing

There will be new activities on Mini-Mash linked to the seaside and summer. Children will have more opportunities to write using the writing templates for instance writing a list and a postcard.

PE

The children will continue to have PE twice a week with a focus on ball skills and playing games.

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

Please remember to send your child with a coat, particularly if the weather is cool or looks showery, as we do go outside at playtimes when it is raining.

If you have any further questions, please ask.

Miss Turner and Mrs Edmondson