



Irthington Village School
Irthington
Nr Carlisle
Cumbria



Tel: 01228 212050

Email: admin@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk

<http://www.irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk/>

Headteacher Lynn Harrison

Class 1 Newsletter

24.01.20

Dear Parents,

Although Christmas feels a million miles away now I do have to say what a wonderful time it was for everyone in Class One. The Christmas books were beautiful and the nativity was just great! Each time the children perform, I can see how much their confidence has grown.

I have to give special thanks to Mrs Evans and Miss Simpson for taking care of class in my absence, they did a great job! Now that my foot is on the mend, I am so pleased to be back!

The Spring Term is now well underway. Many Nursery children are extending their hours, many staying for full days, if you would like to increase your child's hours in school, please speak to me or Mrs Lawson and we will try our best to accommodate your requests!

For the children in Reception and Year One, I will be consolidating the progress your child has made and now expect even more of them!

Reading and Writing skills.

The Nursery children will continue to enjoy stories, practise rhyme and listen for initial sounds and begin to look for them in our learning environment.

The Reception children have started Phase 3 in Phonics. This is an intensive phase where the children rapidly learn many of the more tricky sounds and spelling patterns. The children were so excited to be given spellings to learn this week!

We will be continuing our daily handwriting practice. For the Reception children, this will incorporate large scale letter formation using writing wands or ribbons, making letter shapes in sand trays, paint or water and the more traditional practice of correctly forming the letters on paper. The children are beginning to write their own sentences, something we very much encourage. Let your child sound out each word and encourage them to write the sounds that match their spoken words. Please do not correct spelling mistakes at this stage as this will discourage them from wanting to write.

Year 1 children will continue with the handwriting sheets. We are really focussing on correct letter formation. Once we have written a sentence I want the children to carefully read that sentence, checking for correct punctuation, and to look carefully at each word and check that it is spelt correctly. This is something we do every day in school and they are getting quite good at it!

We are at the end of Phase 5 in phonics and once this phase is complete I will assess each child. As this phase contains the most to learn I have timetabled time for consolidation and will be able to target specific gaps as and when necessary.

The Curriculum.

Our whole class theme is Pirates and Exploration.

This will be our main theme for the first half term. During the second half term we shall also be exploring the weather.

We are very much committed to reintroducing Forest School activities which will take place once a week, usually on a morning. Please ensure that your child has waterproof/spare trousers, a warm coat and wellies in school at all times for these and other exciting outdoor learning opportunities.

As a guide, this term we will be learning about:

In Geography we will be looking at land and oceans, the countries of the UK, where have I been on holiday? And we shall also look at the voyages of Christopher Columbus.

In History we will be finding out all about Christopher Columbus; we shall create posters, fact files, create messages in bottles and design flags for pirate ships.

In Design and Technology we will be designing and building pirate ships.

In Art we will be creating seascapes, using water colours, and manmade materials

In PSHE our topics will be Me and My Relationships (feelings, special people, friends and listening) and Valuing Difference (friends, bullying, differences, being kind/unkind). We shall also be taking part in Fairtrade Fortnight.

In Computing we will be finding images using the internet, creating fact files and creating seascapes using TUX paint.

In Science we will investigate materials; those which float and those which sink (making a pirate ship), those which are absorbent and those which are waterproof (wrapping treasure).

In PE we will focus on multi skills, team games and throwing and catching.

In Music we will learn new songs, add actions and keep rhythm, and perform using simple percussion instruments).

In RE we will learn about the 5 K's of Sikhism and about Easter.

I think you will agree that this is quite a lot to fit into a short term!!

I am in the process of arranging a special Treasure Island visit, more details will follow shortly!

Homework and Reading.

All Reception children now have a reading book, which I aim to change every day. We really value your comments and would ask that when you share a book with your child that you write a comment in the reading records for us. Ideally I would like for the children to share their book with an adult every night, this should take no longer than 5 or 10 minutes. The Reception children need lots of help to sound out the words and then blend (squeeze) the sounds together to make the words.

The Year 1 children are well into the routine of weekly homework and spellings to learn. You will notice that the level of challenge in the homework will increase.

Rowan.

Class One will have Football/Multiskills with Rowan each Friday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has suitable outdoor PE kit and trainers in school.

Communication.

We try to keep parents as fully informed about school, visits and anything extra happening in school via school letters. Some parents already have these delivered by email. If anyone would prefer to receive letters this way, please send in your details to the school office. There will of course be occasions when we do not have an electronic version to send and so these will be sent home via your child.

Mrs Evans, Miss Simpson and I are always available for a chat at the start or the end of any day and we would urge you to come in and see us at your earliest convenience should you have any concerns, or questions about what is happening at school.

I hope to see you all again at our Class Assembly on Wednesday 12th February at 9.15am. Tea and coffee will be available in the hall from 8.50am.

I would like to thank everyone for their support during the first term, the Christmas gifts and kind messages sent in cards were very much appreciated. I am sure that the Spring Term will be just as much fun for the children and the staff!

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison.