

Mars Class Newsletter October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! Term 2 already! I hope you all enjoyed the half-term break and did lots of fun things!

Term 2 Topic:

This term, we are continuing our whole school learning of 'Britain is Great' with a history focus. Our learning question has now changed to "What if I met Guy Fawkes?" as we explore what the Gunpowder Plot was and why it happened.

In English, we are going to be writing diaries using the book 'The Great Fire of London' by Emma Adams, followed by writing an adventure story based on 'Toby and the Great Fire of London'. We will also be writing a non-chronological report about the Gunpowder Plot, as well as continuing our poetry curriculum by looking at the poems 'The Engine Driver' by Clive Sansom and 'Now I am 6' by A.A Milne.

In Maths we are going to be moving onto Addition and Subtraction of 1 and digit numbers up to 100, as well as the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Please support your child by continuing to work on their Number Bonds and Times Tables at home.

Our Science topic this term is 'Seasonal Changes' as we move from Autumn into Winter. We will be 'working scientifically' as we complete lots of exciting experiments to explore snow and ice, as well as looking at what happens to plants and animals during the colder months.

In Term 2, we rotate from Art to DT. We are focusing on structures - considering their material and purpose - as we use cardboard boxes as a structure to make a model of Pudding Lane. Please make sure your child has brought in a cuboid shaped cardboard box into school by Friday 10th November.

News clues time is a time for the children to share a piece of news or talk about something that they have done at home. We will be asking them to think of three clues that they can give to the rest of the class to spark a discussion about what they are going to share. This term will be the Year 2s so the Year 1 children can get familiar with News Clues, please see the dates below.

Wednesday 1 st November	Bonnie Esmé Caleb
Wednesday 8 th November	Rae Jack Nevaeh
Wednesday 15 th November	Mila Pippa Harry T
Wednesday 22 nd November	Rosa Arabella
Wednesday 29 th November	Reggie Stanley
Wednesday 6 th December	Chester Logan

PE Days

Our PE days will be on **Mondays and Tuesdays**. Miss Steel will teach PE on Mondays and Mr Lumsden will teach PE on Tuesdays. Please send your child to school wearing their PE uniform on these days. Children should wear the green school sports top with the optional hoody, black/dark grey leggings/joggers/shorts and sensible black trainers. **Remember to remove or tape any earrings please.**

Outdoor clothing

We are very lucky to have such a big outdoor area, which we will be using for our learning as much as possible, especially as we support the transition from EYFS to Year 1. Please can you send in a pair of clearly named wellies in a plastic bag to be kept in school, if you haven't already. Your child also needs a waterproof coat with a hood in school **every day**.

Reading Books

Reading books and reading records should be brought to school **DAILY** in a book bag. A member of the class team will read with each child weekly, so it is really important to have a book/diary in school. Children need to place their book in the box at the front of the classroom when it needs to be changed. A reminder that **1 HOME READ and 1 SCHOOL READ** per day can go towards children's reading awards. This must be from a children's school reading book, any reading for pleasure your child does will not count towards their reading awards.

Homework

In Mars class we expect all the children to be doing learning at home each day. This comprises of daily reading and use of the comprehension bookmarks to select a question from to ask your child. TT Rockstars (Y2) / Numbots (Y1) should also be used to practise maths daily.

We are excited to share with you a new approach to the teaching of spelling. We are continuing and building on the key phonics skills taught in Reception and KS1 by applying a 'phonics first' approach to the teaching of spellings. This will support your child's acquisition and retention of the words they need to spell accurately in their writing and words identified and set out within the National Curriculum.

Spelling will be taught through the 'phonics first' approach which means your child will identify the sounds they hear within the word and then identify how those sounds are written/represented. Your child will continue to build their knowledge of the phonic code (the list of the different ways a sound can be represented) to support their independent application of spellings within their daily written work.

Please find below, a list of words that for this term, the children will be celebrating with you at home.

<u>Year 1:</u>	<u>Year 2:</u>
When	Shopping
Whip	Skipping
Phonics	Hopping
Alphabet	Swimming
Play	Laughed
Tray	Jumped
Snake	Jogged
Flake	Rolled
Meat	Because
Seat	People
Theme	Their
Evening	There
Honey	They're
Puppy	Should
Tie	Could
Pie	Would
Slide	
Ride	
Sky	
Cry	
Find	
Kind	
My	
Was	
They	
Said	

You can support your child by reinforcing the 'phonics first' approach at home by breaking down a word into the sounds you can hear before spelling it and drawing dots / dashes under each sound. The letter 'b', 'r', 'k' have a dot each because it's just one letter making one sound. But 'ea' has a dash because it is a digraph - two letters that make one sound together. The word 'break' has four sound buttons in all - and there are four sounds in the word, b-r-ea-k. In this word, 'ea' is making the /ai/ sound like in wait. In class, your child will have learnt that /ai/ can be represented in many ways, including 'ea'.

Please practise the spellings in the list above as regularly as you can. You could;

- Air Spelling

Write words in the air and ask someone to read the words from the pattern in the air.

- Word shape

t o t a l l y

Draw around the shape of the word and try to remember the shape.

- Word painting

Draw the word in chalk and trace it with a wet paintbrush

A B C D E F

or finger.

- Spelling jumps

Jump up and down on a trampoline or skip whilst shouting out the letters to spell a word correctly.

We would love you to share your spelling celebrations with us. Please send in a message or a photo of your child's spelling celebrations via Class Dojo for your child to earn a Responsibility Dojo.

If you would like to learn more about how we are teaching spellings at North Road and how to support your child at home, a Spelling Information Session, where you can try out the types of activities above, will be held on Wednesday 15th November, 3:30 - 4pm. Children will be able to stay in a classroom where play/creative activities will be available. We hope you can join us.

Completing homework is monitored, children who complete their homework will be awarded a Dojo at the end of the week. A reminder that the child with the most Dojo points will receive a prize from the prize box on a Friday afternoon.

Dojo's

We are continuing to use our system of Dojos with the children alongside the Dojo message feature. Please note that Mrs Pearce is linked to our class Dojo. This means that you are able to message her if it is about a Friday afternoon. Any attendance messages should continue to be sent to the school office at the start of the day in the usual way.

This will be an exciting term with our Christmas Nativity and other festive activities fast approaching!

Kind Regards

Miss Steel and the Mars Class Team.