



Year 1 and 2

Town and Country

Dear parents and carers,

We had such a great Term 1 with learning all about the Fire of London and cannot wait to get stuck into this term's topic of 'Town and Country'. We would like to thank you for the home support you are giving your child at home. Supporting your child with their reading, spellings and Maths homework means they can access more of the curriculum, and are all making great progress.

This term's topic is Geography based. We will be using the story of Town and Country Mouse to recognise the difference between the countryside and towns and cities. Walking to the cinema allows us to all explore our local area, and think about whether Didcot is a town or in the countryside.

Literacy

Literacy has started with an explosion this term as we participated in the whole school writing on a volcano. Pieces from every class will be displayed by the office. We wrote a description of an erupting volcano using adjectives and noun phrases. We will add these to the Google Classroom for you to see.

Our focused text is the fable 'Town and Country Mouse'. We will learn the story, through orally retelling and adding actions to the story. Using a story map will secure our knowledge of the events and the order in which they appear. We will rewrite the story ensuring that we use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops correctly. Year 2 pupils will be introduced to conjunctions to extend their sentences and sentence openers to make their writing more interesting. Everyone will continue to develop their handwriting, so that letters are formed correctly and are the correct size. We will also edit our work to correct mistakes we have made.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on a Thursday and tested the following Thursday. Spelling words will be stuck into reading diaries. Please help your child to learn these spellings. The words chosen will always link to the sounds being learnt in Phonics. To extend your child, you can ensure they understand the meaning of the word and can include it in a sentence either orally or in writing.



Reading



Children will be heard reading individually, in groups and during whole class reading. When in groups and individually the focus will be on decoding, fluency and their understanding of the text. During whole class reading we will focus on the skills needed to comprehend what has been read. As well as a reading book that matches their decoding level, the children now have the option to take a book from our Key Stage One library; this may be a book they can read or one that they would like to share with you. As well as listening to a range of picture books, our chapter book this term is 'Hari and the Electric Feet'. Book bags and diaries need to be in school every day. The children's books will be changed at least once a week; please record any home reading in the reading diaries, as we ask children to show us their reading diaries each morning. The school competition for the class with the most home reading continues.

Science — Seasonal Change

This term in science we are focusing on the changes which occur within the four seasons. We will look closely at the weather types associated with each season, and the characteristics of the natural world within each season. We will be learning to measure temperature using a thermometer and we will think about the survival tactics of animals during the colder months. This topic provides a wonderful opportunity to learn outside. Encourage your child to spot signs of the different seasons within their local surroundings and comment on the changes.

Maths

We have all started on the Mastering Number project. The aim of this project is to develop a good number sense for all pupils, helping them be more fluent in calculations and have flexibility with numbers.



Miss Murray's Maths group have begun working on addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers up to 100. In Year 2 we introduce the children to the column method to add and subtract two-digit numbers. It can be a difficult concept for children to understand, so any additional practice at home would be very helpful. The Home Learning section of White Rose is still accessible (focus on the 'addition and subtraction'), and this can be a great tool to use to support your child. We will begin with addition and then move onto subtraction. Every Friday we will have a Times Tables test. Your child's test will be sent home with them on a Monday, only if any of their answers were incorrect. This gives you an opportunity to see which questions they're finding challenging. Usually these are '0 x' and '11 and 12 x'.

Mrs Parsons and Mrs Alleway's Maths groups will be working on addition and subtraction to 10. We have already recapped on how to use the part whole model to support us. We will learn our number bonds to 10, and develop the ability to instantly recall them; this is something you can work on at home with your child. We will be completing addition to add groups together and find totals and, when subtracting, we will recognise that we take a part away. Other strategies we will work on when subtracting are counting back and finding the difference.

Mathletics homework will be set weekly for both Year 1 and 2 children. Logins are inside their reading diaries. The activity will link to what they have done in class. Please support your child but let them do the Maths if possible. Prompting them to use 'stuff', for example, counters, pennies and drawing to help them is very important. Year 2s also have logins for Timetable Rockstars and Miss Murray's Maths group can use this to practise their timetable recall and speed.

Geography

This term we will be looking at our locality, recognising our addresses and landmarks in our town. We will be using maps and globes to locate different places that are important to us and using geographical terms to describe our location.

PE

This term, the children will be developing their running techniques and ball skills. In the ball skill lessons they will be developing how to send and receive a variety of balls and play simple ball games. In our Mighty Movers lesson they will be improving their running technique and thinking about how to change speed and direction. These sessions will be on the following days on which the children should wear their PE to school:

Nightingales: Tuesday and Friday

Robins: Monday and Wednesday

Wrens: Friday and Wednesday



RE

In RE we will be learning about the incarnation (birth of Jesus) and will be answering the big question 'Why does Christmas matter to Christians? To do this we will look at the story of the nativity in the bible and why Christians believe that Jesus was born a king. The children will identify the key message of Christmas, using the words from the bible as well as in Christmas carols to help them. We will also learn about how Christmas is celebrated in churches and homes by Christians and specifically at the significance of giving gifts.

Music

To get into the festive spirit we will be learning some traditional and modern Christmas songs. We will consider the dynamics and tempo of the songs and what effect that has on the listener.

Design and Technology

This term we are learning about wheels and axles. This will develop the children's knowledge of how to build vehicles that move. We will use the vocabulary wheels, axles and chassis and know where to find them on a vehicle and their role. We will plan and make a vehicle with moving wheels for a purpose and evaluate what we thought worked well and how we would change it if we made it again. Please bring in a small cardboard box the size of a cuppa soup box or mini cereal box by week 3. Thank you for the boxes that have already been sent in and those that sent in two – much appreciated.

PSHE — Celebrating differences

This term we celebrate what is the same and what is different about us and our friends. We recognise that we have similarities and differences to our classmates and that's OK. We understand that our differences are what make us special and unique. We will learn to recognise what bullying can look like and how to get help if we or our friends are being bullied.

Dates

On Wednesday the 10th November we are very excited about going to watch Paw Patrol at the cinema. This cinema trip is usually an annual event and we are able to attend through the Into Film festival. We will keep you posted on how we will be celebrating Christmas. We would love to put on our normal Nativity show, but as you can all appreciate this will not be possible this year; however, we hope to be able to share an alternative celebration with you.

And finally...

- Please make sure bookbags come into school every day. Children need to show their teacher their reading diaries daily.
- Log on to your child's Google Classroom; here we add reminders and show off the children's amazing work. Log-ins can be found in the front of their reading diary.
- It is helpful if you child can keep a named pair of wellies and a named set of clothes including underwear om school.
- Please make sure that all jumpers are named as well as any item of clothing they might take off. As the weather gets colder children will need a warm waterproof coat which is named.
- Water bottles should only contain water and, if possible, have a sports cap design.
- Children receive fruit daily. If your child wants to bring in a snack it must be fresh fruit or vegetables.
- When preparing home packed lunches please be aware we have children with severe nut allergies in our Key Stage.



All always, thanks for your ongoing support and please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.