



Mole Class newsletter – term 2

Dear families,

Welcome back – we hope you all had a relaxing half-term break.

This term we replace geography with history, as we move on to our new topic, ‘toys now and then’. During this topic we will research how toys have changed from Victorian times to the present, we will map different toys on to a timeline, and we will correctly use historical language to describe the age of the toys we research. We will have the opportunity to handle old toys, and observe how they are the same as, or different to, modern equivalents. There will also be the opportunity for the children to bring their own favourite toys to school – perhaps you could share with them your memories of a favourite childhood toy too? I think the children (and the teachers) will really enjoy this topic!

In English we will link our reading and writing to our ‘toys now and then’ topic, including writing a description of our favourite toy, and designing a ‘have you seen this lost toy?’ poster, showing correct use of question and exclamation marks. Our key text will be David Lucas’s ‘Lost in the Toy Museum’, although we will read extensively around our topic as term progresses, including through non-fiction texts. We will continue to practise our handwriting on a daily basis (including formation of our numerals), and we will learn how to form our capital letters correctly this term.

Our reading books will be directly linked to the phonics sounds in which the children are secure, and we will continue to hold ‘reading practice sessions’ with the children three times a week (Monday-Wednesday). At each of these sessions we will focus, in small groups, on developing the children’s reading skills – the same book will be read at each of the three sessions, with the focus moving from simple decoding (ie. sounding out and reading the words), to prosody (expression), to comprehension (understanding). Your child’s book will be sent home every evening so you can hear your child read it at home on a daily basis. Alongside the phonics/decodable book, your child will also bring home a ‘book for sharing’ of their choosing – this book is not for them to read out loud to you (unless they want to, of course!), but is one for you to enjoy together, for example by looking at and discussing the pictures, or reading it aloud to them at bedtime. Wednesday will remain our book swap-over day.

In maths we will have daily mastery lessons, learning how to use a rekenrek, how to subitise (recognise a number of objects without explicitly counting them), and securing our knowledge of numbers to ten. In our main maths lessons we will be focussing on securing our number bonds to ten, adding and subtracting confidently within ten, learning the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and making patterns with shapes.

‘Materials’ will be our focus in science, including identifying the properties of various materials – we will have the opportunity to explore and identify the materials used to make toys through the decades, and will investigate in DT which materials will be most appropriate for making a range of traditional toys.

Music and RE this term are covered by our many nativity rehearsals, learning to sing our songs at the correct pitch and tempo, and exploring what the Christian story of the nativity means to Christians.

The children have two PE lessons a week, on Monday and Friday afternoons, where we will cover dance and football this term. Please ensure that your child has a full, named PE kit in school, and ensure that earrings are removed on our PE days.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions. I am sure we will have another amazing term, with lots of wonderful work to share with you as we progress!

Kind regards, *Mrs Ellis-Jones* s.ellis-jones@teynham.kent.sch.uk