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17th January 2024

Dear parents/guardians,

Spring Term 2024

Firstly, I would like to start the newsletter by wishing you and your families a Happy New Year from all of us in Birch Class (Year 1) I hope you all had a lovely Christmas, I know it doesn't take long for it to feel like a distant memory! May I also take this opportunity on behalf of Miss Glen and I to thank you for all our Christmas gifts; it was so very kind of you all.

Our topic this term is 'Toys and Games', which is the same as Year 2. Already the children have been sharing their knowledge of this topic. Here is a brief outline of our areas of study for this topic and term:

- **Science:** We will continue to observe Seasonal changes and we begin to explore plants in more detail.
- **Geography:** We will explore toys and games played around the world and begin to discuss human and physical geography.
- **History:** We will explore how toys and games have evolved through the decades and begin to explain why these changes have occurred. The children are keen to find out what toys you played with as well as their grandparents. Keep a look out for a letter from them shortly and if you have any of yours or your parents toys that you would be happy to share and show the class we would love to hear from you.
- **Design Technology:** We will design, make and evaluate a puppet.
- **Art:** Children will develop their sketching techniques. They will explore the work of the artist Andy Warhol and create a piece of work in his style.
- **Religious Education:** In the first half term, we will explore Judaism using the resources from the Emmanuel Project and discuss 'Prayers and worship' The second half term we will answer the question of 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' using our Understanding Christianity scheme.
- **Computing:** Our focus this term will be coding, maze explorers and technology outside the classroom.
- **Music:** Children will further their exploration of musical instruments by learning to play a tuned instrument, which links to our music scheme of work, Charanga.
- **Physical Education:** In school, children will continue to have weekly sessions with the Aspire coaches and have gymnastics, on Mondays with Mrs Alden, please ensure their PE kit is in school.
- **French:** with Mrs Byers.

In addition, maths and literacy lessons will be linked to our topic work when appropriate. The children will have regular phonics lessons, as well as other opportunities to practise reading skills by reading to adults in school. This term I am placing more emphasis on the children becoming more independent learners and for them to take pride in the work they produce.

Homework:

Reading: You can help support our work in reading by listening to your child read as often as possible, preferably each day. Our aim is to improve children's confidence in reading. If, when you listen to your child read, they are doing lots of 'sounding out' and lack fluency, takes turns to share the book and model fluent reading to them. Your children will have at least three books at any time in their bookbags. Please encourage the children to inform us if their book needs changing. I shall also be communicating more information to you all about the forthcoming Phonics Screening that takes place this year during the week of 10th June 2024.

Spellings: I will begin to send home 5-8 words a week which we will be focussing on in class. It would help children's confidence if you can practice with them at home for a review (test) every Friday. I will also send them via Seesaw.

Maths: Children have reviewed place value and number bonds to 10 and we are now working on bonds to 20 as we begin to explore a variety of methods to consolidate addition and subtraction. Speedy recall of number bonds to 10/20 is essential and there are many online games to support this as well as number blocks, which is very popular in class.

Seesaw: I will use this weekly to update spellings and other tasks to complete at home. If your child wishes to upload any work they are extremely proud of and want to share that would be wonderful. I will check it once a week.

Miss Glen and I will continue to welcome children as they arrive in the morning so that they can start their morning sessions in class. I am regularly on the gate in the afternoons should you have any questions you can catch up with me then. Alternatively, please leave a message for me at the office and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Once again, I would just like to say how well your children have returned after the Christmas Break. It has been delightful watching their enthusiasm for our new topic and learning.

Yours sincerely,

Miss J Hurrion