



P.P.S. Ash Class

January 2018
Spring Term

Around the World and The Circle of Life

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Ash Class and our exciting learning experiences for the spring term. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas break and is feeling refreshed. Our topics this term are 'Around the World' and 'Circle of Life'. The first half term will have a geographical focus and we will be exploring the world around us. We will identify which countries make up the United Kingdom as well as looking at the World's seven continents and five oceans. We will be travelling the World with "Miranda the Explorer" a book by James Mayhew, visiting the capital cities London and New Delhi. The children will compare the two capitals recognising its similarities and differences. The children will be designing and making their own 3D hot air balloon.

The second half of term we will be exploring 'The Circle of Life'. The children will be exploring the life cycles of plants as we make use of our allotment area. They will be encouraged to compare the life cycles of plants to last term's learning about animals and humans. The children will also be looking at the life cycles of the insects that eat the plants.

In Science the children will be finding out about 'Plants' and they will identify and name a variety of common plants found in our school grounds. They will be growing beans and keeping a diary to

record the growth. The children will be learning about what plants need to grow well, in order to look after their beans. They will also be dissecting a flowering plant to find out the different parts and what function they have.

In Computing children will be learning to use Microsoft Word for the purpose of making an information page. The children will insert text boxes, text and pictures to create their information page. In the second half term the children will be using a 'Paint' program to design a foil wrap for an Easter egg reflecting the true meaning of Easter. We will also be finding out how to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private. We will identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies.

P.E. will take place on a Wednesday and Thursday. Children will be taking part in jumping and skipping lessons where they master basic types of jumps, as well as developing the balance, agility and co-ordination needed to skip. In Dance the children will learn to perform dances using simple movement patterns.

In our R.E. lessons we will be exploring religious artefacts found in a Christian church. They will investigate why these artefacts are special to Christian life. In the second part of the term we will be learning about Easter and why it is an important festival in the Christian calendar.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.



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In Art we will use drawing and painting to develop and share ideas, experiences and imagination. We will making collage pictures in the style of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. The children will also be doing still life drawings of fruit using charcoal and oil pastels.

In Music children will learn about the differences styles of music including Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk. They will be singing the same song arranged in the various styles.

We will be focussing on reading throughout year Children will apply phonic knowledge and skills as a route to decode words. They will practice responding speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all 40+ phonemes, including, where applicable, alternative sounds for graphemes in preparation of the Year 1 Phonics Screening test in the summer term. We would encourage reading at home to an adult daily and this being recorded in their reading diary. For every read at home children will climb the class rocket. Each read counts towards Reading Light-years celebrated each half term.

In handwriting children will be taught to use lead in strokes to ensure that they form their letters correctly which helps to encourage the use of joined handwriting.

In writing, we will be focussing on non-fiction texts in the first part of the term. Children will explore a variety of information texts and recognise their features. We will move on to use what we have learnt to create our own mini information book. Later in the term we will be

looking at traditional stories and identifying the different parts of the stories. Children will then have the opportunity to retell one of the stories, changing one of the characters or the setting. We will be rehearsing our sentences before writing and we will continue to focus on punctuating sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. Children will use a variety of genre throughout their Literacy lesson including stories with repeating patterns and poetry.

The children will be developing their understanding of the number system by counting to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number. Children will read and write numbers to 100 in numerals; as well as counting in multiples of twos, fives and tens. We will identify one more and one less than any number. Using objects and pictorial representations including the number line, we will identify and represent numbers and use the appropriate language to describe the number. Children will read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition, subtraction and equals signs. Number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20 will also be explored. Later in the term we will be exploring measurement and in particular length and height. Children will be using standard and non-standard units of measure.

Kind regards,

Mrs Eade and Mrs Dallyn