

**Curriculum Newsletter for Bluebell Class – Year 1 Children**

**Half Term 1 2024-25**

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| Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your kind gifts and messages at the end of last year. We are so pleased to be teaching a mixed class again this year and having the opportunity to continue to work with your child and your family for another exciting year.This newsletter should give you an insight into the curriculum areas we will be covering this half term. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to make an appointment through the school office to see us. Kind RegardsMrs Gilhooly and Mrs Fisher  |
| **Maths** **Numbers** In class we will be doing lots of counting to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number. We will be working on reading and writing numbers to 100 in numerals and counting in multiples of twos, fives and tens. We will be finding one more and one less than a given number. **Part-whole within 10**The children will be taught to read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (–) and equals (=) signs**Addition and subtraction**The children will be using a range of different ways to represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20Throughout the maths curriculum the children will be using different models and representations. They will be using practical objects to support the deepening of their understanding and we will be working on their ability to solve problems and apply reasoning strategies, they will be working on answering ‘why’ or ‘how’ an answer was reached.  | **English**This half term we will be looking at books around the themes of kindness and making new friends. We will be retelling these stories, writing to characters in the book, describing characters, predicting what might happen next and changing one part of the story to make our own version. The key focus for our writing in Year 1 this half term is using capital letters and full stops in the right place and re-reading work back to check it makes sense. **Phonics** The children will briefly revise ‘Phase 4’ of our Bug Club Phonic sessions. In these sessions the children will practise reading and spelling CVCC words ('bump', 'nest', 'belt,' 'milk', etc). Practise reading and spelling high frequency words. They will also be applying their phonic knowledge that they have learnt so far to read and write sentences. We will then begin ‘Phase 5’ teaching focusing on new ways to write the sounds the children have already learnt. For example we will revise ‘ai’ as in ‘rain’ but also learn ‘ay’ like ‘play’ and ‘a-e’ as in ‘cake’.  |
| **RE Our topic for this term is: God’s Great Plan** The children will be learning about the story of creation from Genesis and beginning to reflect on its meaning. We will be talking about the beautiful things God has created and reflecting on any wonders we have about our world. We will then we reading the story of Noah and the Flood and thinking about how the rainbow is a sign of hope.  | **PE – In PE this term we will be learning about:**Focusing on basic movement development, as well as discovering/developing a range of travelling methods such as running, crawling, hopping, side-galloping, leaping, jumping and skipping. On a Wednesday the children will have a dedicated dance session. The children will be doing PE led by Mr Gibson. The sessions may be inside our school hall or outside depending on the nature of the lesson and the weather. Our PE days this half term are on a Monday and a Wednesday and we ask that on those days the children come into school dressed in their PE kits. |
| **Curriculum- Our topic this half term is ‘Childhood’****History:** The children will learn words and phrases related to the passage of time. They will explore artefacts to help them to understand childhood in the past and how childhood has changed over time. They will explore the six stages of life and explore timelines and family trees. **Geography:** The children will use maps to explore how places have changed over time and highlight any similarities or differences between childhood today and childhood in the 1950s.We will be devising our own maps of our school grounds, looking at aerial photographs of the local area and using symbols and a key to add information to a map. We will be learning about people who work in our locality to help us and keep us safe. **Art and DT:** We will be exploring different colours, mixing colours and talking about how different colours make us feel. **Science: Animals** The children will be learning that animals have offspring which grow into adults. They will be looking at how in some animals, their offspring will be young, such as kittens, that grow into adults. In other animals, such as chickens or insects, there may be eggs laid that hatch to young or other stages which then grow to adults. They will also identify the young of some animals do not look like their parents e.g. tadpoles. We will also be identifying animals by their key features. They will know animals vary in many ways having different structures e.g. wings, tails and ears, and how some also have different skin coverings e.g. scales, feathers, hair. They will recognise, all animals have basic needs of feeding, drinking and breathing that must be satisfied in order to survive. |
| **Homework and Spelling**In addition to the work set from school to help your child at home, you could:* Read the school reading book every day.
* Read a selection of other books and stories to your child or listen to an audio book together.
* Playing games such as snakes and ladders, bingo and other board games that involve number.
* Talk to the children about what day of the week/month of the year it is and what season we are in. Have a go at learning to spell the days of the week and months of the year.

Many thanksMrs C Gilhooly and Mrs S Fisher  | **General information** Outdoor clothing Due to the nature of our wonderful classroom environment we will continue to use our outdoor space for a range of learning opportunities. The children will always have the option of going outside so it is important that they have the appropriate attire. Every child should have a warm outdoor coat and a pair of wellies that can be left in school. When the weather becomes colder, children should also have a hat, scarf and some warm gloves.Rewards in the classroom – We have many rewards set up in our classroom and we always aim to motivate the children through positivity and praise. We talk lots about being a ‘bucket filler’ and talk about how we can make someone feel happy by doing kind things ‘and filling their bucket’. Alongside this we talk about how ‘we can take from someone’s bucket’ by our actions. Just like last year, the children in class all have their own little bucket, when we notice the children trying hard, sharing, turn taking, listening carefully or giving something new a try we will put a magic gem in their bucket. The children will then come home with a sticker after they have achieved 10 stones.We will also continue to choose a **‘star of the day’.** This child will get to be the front of the line, take the register and do other very special jobs. Bluebell Bear is back in class and excited to go home with the star of the day every Friday and spend time with you and your family every weekend.   |