



# Fishbourne C E Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Spring Term in Koals Class! We are certainly going to be busy this term. This newsletter gives you a little insight into our learning over the coming weeks.

## The Tin Forest

### Weeks 1-2

The text *The Tin Forest* will be our hook into Science and materials. "There was once a wide, windswept place, near nowhere and close to forgotten that was filled with all the things that no one wanted." So begins Helen Ward's tale of the Tin Forest where an old man lives who tidies the rubbish and dreams of a better place. With faith, ingenuity and hard work, he transforms a junkyard into a wonderland in this poetic modern fable.

We will use this text to open up lots of discussion on different materials, the importance of recycling and caring for our planet. We will explore the useful properties of materials with a range of investigations involving absorbency and flexibility. We will discover which type of kitchen towel or cloth is most effective at mopping up spills; considering why building materials must be absorbent and which ones fit the bill. We will create artwork by exploring the textures of materials and learn all about wax and how to re-mould it. Our end goal will be to work scientifically and apply our knowledge by building a structure with specific challenging criteria!

## Dinosaurs!

### Weeks 3-6

We will be welcoming historians into class who will bring to life prehistoric history! We take the children back millions of years to discover the wonder of the dinosaurs. The children will become part of a paleontological excavation site, locating and identifying replica fossils from some of the most iconic dinosaurs of the past. They will encounter a Tyrannosaurus Rex, Stegosaurus, Triceratops and a few other surprises! Learning about the lives of significant individuals is an important element of the children's historical

understanding. We will learn about Mary Anning, one of the most famous palaeontologists of all time! We will research the main fossil-hunting areas of the UK creating lots of opportunities to develop our geography skills in context. We will challenge the children to demonstrate their understanding by improvising a play about key events in her life. Our end goal will be to write information pages, create artefacts and run a museum shop which will form a REAL exhibit. The children would like to invite you to this exciting event on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2:15pm.** On this day we would also like them to dress as a palaeontologist!

**Half Term - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

**Mini Grey - Toys in Space, Space Dog! An author study.**

**Weeks 7-9**

After Traction Man being such a hit with the Koala's in the Autumn term, I have planned for us to study more of her super work! This time they will have a space theme. We will use these books to compare characters and use the books to create an end goal of writing our own narratives. We will then explore the theme of space further by looking at other significant historical figures, Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong. There will be further opportunities to then write non-fiction pieces all about Space explorers. We will be hooking the children in by starting this learning experience at the Chichester Planetarium on **Tuesday 26 February 2019.** We will travel by train and would be keen for parent helpers.

**The Circus Comes to Town!**

This DT led learning experience will finish with the children creating a moving model to ensure the clown gets to the circus on time! They will identify the main parts of a moving vehicle, design and make their own moving vehicle, test it and finally evaluate their design. We will be using the wordless text 'Clown' by Quentin Blake to inspire us to write the narrative. As part of our PE we will be learning some circus skills ready to perform a short circus show on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2:30pm.**

**Grammar and Spelling**

New areas of grammar will included commas in lists and the use of possessive apostrophes! It would be great to point these out as your child reads or if they notice these in print elsewhere. We will be exploring word endings which we refer to as suffixes. For example, small - smaller- smallest.

**Maths Learning**

We start the Spring term with a block on Division and Multiplication which the children have already completed ground work on last term. Here we explore grouping, sharing, odd and even numbers and division by 5 and 10.

Each day we will continue to have a Maths meeting where we work on our fluency of number facts to 12 so that we can recall these quickly. You may have heard your child talk about the Magic of 7 or 8,9 etc. This is where we find as many different ways of making this number using addition and subtraction facts within 12. Within these meetings we also

work on other concepts including time, shape and space. As the Spring term continues we will be covering statistics and fractions.

If you are able to spend some time talking to your child about telling the time, this would be really helpful. It is a very tricky concept for the children to grasp. They need to be able to tell the time to O'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. If this is mastered, the children then need to be able to count in 5 minute intervals, being able to tell you how many minutes to/past the hour it is

### Home Learning

Thank you for all your support with your child's home learning. I have changed the format of spellings to now include recap spellings, our focused spelling pattern and a challenge. It is vital that the children record the focused spellings in a sentence, ideally using the conjunctions in **some** of their sentences as they have been taught. They may also like to explore the punctuation taught so far. This includes full stops, question marks, exclamation marks and coming soon, commas in lists!

Here is an example:

Recap Common Exception Words	Focus spelling pattern	Challenge
<p><b>Test yourself!</b></p> <p>door, floor, poor</p> <p>gold, cold, told</p>	<p>ing</p> <p><b>Write these words within a sentence:</b></p> <p>helping saying meeting walking</p>	<p>List as many 'ing' words as you can find in different books you are reading.</p>

I like helping my family to wash the car so that it is bright and shiny!

Walking helps you to keep fit and healthy.

My favourite activities are swimming, running and walking.

Conjunctions include: co-ordination (or / and / but) and subordination (when / if / that / because)

**Times Tables** will now be sent home to complement our work in school on multiplication and division. We are using these all the time in class, but challenging your child to recall some, or quick fire games in the car or as you walk to school would be helpful. We will focus on 2,5,10 and 3 multiplication and division facts.

## **Reflecting**

Thank you for your wonderful reflective comments in your child's learning journals. The children have loved showing us what you have thought about their learning. **We truly value your comments and they are a very clear message to the children that learning is a partnership.** Thank you!

## **Reading**

We will continue to use a whole class reading approach, based on teaching the children to decode, retrieve, explain and infer in mixed ability pairs. We are finding that this is challenging the children and they are really enjoying it. You will see this reading in your child's journal when it comes home at the end of the learning experience.

In addition we will continue to have a guided reading afternoon once a week where children read a group text aimed at their reading level or just above to develop wider skills. This is recorded in your child's reading diary.

We then allow time to hear children read on a 1:1 basis if this is needed in addition to the other opportunities to read in class. We encourage the children to change their home reading books as and when they need to, ideally first thing in the morning. We will also visit the library each Friday to change library books. We are so fortunate to have this super space and such a wonderful collection to choose from! Reading really is the gateway to success in all areas of education so please do enjoy reading the books we have on offer with your child.

## **PSHE**

We will continue to explore our very important learning behaviours with a focus on reflection this term. This is because the children will soon be meeting with me to construct their school reports having reflected on their learning so far.

## **An open door**

If you have any questions, comments or concerns at any time, please do pop in or email [koalaclass@fishbourneprimary.co.uk](mailto:koalaclass@fishbourneprimary.co.uk) This email can also be used to send any home learning if you wish. Please remember that all our gorgeous films of our learning are sent via this address. If you haven't used this email, we won't have your address!

With best wishes

Catherine Williams

Louisa Raby

Cathy Huxtable and Margaret Carter