

## Curriculum Newsletter

### Class R

### Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Please find below an overview of our learning for this term.

Our topic is

**World War 1:** As part of the whole school rolling program we will be joining the other classes in learning about World War 1. The Children's journey through this topic will be sensitive, yet help them understand what life was like for children of their age during this time.

**Communication and Language:** We will start off the term focusing on questioning skills during show and tell, and discussing our favourite things. The children will also be working with a new learning partner carefully chosen to support them in their learning.

Later, we will focus on storytelling and exploring the story of 'Oliver's Vegetables' with close links to rationing and the land army. The children are encouraged to discuss and negotiate in all areas of their learning and some home learning tasks will encourage speaking and listening skills too.

**Literacy:** Each week the children will be invited to record their 'News' in their blue books. We will also be focusing on recording ration cards, writing lists of ingredients for Vegetable stew and recording labels for maps and digital images. During phonics we will be promoting more writing at sentence level.

Although we will continue to teach Write Dance occasionally, there will be more of a focus on correct letter formation using a range of resources to do this.

**Personal Social and Emotional Development:** Now that the Children are well and truly settled in to Monkleigh Primary School we will be supporting them in their growing independence. The Children are now invited to go to the Playground at the beginning of the day.

We will have a vote for the new school council members and continue to work hard to fill the 'Warm and Fuzzy Jar' ensuring good social skills throughout all activities.

The Children will make mobiles using coat hangers and share their 'Favourite Things' with Mrs Thurlow as part of their return to school routine, and as an opportunity to get to know each other better.

Parents will soon be invited to a 'Stay and Play' session where the Children can lead you around their space, playing indoors and out, developing their confidence further.

Towards the end of our WW1 topic we will begin to make links to WW2 and take part in the whole school role play day in costume. Watch this space!

**Mathematics:** Each Day at the end of the morning, the children will take part in short maths games. These will begin by being focused on time and move on to working with time lines, ordering and sequencing both familiar and less familiar events.

Following this we will be looking at division and sharing in the theme of rationing and then work with scales weighing and comparing quantities. Throughout this there will be a maths based role play developing the theme of the Green Grocer. Any donation of vegetables to play with will be gratefully received - even if they are towards the end of their shelf life!

**Understanding the world:** We will look at many different aspects of 'Science' during this term. The children will explore their own families, jobs, the roles of women and children while men were at war, farming, allotments, planting and growing of vegetables, exploring where our food comes from and preparing and eating stew! We will also dedicate time each week during Forest School to tend to the school allotment.

The children will use ICT to explore maps of the world and label important places. We will also continue to explore both our school and local environment and venture to the Church yard in search of War clues. The children will be invited to take crayon rubbings of different materials and display these in our class.

We will have an electricity free day and later explore communication through radio only. We will take part in the whole school assembly Winston Churchill recording, declaring War. We will also promote the use of ICT through programming Beebots, use of learn pads for maths activities, using the construction cam to capture our buildings and models, the use of the class Dojo as an interactive learning tool and games to support other areas of learning using the Class Interactive Board.

**Expressive Art and Design:** Activities will be vast and varied and often Child Led. As the weather improves we will decorate our outside area with our creations. We will begin with weaving projects and then move on to create tonal pictures. The Children will then use dough to create vegetables to use in the role play area and have a go at recording their voice in the role of someone else!

Throughout this term we would like to promote the use of the outside junk modelling area through use of reclaimed goods. Please do bring in any interesting boxes made of cardboard or plastic that the children can use to create! (No milk bottles or yoghurt pots please)

**Physical Development:** Although Parents are no longer coming into the class in the mornings, we will still continue with our 'busy fingers' activities where the children come in and find their names first thing in the morning. This will now be focused on fine motor skill development with lots of threading, cutting, building and so on.

We will be refining lots of gross motor movement to support writing skills and we will be warming our hands up for writing with 'dough gym' or the 'play-dough-boogie'

**Forest Schools:** Please bring in Forest School Clothes and PE kit every Monday. This allows us to change the children into their own clothes if they have an accident at all. Children will take part in Forest School activities on a WEDNESDAY afternoon focused mainly around the allotment area.

Children will need a set of warm clothes. The clothes must be suitable for children to get muddy and damp in.

**PE:** Children will need their full change of PE uniform on Tuesday when Mrs. Wilson will lead an outdoor PE session in the afternoon.

Please ensure children's Forest school clothes and PE uniform are **clearly named** and hung in a named bag on their peg.

**Home Learning:**

The Children will continue to receive Home Learning Slips weekly which will also be posted on the Class Dojo. Home learning is designed to either explore a new idea at home before we learn about it at school, or, to embed the Children's learning from school in the context of the home. Although Home Learning is not compulsory, the activities are planned in advance to engage and encourage your Child in their learning.

**Reading:** We hear children read as much as possible during the week. Your Child will read with either Mrs Richards, Mrs Thurlow, Mrs Carlisle and/or a parent helper. It is also helpful at this early stage of learning to read as much as possible at home. Please could Children bring in their book bags everyday (and put them in the green book bag box in the classroom) to ensure that we can hear them read, record their reading in their record books and change books when necessary.

**Show and Tell:** Children are now invited to take part in show and tell once every half term. Please discourage your child from bringing toys from home on any other day.

**Before School:** Class R are now invited to join the rest of the school on the playground first thing in the morning. Mrs Richards will now collect the children along with their coats and bags from the playground at 9.00am.

To clarify procedures- we are not able to take responsibility for your children before an adult is on duty on the playground at 8.50am. If it is difficult to drop children off at this time due to work commitments etc, the school offers a fantastic B&T club where children can be looked after until 8.50am.

Thank you for your ongoing support in all that we do in Class R. We do appreciate it. If you have any questions please do ask. We are all happy to help.

Best wishes,

Mrs Richards and Mrs Thurlow