

ROWAN CLASS CURRICULUM INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SPRING TERM 2017

Dear Rowan Class Parents,

Welcome to the Spring Term and we wish you a happy and healthy 2017! The children have returned enthusiastic and ready to learn! We hope the following information is useful to you, however, if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's progress at any time then please do come and see us.

Please ensure that your child has their book bag with reading books and reading record book in school every day, to make the most of every opportunity of reading with an adult in school when possible. Also, please could all children have a water bottle in school that they take home and refill daily.

TOPIC

Our main topic for this term is Changes in living memory. During the first half term we will be finding out about popular toys through the 20th century and early 21st century. We will investigate how toys have changed over time and link this to changes in the way we lived then and now. The children will be developing their research skills and learning to make comparisons. We will then move on to explore how communication has changed during this time.

LITERACY

This term we will continue to develop our reading and writing skills and the children will continue to learn about different aspects of grammar and punctuation, such as types of sentences and using correct punctuation. The Year 2 children in particular will be learning about nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions; and how to recognise them and use them in sentences.

As always we will be continuing to develop our handwriting skills using the cursive script and ensuring that we take pride in the presentation of our work. All children will take part in daily phonics or spelling sessions.

NUMERACY

This term we are continuing to place a great emphasis on securing the children's knowledge and understanding of Place Value. A large proportion of our time will be spent reinforcing number work to build competency, supporting the idea of deepening children's understanding of concepts. Children will continue to work on number bonds to 20 and beyond. Some children will be learning the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables, while others will begin to use these facts when doing simple multiplication and division activities. Others will be consolidating their knowledge of grouping and sharing. Children will continue to develop their mental maths skills and widen their mathematical vocabulary. They will be encouraged to use this when talking about their

work. There will also be time spent on developing children's reasoning and problem-solving ability. Other topics this term will include Time, Shape and Data handling.

SCIENCE

Our first topic will be to look at the Seasons and the changes that occur during the year. This work will include investigations and making observations about what the children have found out. We will be exploring how weather and the length of the day affect animals and humans using the children's own experiences, as well as information to consider how living things adapt to seasonal changes. Later this term the children will be learning about different habitats and all the living things within them. They will explore the difference between living and non-living things and then find out about habitats in familiar local areas, such as woodlands or ponds, before looking further afield from the seaside to the desert. Some work will stem from questions and lines of enquiry suggested by the children.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY / ART

This term we will start with a DT project on Homes which will include designing, making and evaluating models of houses. For this we would be grateful if you could save and bring in any useful cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes and other things which could be used for model making by the children. Later in the term we will be thinking of inventive and exciting ways to bring pictures to life through a variety of "moving mechanisms". The children will explore sliders, levers and other simple mechanisms and how they can be used to make different parts of a picture move.

PE

This term, PE days will continue to be on Mondays and Wednesdays. It will be taught by Mrs Taylor on Mondays and by a coach from Premier Sport on Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on these days.

Children will need a PE kit (including plimsolls, shorts and t-shirt) all term. In addition, joggers and a sweatshirt may be provided for outside use, but all children will need a pair of shorts to be able to go on the apparatus inside. Please name PE kits and leave at school in your child's PE bag (not a rucksack, as these take up too much room in our limited cloakroom space). PE kits are stored on a trolley outside the classroom.

Please ensure that earrings are easily removed or not worn on PE days and that bands are provided to tie back long hair. If girls wear tights during the colder months, please make sure they have socks for wearing during PE outside.

RE

We will be looking at some of the groups to which the children belong in their home life and at school and what makes these groups special. We will also be thinking about people who belong to a religious group and how this affects their life. Later in the term we will also be finding out about the events leading up to Easter and the last week of Jesus' life and thinking about people who give up something special for others.

COMPUTING

This term we will be exploring how computers work and how we can use them to communicate. This will be linked to our Topic work about communication through time.

MUSIC

Our music sessions will include songs based upon our topic work.

SHOW AND TELL

This term we will be conducting our show and tell sessions differently. We will be linking this with our topic 'Toys' and over this half term your child will be told which day they can bring in their item to show. The expectation is that they will be able to talk about their object including details such as where they got it, why they like it, what they do with it etc. It would be beneficial for you to talk this through with them before they bring it in and ideally practise what they are going to say. This will help to increase their confidence when they stand up to talk. They only need to stand up and talk for a couple of minutes so they don't need a lengthy speech. A note will be sent home the week before their turn.

HOMEWORK

Children will have a piece of homework which will be set every fortnight on a Tuesday which should be returned to school the following Tuesday. Year 2 will get a set of spellings to learn most weeks.

SUBJECT	TIME (allocated throughout the week)
Homework	Once a fortnight
Reading	15 mins every day
Year 2 Please practise 2x,5x,10x times tables Year 1 please practise number facts to 10 and 20.	10 mins per day

PROPOSED DATES FOR THE TERM

Our class assembly will be on Thursday 9th February at 2.45 pm.

KS1 Assessment session for Year 2 Parents Thursday 19th January at 9.15 am.

Phonics Year 1 Parents Session on Monday 6th February at 9.15 am.

Miss Tierney, our Trainee Teacher, will return to work with us in the middle of March, continuing into the Summer Term.

We also look forward to seeing you at parent consultations after half term.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Taylor

Ros Dollman