

# Alphington Primary School

Year 1

Term - Spring 2014

Topics: 'My Story' and 'Who Built That?'

## 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 Spring term we will begin our topic of 'My Story' with the children bringing in photographs and artefacts from their lives so far and with our 'Memories Day'. The outcome for our topic in the first half term will be our class assemblies on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 3pm (1SL) or Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm (1B).

After half term, our second theme of 'Who Built That?' will start with a trip to West Town Farm on February 25<sup>th</sup> (1B) or February 27<sup>th</sup> (1SL). We will, of course, send you more details nearer the time.

## Literacy

**Recount writing** - the children will be learning to retell events from their own lives by labelling photographs and writing captions for them. We will look at the language that we use to record time passing.

**Phonics** - we will continue with our daily phonics sessions, which include sentence writing.

**Guided Reading** - your child will read in a group with the class teacher once a week. The teacher will record this in the child's reading record as long as this is in school (and as long as the teacher remembers!) Your child may also be receiving additional reading support of which you will already be aware.

**ICT** - In the first half of the Spring Term the children will be practising their keyboard skills - typing labels and captions.

## 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.

To support our work on recount, please talk to your child about things they have done - focusing on getting events in the right order. It would also be lovely if you could share memories of your own childhood with them - with a focus on what has changed (e.g. technology) and what has stayed the same.

## 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. It would be really helpful if you could help your child become confident in recognising the different coins we use in the UK and telling the time when it is the hour and half hour.



**Science** - Our investigative focus this term is 'obtaining and presenting evidence'. We will be applying this skill to learn about ourselves by exploring our senses, our likes and dislikes and how we are the same as and different from other people.

**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. Encourage your child to choose library books about the human body and share these with them.

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. 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 - How are we the same, how are we different?**

Linked to our theme we will be exploring the ways in which we are all the same and the ways in which we are different. Our whole school theme is 'Co-operation' so we will be doing lots of work in pairs and teams. We will also play games that require co-operation to help the children develop these really important life skills.

**Art and design technology**

This term we will be starting with portrait drawing to link with our theme of 'My Story'.

After half term we will be exploring 3D containers using various techniques (clay, weaving and sewing). We will be designing containers inspired by the homes that animals make for themselves. We will be contacting you to ask for help nearer the time!

**How you can help your child's learning?**

Encourage your child to draw and experiment with colour at home. Why not get them to draw a portrait of you using their new skills!

Look out for animal homes (e.g. spiders' webs, holes in the ground, nests etc.) and help your child to observe carefully whilst respecting the creature that lives there.

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**

Swimming will re-start after Easter on Thursdays.

**TA support**

Year 1 children will be supported in their learning this term by Colin Alexander, Debbie Hebborn and Tina Gregory (who is covering Jo Nicholson's maternity leave). They have 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 term 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.