



EXPLORERS



Dear Parents,

Welcome back, I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. Thank you for all of your support last term. We had a fantastic term and enjoyed sharing all of the brilliant Dinosaur projects!

This term we will be starting a new topic called 'Explorers'. We will be exploring materials in Science, learning about India in geography, looking at famous explorers in history, exploring pattern and colour in art, and creating PowerPoints about what we learn about India in ICT.

Understanding of the World

Geography - Comparing and contrasting our local area with India. Exploring human and physical features of these places, and comparing temperatures and weather patterns. Learning how to use a compass.

Science - Exploring materials, undertaking a range of experiments to discover the suitability of different materials for different jobs.

History - Learning about different famous explorers including Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong, and Sacagawea. We will also look at modern day explorers and adventurers such as Bear Grylls and Ellen MacArthur.

Literacy

This term we have a story writing focus: exploring characters, settings and plot. We will learn about suffixes and contractions, write about characters we know, create character sketches, and use different tenses.

Mathematics

Counting in different step sizes, exploring shape, estimating and measuring, division, fractions of numbers, using coins to make the same amount, telling the time to the nearest 15 minutes, using reasoning skills, and looking at inverse operations.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Learning about what is fair and unfair, which adults we can ask for help when needed, working as a team, and maintaining personal hygiene.

Expressive Art & Design

Creating our own pieces inspired by Indian artists. Exploring our favourite artists and why we like them.

Religious Education

Looking at how Christians worship and what it means to be a Christian. Comparing and contrasting with religious celebrations in India.

Physical Development

Team work and developing athletics skills.

The homework will continue as last term.

Reading

Please read with your child regularly, even if it is just for 5 minutes.

It is really important that the children bring their book bags, yellow reading record and their reading book into school **every day**.

When reading with your child please acknowledge the fact that the book has been read by **signing and dating in the comments book**, or you may like to add a positive or helpful comment in the reading diary. We will change their books when appropriate.

Spelling	Spelling homework involves an activity sheet that will be sent home every other week. Please can your child complete and bring back the following Tuesday. High frequency words should be read spelt correctly by the end of year 2. Year 1 need to continue to practice their phonic sounds. It will be helpful for children to use www.phonicsplay.co.uk There are lots of games to play which support phonics learning e.g Obb and Bob.
Maths	Please complete the maths homework - sent home every other week in maths books. Year 2 - Times tables - please support your child to learn their $\times 10$, $\times 2$ $\times 5$, $\times 3$ times tables so that they know them off by heart, backwards, and at any point can tell you the answer e.g. $6 \times 5 =$

Key questions to ask your child at home:

Can you name and describe a famous explorer?

What are human features of our local area?

What are physical features of our local area?

What is the equator?

How would you travel to India?

Can you describe two different materials?

Can you recite your 2 \times and 5 \times tables?

Useful Websites

www.ictgames.co.uk and www.topmarks.co.uk for Literacy and Maths games.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk Phase 4 and 5 games, blending sounds and words.

If you wish to make games to have fun at home with learning, you can print from:

www.twinkl.co.uk and browse the KS1 section.

Topic websites

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/christopher_columbus/

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z4fr87h>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/science/properties_of_materials/play/

Quick Reminders

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a water bottle and their book bags each day.
- Can the children please always have a coat in school particularly as the British weather is unpredictable.
- PE kits should be in all week.
- Wellington Boots - Please can all children have a set of Wellies in school at all times, this is so we can use the field and outside areas when it is wet and muddy. All in one waterproof suits are essential too.
- Share Learning - if the children would like to share something from home with the class, it needs to be linked to the topic and their learning in school. We share learning on Thursdays.
- Cursive Script - please can you encourage your child to write with joined up handwriting like this newsletter! They are learning this in school.

Please do not hesitate to come and speak to me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Woods