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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 Hazel class (Year 2) I hope you all had a lovely Christmas, I know it doesn't take long for it to feel like a distant memory!

Our topic this term is 'Toys and Games', which is the same as Birch class (Year 1). 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:** Our topic in science is plants.
- **Geography:** We will be learning about human and physical geography, including coasts, oceans, mountains, forests and rivers.
- **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.
- **Design Technology:** We will design, make and evaluate a puppet. This will be taught by Miss Hurrion.
- **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 our big question is: 'How do some Muslims show Allah is compassionate and merciful.' In the second half-term our big question is: 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?'
- **Computing:** Our focus this term will be coding.
- **Music:** Children will further their exploration of musical instruments by learning to play the recorder.
- **Physical Education:** In school children will continue to have weekly sessions with the Aspire coaches and will have dance, on Tuesdays with me, please ensure their PE kit is in school and they have a tracksuit for the colder weather.
- **French:** with Madame Byers.

In addition, maths and literacy lessons will be linked to our topic work when appropriate. The children will have regular guided reading or phonics lessons, as well as other opportunities to practise reading skills by reading to adults in school. We are very lucky this term as we have a student teacher from Chichester university, Miss Brown, who will be working with us until the end of March.

Homework:

Reading: You can help support our work in reading by listening to your child read as often as possible, preferably each day. Please encourage the children to inform us if their book needs changing.

Spellings: After half-term, 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.

Maths: After half-term, I will start to set a weekly maths homework task. This will be given out on a Friday and collected in the following Thursday. Also don't forget you can play Numbots or try TTRS if you want a challenge!

If children have something linked to our topic, or an achievement they would like to share we have some time for show and tell each week on a Friday.

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,

Mrs Alden