

PYXIS CLASS CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year to you all. Thank you for all our lovely presents and the appreciation you showed in your cards and gifts, it means a lot to us!

As you know each term, the school follows a shared learning quest, this term it is an English themed learning quest '**We are poets; don't you know it?...**'. We will be celebrating poetry and words, through looking at some of our best British poets such as Michael Rosen and Julia Donaldson along with the marvellous Dr Seuss!

English

Children will be exploring an exciting range of stories and poetry, including 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson and 'Not a stick' by Antoinette Portis. We will be performing some poetry as well as having a go at writing some of our own! We will become familiar with traditional tales and learn to re-tell and re-enact them, offering our own alternative characters and plot twists.

Reception Children

Children will continue to have daily discrete phonics lessons which aim to support reading, writing and spelling. These will take the form of a four part structure, where sounds are reviewed, taught, practised and then applied in a context. The learning quest '**We are poets; don't you know it?...**' will give the children opportunities to mark make, tell stories, listen to and perform poems and think about their own feelings and those of others through participation in role play and investigation.

Year One Children

Children will continue to have a daily phonics lesson which aims to introduce new and revisit old sounds to support reading, writing and spelling. We are moving onto Phase 4 and then through to phase 5 when ready and our learning quest '**We are poets; don't you know it?...**' will give the children an opportunity to participate in role play, write recounts and information booklets, poetry, hot seating and storytelling.

How you can help your child:

- Model reading to your child, as well as them reading to you, this should include stories of course but can be other forms of print, such as the back of cereal packets, birthday cards.
- Try and make reading relevant to your child e.g., choosing a story which relates to their interests.
- Making learning as physical as possible to support learning e.g. hiding letters to find, encouraging children to use a range of media when drawing letters for a more multisensory approach to support handwriting and letter formation, drawing letters on each other's backs etc.
- Play games e.g. Eye Spy to help children recognise both the letter sound and name.
- Speaking/singing/reading to your child will support their vocabulary. You could make up a story or a rhyme.
- Try to encourage writing at home e.g. let your child write a birthday card or your shopping list.

Reading books will be changed on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. There is great value in re-reading books as this will help your child to develop their comprehension and inference skills and expand their understanding of the text they are reading as well as building fluency and reading with expression. This is of equal importance to applying phonic knowledge to read words. If you require further reading opportunities, there is a brilliant website which has 250 free e-books (Oxford Reading Tree/Songbirds etc) which can be accessed at home on tablets or computers:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/library-page>

Maths

Reception Children

The reception children will continue to focus on key skills: number recognition up to 20 and 1:1 correspondence when counting. Many of these skills will be acquired through play and exploration. WE will be exploring place value, and looking at

the concept of 'subvertising' and 'part-part-whole' as well as looking at shape, space and measure and sharing and fractions and everyday language relating to time.

How you can help your child:

- Exploiting counting opportunities within your home e.g. counting stairs, counting peas!
- Playing games e.g. bingo for number recognition and snakes and ladders where children need to roll a dice and count how many squares they need to move forward/backwards.
- Looking for numbers when out on a journey e.g. signposts.
- Singing songs which take away or add numbers e.g. 5 little speckle frogs, 10 green bottles.
- Ask your child questions e.g. like 'if I took one away how many would I have left?' or if I add one how many have I got now?' to encourage children to count from a number other than the beginning.

Year 1

The Year One children will be continuing with the White Rose Maths where appropriate and consolidating the key skills previously learnt. These skills include number recognition, counting with 1:1 correspondence, place value and addition and subtraction. Many of these skills will be taught within a context so that children understand the importance of their learning. Children will be given a choice of resources so that they are able to choose how to best solve problems. The areas of mathematics which will be covered this term will be: Addition and subtraction, place value, shape, space and measure and time.

How you can help your child:

- Playing games e.g. bingo for number recognition and snakes and ladders where children need to roll a dice and count how many squares they need to move forward/backwards. Adding the value of two dice when rolled.
- Quick fire mental questions will support children to work out number bonds to 10 and 20 e.g. show 7 fingers, and your child will show you 3 back etc. Introducing number facts about doubling/halving would also be helpful.
- Practice counting in patterns of 2's, 5's and 10's.
- Ask your child questions e.g. like 'if I took one away how many would I have left?' or if I add one how many have I got now?' to encourage children to count from a number other than the beginning.

Science -:

Pyxis class will investigate and learn about the growth and structure of plants and trees, we will learn how to identify our native trees and we will be growing our own cress. During this we will make predictions, observe changes and learn about other scientific factors that impact growth. We will be looking closely at recycling and sustainability and how important these concepts are to the health of our planet.

History - Beatrix Potter

The children will learn about the great historical figure Beatrix Potter, not just as an author and illustrator but her life as a conservationist.

Geography - Capital cities of the UK:

Pyxis class will learn about the capital cities and where they are in the United Kingdom. We will learn about the traditions from each of the four capital cities and we will study maps and photographs of them.

R.E - Buddhism:

We will explore the religion Buddhism and look at the man portrayed in many of the famous statues of Buddha; Siddhartha Gautama.

Outdoor Education - Muddy Monday:

Pyxis class will participate in a Muddy Monday session once every four weeks. We will learn about food and where it comes from and why healthy eating is so important to our bodies and minds! We will also contribute to the upkeep of the forest school area and harvesting of crops.

Art, DT and Music

We will explore a variety of techniques, and use experiences and ideas as the inspiration for artwork as well as exploring the art of Andy Goldsworthy and Jackie Morris.

In Design and Technology the children will be looking closely at bridges, especially the historical importance of our local 'Sweet Track'. Pyxis class will learn to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and

rhymes and using the percussion instruments as well as learning a repertoire of songs during our whole school singing lessons.

Precise referencing to the new primary curriculum showing which areas are being covered each term can be found on our website under curriculum and are also displayed in classrooms.

Weekly Schedule

<u>Monday</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor Education (Once every 4 weeks, starting on Monday 21st January 2019) - Please ensure your child has warm, comfortable clothes and sensible footwear for these sessions, They can come to school in their outdoor education clothes.
<u>Tuesday</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading books changed
<u>Wednesday</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework in• Spellings will be tested between Wednesday and Friday (Spelling books and Spelling Shed log in will be sent home each week)
<u>Thursday</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading books changed
<u>Friday</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P.E (P.E kits can be left at school on the children's pegs in our cloakroom- please PLEASE make sure all kit is labelled).• Homework Out

A few important notes:

Please ensure that the children have a water bottle with them, **please note that the school policy is WATER ONLY**. You are very welcome to provide your child with a piece of **fresh** fruit/veg for snack time, the school also has fresh fruit and veg available everyday.

Please could you ensure that **all uniform** (including Outdoor education/P.E Kit) and all water bottles and containers are **named**. P.E will be held on a Friday morning. Outdoor Education will now be **ALL DAY** on a Monday once every 4 weeks. Please make sure your child brings a pair of wellingtons, along with scruffy clothing which is allowed to get a bit grubby! These also need to be labelled.

All the children will be sent home with homework and spellings this term. Spellings are linked to the phonics rule that the children have been learning. Homework will alternate between literacy and numeracy each week but could equally be learning quest based. It will always be linked to the current area of learning. **Both spellings and homework will be sent home on a Friday and will be due in for the Wednesday of the following week**. It is of great importance for your child's learning to support them with their work at home. Getting used to this routine early will support them throughout their school years at Meare.

Reading at home is *SO* important, particularly when fostering a love of reading in your child. Alternate them reading to you and you reading to them so that it is fun and enjoyable.

We hope that the information you find here is useful, and if you have any questions at all, however big or small, please come and find one of us for a chat or make an appointment via the school office.

With Best Wishes,

The Pyxis Class Team - Mrs Taylor, Mrs Watts, Mrs Smith and Mrs James.