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Newsletter

What we have been up to:

We really enjoyed our Toys WOW day. We got to make our own toys as well as have a fantastic drama workshop where we had to be different toys in a toyshop. A **huge** thank you to the PTA for funding this visit for us!



We also had a great time visiting Christ Church to experience each part of the Christmas story in a reflective and interactive way.



Curriculum:

English

In English this half term, we begin by exploring poetry. We will learn what makes a good poetry performance and learn a poem as a class to perform. We will then move on to looking into rhyming and how we can use this skill to create our own rhyming poem. After poetry, we will be learning about letters. We will be finding out about the features of a letter to enable us to plan and write our own one, based on the story 'Dragon Post'.

How can I help at home?

When reading any books for pleasure, at home, can they hear any rhyming patterns within these stories. Can they write any of their own letters at home; perhaps a thank you letter for any cards or gifts they received over the Christmas holiday. They could also explore any letters that they receive at home and discuss what is the same about them and what is different.

Maths

In Maths, we will be working on securing our knowledge of place value within 20. We will use apparatus, visual representations and written numbers to explore this. We will then move onto addition and subtraction of numbers within 20.

How can I help at home?

Count objects around the home and outside (up to 20 and beyond as a challenge!) and ask them how many tens and ones are in the number.

Add and subtract within 20 using household objects e.g. toys, cutlery, food.

Phonics

We will be continuing our daily phonics lessons and we will also be introducing weekly spellings for the children to practise at home in readiness for a weekly spelling test.

We would like to also say a big 'thank you' to all those parents/carers listening to their children read regularly at home.

How can I help at home?

There are lots of helpful videos on our school website to support with phonics at home.

<https://castlnewnham.school/primary-phonics/>



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Science

In Science, we will continue to study the seasons, making observations of changes from Autumn to Winter. We will also be continuing to learn about materials with a particular focus on recycling.

How can I help at home?

Look at home at some of your food and drink packages and see whether you can spot the recycling symbol on them.

History

Our topic this half term is Castles. We will be learning about features of a castle and using timelines to learn when castles were built. We will also be thinking about local history and finding out about Bedford Castle.

How can I help at home?

You could visit Castle Mound and the Museum to find out more about the history of the Bedford Castle. You could also make your own Castles using construction toys or junk modelling, naming the different features.

PSHE

The theme for this half term is 'Dreams and Goals'. We will be talking about how to set ourselves simple goals and working out how we can achieve them. This will include tackling new challenges and overcoming obstacles.

How can I help at home?

Set a personal goal at home e.g. zipping up your coat independently or tying your shoelaces.

Computing

In Computing we will be learning about programming by creating and debugging simple programs. We will also be exploring music creation by creating our own rhythms, digital sounds and simple melodies.

Art

We will be learning about Paul Klee and creating artwork inspired by his artwork 'Castle and Sun', which links to our topic. We will be learning about the primary colours and exploring colour mixing

How can I help at home?

Look at the primary and secondary colours and explore mixing paints. You could also look at the Art work of Paul Klee.

RE

The children will be exploring and discussing the questions 'How do we show we care for others?' and 'Why does it matter?' in Christianity and Islam.

PE

The children will be developing their understanding of the benefits of exercise and a healthy lifestyle on their physical body, their mood and their overall health. They will also develop the basic skills required in invasion games such as sending, receiving and dribbling a ball, as well as their understanding of attacking and defending and what being 'in possession' means.

Performing Arts

In Year 1 pupils study Performing Arts on a rotation. Pupils will have two terms of music, a half term of drama and a half term of dance. Peacocks class are currently having Music lessons with Miss Green. They are learning to perform music, looking at the elements beat, pulse, rhythm, dynamics and pitch. Robins have Drama with Mr Skeel and are learning how to use characterisation skills (voice, body language and facial expression) to tell stories and rhymes to the audience. In music, Penguins class with Mr Serino are singing variety of songs and learning how to begin performing these in lessons.

Reminders / Key Dates:

4th January - Return to school

2nd February - Number Day

6th February - Children's mental health week

10th February - Break Up for Half Term

Sharing Our Learning

We have launched new social media channels to help share the fantastic learning that is going on in our year group.

We'd love you to follow us and see what we've been up to:

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)