

Alphington Primary School

Year 1

Term - Autumn 2013

Topics: 'What's special about you?' and 'Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?'

Teaching and Learning in Year 1

In Year 1 we wish to continue to use some of the elements of the fantastic Foundation Stage practice, such as learning through play and incorporating aspects of continuous provision. Children will have opportunities to work within a whole class group, small guided groups, individually with a grown up and will also be expected to work independently on some tasks. To inspire and excite our learners in the Autumn term we will begin our topic of 'What's special about you?' with a clue trail about a story that will also help the children find their way around their new classroom. We will aim to encourage the children's imagination and curiosity throughout the topic.

Literacy

Narrative - the children will be learning to tell stories orally using story maps and drama and then will retell part of a story in writing. In the second half of term, our literacy will be focused on traditional tales and will work towards our Christmas production.

Non-fiction - every Monday the children will write in their 'News' books about what they have been doing at the weekend. We will also be writing labels and captions in science.

ICT - In the first half of the Autumn Term the children will be working with the Beebots to learn some basic programming skills. After half term, our ICT will be linked with our literacy as we produce some animation for the Christmas production!



How you can help your child's learning?

Please read with your child daily and discuss the book after they have read it to develop their comprehension skills. It would also be great if you could read to your child. After half term we will be looking at traditional tales (fairy tales) so it would be great if you could read some with your child in preparation for this.

It would be really helpful if at bedtime on Sunday or on the way to school on a Monday, you could discuss what they did at the weekend so that they have something to write in their 'News' book!

Maths

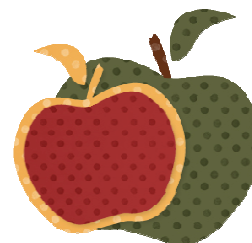
We will be developing the children's knowledge, skills and confidence in these areas of learning over the term :

- counting, partitioning and calculating
- securing number facts and understanding shape
- handling data and measures
- calculating, measuring and understanding shape
- securing number facts, relationships and calculating

We will encourage the children to use and apply these maths skills in a range of practical settings both in groups and independently.

How you can help your child's learning?

Practical application of skills is very important. Your child would benefit from opportunities to use their maths skills. For example, counting apples into a bag when you are shopping and helping to find the correct money to pay for small items.



Science - Our investigative focus this term is 'obtaining and presenting evidence'. We will be applying this skill to learn about materials in relation to our topic. For example which material would be best for a superhero costume?

How you can help your child's learning?

Encourage your child's questioning about things that interest them - how things work and why. Encourage your child to plan a way to find an answer to their questions and test out their ideas. For example, what would be the best material to make a cape for their favourite toy? How would they keep their toy dry in the rain?



We will also have an ongoing project to follow the seasonal changes that take place through the year. An area of the classroom has been set aside to display pictures and objects related to seasonal change - such as seed pods in autumn. If you find interesting natural things when you are out and about with the children please feel free to bring them in to form part of our display.

PSHE - New Beginnings

This theme focuses on developing knowledge, understanding and skills in four key aspects of social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, self-awareness, social skills and motivation. The theme offers the children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals within a community, and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all as they enter Year 1. We will explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, while learning (and putting into practice) shared models for 'calming down' and 'problem solving'. This will be linked with our superheroes theme as the children explore and express what is special about them.

We will develop a class 'superhero code' with rules for the classroom which we will share with you.

Art and design technology - this term we will be focusing on these areas and skills:



- developing, planning and communicating ideas
- working with tools, equipment, materials and components
- evaluating processes and products

Use textiles/collage - the children will use a variety of materials, tested in science, to design a costume for a superhero. They will learn how to use basic shapes to draw a superhero and then will produce a collage of themselves as a superhero to express what is special about them.

How you can help your child's learning?

Encourage your child to explore different materials at home. What are things made from? How is that material suited to the job it is doing? Your child could use their collage skills to experiment with colour and shape using pictures from old magazines. Look for shapes in the environment and encourage your child to name them.

On a Wednesday afternoon Dr Strugnell, Miss Lambert and Miss Brown have their planning, assessing and resourcing time. During this time **Games and RE** will be taught by Mrs Long (1B) and Mrs Hale (1SL).

RE the children over the year will focus on:

- identifying aspects of their own lives in relation to their own families and communities
- respond to stories and pictures which may cause people to wonder or question
- identify what is a value and concern to themselves and give a reason
- recall elements of stories, which include some religious beliefs and ideas
- recognise selected features of religions including symbols as forms of religious expression

These skills will be linked to the topic where possible.

PE - Over the year the children will be participating in daily physical activity and programs of study in dance, gymnastics, games, athletics and swimming. We will focus on developing children's fine and gross motor skills, co-ordination, team work and knowledge and understanding of fitness and health.

Special Person

Each week, one person from each class will be 'special person'. During the week, they will get to do jobs for the teacher and at the end of the week, the other children will share why that person is special and the special person will get to show and talk about something from home. We will not be having show and tell at any other time. Please discourage your child from bringing things from home into school when it is not their turn to be special person.

Fruit snack

Every morning the children will be offered a fruit snack provided by the school. If your child does not want to take advantage of this and you would prefer to provide a fruit snack yourself, please could you make sure that this is in a container clearly labelled with your child's name. This should be placed in the tray in the classroom at the beginning of the day as the children will not be able to take things out of their lunchboxes until lunchtime.

**Swimming**

If you have spare time on Thursday morning and would like to help with swimming please let us know as we would really appreciate your help.

Swimming will start on the Thursday 12th September. 1SL will swim first at 9.00-10.30 and 1B will swim from 10.45-12.15.

**TA support**

Year 1 children will be supported in their learning this year by Colin Alexander, Debbie Hebborn and Jo Nicholson. All three are really experienced with a wide range of skills that they will be using to enhance your child's journey through Year 1.

We are really looking forward to sharing this year with your children. If you have any queries or concerns please do feel free to talk to us. If you speak to us first thing in the morning we will be happy to arrange a suitable appointment.