

Fishbourne C E Primary School



Roman Way Fishbourne
Chichester W Sussex PO19 3QS
Telephone: 01243 785974 Fax: 01243 530676
Email: office@fishbourneprimary.co.uk
www.fishbourneprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs N Day MA (Ed)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas holidays enjoying some much deserved family time. I am so looking forward to an exciting start to the Spring Term. Tiger Class have worked so hard over the last term by working together and developing their understanding of how to tackle new challenges which has resulted in them becoming more independent and confident in their learning.

Learning Experiences

During this term, we will be covering different Learning Experiences which will encourage the children to develop their interest in our wider curriculum aims: from how we digest food to learning about the habitat in rainforests. Following is a little insight into what each learning experience will be about, I haven't gone into too much detail so as not spoil the surprise element. As usual all our learning experiences will have a hook and an end goal, together with a series of personalised steps for each learner. We continue to model writing to children as part of our approach and are really pleased to have Rebecca Webb for the University at Chichester working with us on Thursday's.

Disgusting Digestion (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks)

As a science focus, the children will be learning about how humans and animals digest their food which is covered in three main areas. We will be learning about different food chains and how they are affected by humans; different types of teeth and their individual functions and how food travels through the body to be digested. During this Learning Experience, we will carry out a variety of experiments create a simulation of the digestive track to learn how all the different organs work. We will be developing our understanding of writing scientific explanations during this Learning Experience with lots of opportunities to explain how and why!

Mirror Mirror (2 weeks)

Following this, we move onto an exciting learning experience 'Mirror Mirror'. During this time the children will have lots of opportunities to develop their style of writing by drafting, sharing and editing. This will help them to reflect on their learning so far this year and decide what they need to develop next.

Whole School Learning Experience - Internet Safety (1 day)

This will be a focused day exploring internet safety as a school.

A Journey Through Impressionism (1 weeks)

This learning experience will have an art focus where the children will be introduced to Impressionism. We start by discussing art work and then kinaesthetically learn about 6 key features of Impressionism: capturing light; working outside; leaving brush marks; working quickly; not using black paint and using opposite colours. Tigers will be studying various artists through this period to time to understand how Impressionism developed.

The Lungs of the Earth (2 weeks)

For a geography focus, Tigers will be exploring life in a rainforest. This will involve an exciting trip to Staunton Park to increase the children's understanding of how rainforests are formed and how they influence the world's climate.

The Explorer (3 weeks)

The class will be studying 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. This is an exciting adventure story about four children whose plane crashes into the Amazon jungle. Tigers will be completing an in depth study of the plot, setting and characters of this narrative using our model writing approach to inspire the children to create an adventure story of their own.

Reading

Our focus this term is to encourage Tigers to develop a love of reading and start to make a preference for the books and authors they enjoy. We have a new area in the classroom for each child to leave their reading book when they come in each morning. At some point during the day, we will be having a 5 to 10 minute opportunity to quietly read their book. I am passionate that each child has a book that they REALLY want to read and share, whether this is a book from the school classroom, library or a book from home. If your child is not enjoying a book, please let them change it the next day. There is no point in encouraging your child to read a book that they don't enjoy.

Please, please, please continue to reading at home and record this in their green Reading Journals! I know once your child become a confident reader it is easy to let this slip but research shows that to keep reading with your child way beyond the age they can read for themselves helps to develop their vocabulary and confidence as a reader. Even a couple of minutes at the end of each day will make all the difference.

An interesting article about the impact of reading for pleasure by the author of How to Train Your Dragon is below:

https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/children-reading-for-pleasure-learning-to-read-a8666611.html?amp%20twitter_impression=true

Finally, **please** make sure that the green Reading Journals are brought to school **every day** to record your child's learning and experience of reading. This was quite inconsistent with some children over the last half term.

Maths

Maths will be taught separately from the learning experience. In Tiger class, we will be continuing with multiplication and division, studying written methods and tackling word problems involving two or more steps. Next we will be covering area in measurement: studying how to calculate, measure and compare different areas. After this Tigers will be learning all about fractions which is a large topic over 4 weeks. Included in this, the class will be learning what is a fraction, equivalent fractions, how to add and subtract fractions, calculating fractions of a quantity and problem solving. For the final part of the spring term the class will be learning about decimals over 3 weeks. This includes recognising tenths and hundredths, dividing 1 and 2 digit by 10, hundredths as decimals and how to divide 1 or 2 digits by 100.

Home Learning

Home Learning Journals will continue to be sent home every week on a Thursday and need to be returned by the following Tuesday. This includes the week's spelling focus and a specific times table for your child to practise. A number of recommended activities and resources will be on a 'take home' sheet for each learning experience.

PE

PE will continue with swimming on a Thursday and netball with Curtis in the afternoon. Year 4 will also participate in the Daily Mile on days when PE is not taking place.

Please do feel free to catch me at the end of each day about any concerns that arise about your child.

Kind Regards
Mrs E Woolnough
Year 4 Teacher