



Penguin/Swan Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018- Changes through Time



English

We have started this half-term by re-visiting our three school rules (Ready, Respect, Safe) and thinking about what makes a good learner. In particular we have been learning how to be a good listener, e.g. listen with your ears and look at the person speaking. These listening skills are essential for all learning. In Year 1, there will be an emphasis on correct letter formation and learning to read and write the common exception words. These children will be continuing to learn to write in sentences, remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They will also be reminded that they have to read back what they have written to check it makes sense. The Reception children will be continuing to learn phase two sounds. Alongside learning the letter sounds the children will learn to write the sound. It is essential at this stage that they learn to form these letters correctly.

How Can You Help At Home?

- Remind your child how to be a good listener and how to wait for their turn in conversation.
- Share a book daily, talking about the pictures and encouraging them to predict what might happen.
- Help your child to read their word wallet words.
- Reception: complete phonic sheets sent home to practise letter formation. A fun way to practise letter formation is using chalks or water and a paintbrush outside.
- Year 1: Learn to read and write the spellings sent home each week in preparation for the test on Fridays.

Mathematics

In Reception and Year 1 the children have many opportunities to recite numbers both forwards and backwards. They will be learning different ways to count sets of objects accurately, ensuring they give one number name to each object. The Reception children will learn to recognise and order numbers 1-20+ and the Year 1 children will be moving on to recognise two digit numbers and beyond. They will be solving problems involving addition and subtraction. We will be exploring shapes, naming them and thinking about their properties.

How Can You Help At Home?

- Practise counting both forwards and backwards with your child. There are lots of YouTube clips to support this.
- Help your child to look for numbers in the environment to improve their recognition.
- Practice ordering numbers. A fun way to do this is to label toys/cars with numbers and ask your child to put them in order.

Year 1- Please give your children the opportunity to explore and use real money, e.g. how many ways can you make 10p, 20p using real coins.

When talking to your child, it is always useful to get them to explain their thinking by using 'because', e.g. I know this because...

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This term we will be thinking about how life was different in the past. We will be asking lots of questions such as 'Why do we celebrate Bonfire Night?' 'Why do people wear poppies in November?' 'How is Diwali celebrated?' We will be exploring Toys in the past as we approach Christmas. The children will look at similarities and differences between toys they play with and toys in the past.

Information and Communication Technology

We will be learning to use both iPads and desktop computers in school. This will involve learning how to control a mouse and an introduction to simple coding. It is essential that children learn about E-safety and how to keep safe when using the internet.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be exploring a variety of media including paint, chalks, collage, clay and cooking. In Art, we will be focussing on drawing. In Music, we will be learning lots of new songs for our Christmas Production and experimenting with both body and instrumental sounds. In Dance, we will be finding different ways to move in response to music and learning how to evaluate the performances of themselves and others.

Physical Education

We will be exploring the effect exercise has on our body and why it is important as part of a healthy lifestyle. The children will be using different parts of their body to move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. In Games the children will be playing team games. We will be using large apparatus to practice climbing, balancing and jumping safely.

Diary Dates

- 2nd November - School Firework Display
- 6th November - Penguin Class Parent Share Phonic session (Please come along to see how you can support your child.)
- 7th November - Swan Class Parent Share Phonic session (Please come along to see how you can support your child.)
- 27th November- Flu Vaccination
- 11th December- Christmas Production (9.30) Tickets to follow.
- 17th December- Visit to Church
- 18th December- Christmas Lunch

Home learning

Learning is a partnership between home and school. We are always happy for you to contribute to your child's learning story. Please remember that the 'My Learning at Home' slips are for you to record any significant learning that your child demonstrates at home. Please return these to school to be added to your child's book.

Thank you for your continued support. Please come and see us if you have any concerns or queries or indeed if you would ever like to help in the classroom.

The Penguin/Swan Team