

# Year 1

## Spring Newsletter - Terms 3 and 4

Welcome back to you all! We hope that you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and that everyone is raring to go. We have plenty to look forward to such as a trip with Y2 to Hill End later in February. Please come to us with any questions you may have, if it will require more than a few minutes, it may be necessary to make an appointment. We are always happy to have a chat.

Topics we will be covering in Terms 3 and 4 are Superheroes and Enchanted Woodland.



The children will be learning and developing various skills such as improving communication, creative thinking and problem solving. Our work on Growth Mindset will also be ongoing. On the back of this newsletter you will see the planned coverage of work for all the core subjects. We will also ask for the children's ideas in order that they feel that they have some ownership of the work being covered.

**PE** - PE sessions will still continue on **Wednesday afternoons** and on **Friday mornings** so please make sure that your child has their clearly named PE kit with them until the end of the week. Some children have not been bringing in PE kits on a regular basis. We are not always able to provide clothes from our class box, so please try to remember the days that PE takes place. Many thanks.

**Reading** - Reading is an essential and key part of all learning. All children have a 1:1 reading sessions each week, (twice whenever possible) and often in a group reading situations. Please ensure that you send your child with their **book bag each day**. We would appreciate your support by ensuring that your child practises their reading daily for a maximum of ten minutes. **It is also important that you sign/tick your child's reading record book in order that we can see how frequently they are reading at home with you.** Please keep sessions short and fun! We know time is precious and lives are busy, but those ten minutes are so important.

**(It is also extremely important that you child reads frequently in the holidays with you. New books are always put in book bags for the children to read).** (Many thanks to all parents who read with their children over the Christmas holidays as these children came back more confident and some were ready to move onto the next reading level). Please come and ask if you need your Bug Club books updating.

**Homework** - Homework will continue to be set on a Thursday and is expected back by the following Tuesday in order to get marked, discussed and new work put in books. Please work with your child on the activities set.

**Talk for Writing / Reading Steady Write** - Talk for Writing will now also be set on a Tuesday to link in with Ready, Steady, Write which will usually take place on every other Thursday morning. Y1 children are now ready to begin and have thoroughly enjoyed their "practice" Ready, Steady, Write sessions and are keen to do more. We will send home a slip of paper, (also will be on the school website) with the topic/story which the children will be writing about and we ask that you can spend about ten minutes talking about it with

your child. This is best done without the television on and perhaps when sitting down round a table eating a meal together. There is no writing involved in this preparation, but we have found that it makes a huge difference to the children's ideas when they come to write on their Ready, Steady, Write sessions.



**Phonics/Writing** - We will continue to have daily phonics sessions. The children have now almost completed learning all the Phase 5 digraphs. We would appreciate it if you could look at all the new sounds that your child has been learning, (sound mats will be coming home with your child today) and talk about them together, perhaps thinking of different words with these sounds in. It is important that when your child is writing you encourage them to attempt to spell words by sounding them out. Don't be too quick to write words for them. Asking children to 'have a go' first, on scrap paper is good as it doesn't spoil any work for them. Always praise sounds that are correct ... even if it is just the first one! We may also send a small selection of words home to practise reading/spelling as part of our phonics programme from time to time and hope that you support that. Please remember that the sounds should be 'pure' ... i.e. they should not have an 'uh' sound at the end. If you need any guidance please ask!

**Show and Tell** - There will not be any Show and Tell sessions in Terms 3 and 4 on Fridays as the children will be having extra ICT sessions using iPads in the classroom.

**WOW Vouchers** - Please continue sending in completed WOW vouchers as the children are always thrilled when they are able to share their achievements with their friends. Please ask if you need some more vouchers. This will also fit in very well with the PSHE topic for Term 3 which is "Going for Goals".

**Start of the Day** - As in Terms 1 and 2 we invite parents to come into the classroom with the children to help with various activities. This will still continue on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. On the other days the children need to independently put away their own coats, lunch boxes, book bags etc. before settling to their activities quickly and quietly. Thank you



**Water Bottles** - Some of the children have not been bringing in water bottles recently and complaining that they are thirsty. Although water can be given to the children, individual bottles are much easier to use for everyone. We have found that the children's concentration levels and energy particularly in the afternoon are much better when water bottles are available. They are available to purchase at the office. **(Please could water bottles not be put in book bags to avoid soggy reading books?)**

**Names on all clothing** - Please could **names be put on all the children's clothing** so that we do not have a pile of un-named clothes at the end of each day!

Finally, thank you very much for all your continued support with all the activities we do in school with your child. Many thanks.  
Miss Alcock and Mrs Kelly

## Terms 3 and 4 Topics – Superheroes and Enchanted Woodland

<p><u>Science</u></p> <p>Experiments using sense of touch "What can our hands do"? (Closing eyes/blindfolds). Super senses around the room. Experiments involving a range of materials and magnets. Growing seeds. Range of experiments - "Do pine cones know it's raining"? "Are all leaves the same"? "What's in a bud"? Rubbings of tree bark. Observing bird / insect life in woodland area. Evergreen and deciduous trees. Sorting animals into woodland or local /home environments. Identifying basic structure of flowers and leaves.</p>	<p><u>Geography</u></p> <p>Superheroes hunt around the school grounds. Finding out which country developed many Superhero characters. Trip to Hill End Environmental Centre. Looking at the route with maps. Orienteering activities at Hill End.</p>	<p><u>History</u></p> <p>Finding out about real life heroes from the past eg Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale. Working out the age of trees by measuring around the trunk.</p>	<p><u>Music</u></p> <p>Learning new songs to sing to older people at Elms Day Care Centre. Superhero songs and rhymes. Learning songs about woodland creatures/plant life. Using instruments to create sounds of the trees, wind etc.</p>	<p><u>English</u></p> <p>Composing "super sentences" about superheroes. Writing speech bubbles. Simple comic strips. Heroes and villains in stories. Writing about real life heroes. Simple fantasy stories. Starting Ready, Steady, Write. Superhero poetry. Work on traditional tales, including Hansel and Gretel. Making own story maps. Recounts of Hill End trip. Making a "word tree" about British woodlands. Writing instructions for woodland crowns. Using non-fiction books and making up own about woodlands.</p>
<p><u>PE</u></p> <p>"Spiderman Says" game. Moving like superheroes. Gymnastics and Rugby (Term 3). Playing "Owl's-a-hunting." Moving like woodland creatures. Dance and Basketball (Term 4).</p>	<p><u>Art</u></p> <p>Drawing and painting superheroes. Collage work to make city images. Art work for Chinese New Year. Drawing and painting woodlands and creatures. Make clay tree boggarts. Make woodland creatures using clay/recycled materials.</p>	<p><u>DT</u></p> <p>Designing own plates of super food for heroes. Making superhero vehicles using axles and wheels. Make woodland crowns. Tree hangings using natural materials. Building nests and dens using sticks, twigs etc.</p>	<p><u>PSHE/SEAL</u></p> <p>RE SEAL - "Going for Goals". What does "hero" mean, thinking about qualities such as kindness, bravery etc. Right/Wrong choices. Invite a real life hero into the classroom. RE - Stories in the Bible, thinking about friendship. SEAL - "Good to be me" understanding our feelings, considering strengths and weaknesses as learners. Caring for natural world/animals. RE - "Why was Jesus welcomed like a king by the crowds on Palm Sunday"? Whole school Hinduism workshops.</p>	<p><u>Maths</u></p> <p>Time - Telling the time to the hour and half hour. Language of time eg quicker, slower, earlier, later. Days of the week, months of the year. Sequencing events. Place value. Addition and Subtraction. Measures - lengths and heights. Multiplication and Division. Counting in multiples of two's, fives and tens. Fractions - working on half and a quarter,</p>