



EARL STERNDALE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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In School This Term – Spring 2024

Dear Parents,

Please find below an outline of the topics and activities your children will be learning about and taking part in this term. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask any member of staff for help:

Class 1

EYFS

Our key experiences this term focus around the theme of Winter - going on a winter walk and looking at our local area, observing British wildlife in winter, celebrating Chinese New Year, role play hospital and indoor Climbing at White Hall Outdoor Education Centre.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: We will be setting goals, learning how to persevere and keep on trying, how to overcome challenges and help others to achieve their goals. We will continue to talk about our feelings and learning how to keep ourselves healthy and safe. Our PSHE topics this term are Diversity Matters and Drugs Education, we will link this to medicines and our role play hospital.

Communication and Language: The children will continue to share their news during carpet time giving them the opportunity to talk about things that happened using the past tense and linking statements that stick to a main theme or topic. Now that the children are entering their second term at school, we hope to see their focus and attention developing to allow them to be fully engaged in learning opportunities. The children are encouraged to use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.

Literacy: In literacy, the children will begin learning how to use their phonic skills acquired last term to write CVC words and short sentences. In phonics,

we will be continuing to revisit letters from last term and learn new Black Cat letters ur, or Monster sounds ai, ee, igh, oa, tricky witch oo, air, oi, ear, ure brown owl ow and ar from our Monster Phonics scheme. Your child has a phase 3 sound book to practise which we will continue to add to each week. We will be continuing guided reading sessions: sharing, talking and reading a fiction or non-fiction book in a small group. We ask that you really support your child by reading with them at least 5 times a week. We cannot stress the impact that reading at home has to the progress that your child will make with their reading. They only need to read 2-3 pages each time if that is all they can manage, a little often and consistently is an effective way to encourage the children to develop a love of reading. Please write in their reading diaries when you read their book, or practise their sounds or common exception words with them.

Maths: This term we will be counting, ordering and recording numbers to 10 and developing addition skills to 10. Please look out for numbers in the environment so that your child can recognise the digits that represent the numbers they say, help your child count confidently, first to 5 then to 10 knowing that the last number said represents how many objects they have in total. In measures, we will be exploring weight and capacity and later in the term money will be introduced.

Physical Development: The children will develop their ability to execute movements with increasing control, joining in with whole class PE sessions, games and responding to music, creating dances and routines.

Understanding the World: In Science, the children will be finding out about different types of animals and will learn how to name and describe animals and their habitats. They will also learn about what animals need to live and how to look after pets.

As part of our learning, children will be learning with Years 1 and 2 about The Plague and The Great Fire of London that followed. Please take a look at our website to see some of the activities we have done so far this year in: [Children > Class Pages > Class 1](#) and also further information: [Key Information > Curriculum > Infant Class](#)

Expressive Arts and Design: The children will be encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings in a range of ways. Every day, children will have the opportunity to participate in creative activities, some of which will be linked to our topic or science. They will be able to use their imagination and participate

in role play and other drama activities, as well as experimenting with instruments and singing songs.

Year 1 and Year 2

Phonics

Using 'Monster Phonics', Year 1 will learn ue, ue, ew (Cool Blue and U-Hoo) ie, or, ore, aw and review ai, oi, ay, oy, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, u-e.

Year 2 will be consolidating these as well as working on suffixes, contractions and learning to spell common exception words and dge, ge, kn, gn, wr, el, il, al spellings.

There is a lot of information, guides and videos on the school website to help with supporting your children with phonics and as always, if you need any support please come and ask us.

Go to **Key Information > Curriculum > Infant Class > Phonics**

Spellings

Year 1 and Year 2 spellings will continue. They are given out on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. The children are doing really well practising, so please continue as this is really important support for your child. Confidence in spelling allows children to write more freely and imaginatively.

Literacy

We will be looking at non-fiction books, their features and how they can help to answer questions about our topic on The Plague and The Great Fire of London. We will also be using the computers to find out facts and information. We will be writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional) and about real events. Our writing activities are frequently linked to our themes.

Maths

In Numeracy, we will be working on securing addition and subtraction before moving onto multiplication and division using the White Rose Maths scheme. In Measurement and Geometry, we will be starting with mass, volume and capacity and later in the term we will move on to money.

Please look on the website under Curriculum Maths to see this term's detailed plans for each year group.

Topic

Our main theme until Easter will be The Plague and The Great Fire of London which followed, with a focus on how the villagers of Eyam prevented the plague spreading to the surrounding parish. Our Art and Design Technology are generally linked to these topics, but we will also be looking at the pop artist Andy Warhol, experimenting with colour and pattern.

To support this learning, towards Easter (when the weather improves!) we hope to organise a visit to the museum in Eyam and walk up to Mompesson's Well at the edge of the village.

PSHE

Our themes this spring term are **Difference and Diversity** and **Exploring Emotions**. We will be looking at recognising differences, the ways that they are special and treating people with kindness. We will also work on recognising and describing different feelings and talk about managing big feelings. This fits nicely with The Zones of Regulation which we have introduced throughout school and will be using this term.

Science

The main topic for this term will be animals. The children will be naming and identifying common animals and describing and comparing the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals). They will also learn about how animals can be grouped according to what they eat and how feeding relationships can be explained using food chains. In addition, they will spend time finding out about seasonal changes and what to look for in winter.

R.E.

In the first half of the term, the children will be learning about special places for Christians and Muslims. Later on, they will find out about special occasions for these religions and this will include our preparations for Easter.

Forest School

This term we are climbing at White Hall on Monday mornings, but Forest School will begin again after the February break with sessions in school and around Earl Sterndale on Monday afternoons.

P.E.

PE is on Wednesday afternoons and, unless the weather is poor, we always go outside. Please can you ensure that your child comes to school wearing full PE

kit which should include: shorts/joggers, T-shirt, sweatshirt and trainers. It is very helpful if all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Class 2

Maths this term will be continuing with fraction work and then moving on to percentages and decimals. We will then move on to ratio and proportion, algebra and measurements.

In English, we will be looking at a range of texts including narrative, non-chronological reports, instructions and discussion texts. The children will study the key elements of each of these text types and then have a chance to write their own texts using the models and scaffolds we provide. We will be working on a range of sentence level work too including active and passive, subordinate clauses, colloquialisms, the conditional tense, apostrophes, prefixes and suffixes and pronouns.

Reading, as always, remains the key to success in all subjects – the more reading you can do with your children, the better. We do our best to hear the children read every week but we cannot guarantee one to one reading. Please do all you can to listen to your children read – it doesn't have to be War and Peace – comics, cartoons, the back of the cereal packet! Please try to listen to your children read and then ask questions about what they have read. The children will get to do shared reading with a friend at least once a week as well as group reading and listening to a book read by the teacher.

This term, in Geography we are looking at knowledge of the UK, Europe and the wider world. This will include looking at landscape features, major cities, rivers and bodies of water. In History, later this term, we will be finding out about Ancient Greece.

We will be beginning a new language in Modern Foreign Languages – Chinese. This can be quite challenging as it does not use the alphabet, rather it uses characters and shapes for different words.

In RE, we are looking at Faith and Belief and what that means to people in a range of religions as well as in people who have no religion.

Mrs O'Neill will continue to work on keyboard skills in Music and we will be studying the Renaissance period of Music as well as preparing songs and a dance for our Easter Service.

Science, Computing and Design & Technology are all linked this term where we will be exploring living things, habitats and plants, branching databases and flat file databases.

In PE, we will be continuing with more dance and combining this with gymnastics!

Our PSHE topic this term is 'Diversity and Difference', which will focus on how people are different in all sorts of ways and how diversity is a positive aspect of our lives, which enriches and improves our world.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to see a member of staff.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Holden, Mrs Plevey, Mrs Gill and Ms Clayton